

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, NEW ORLEANS DISTRICT 7400 LEAKE AVENUE NEW ORLEANS LA 70118-3651

February 6, 2023

Regulatory Division Central Evaluation Branch

Project Manager: Zachary Steinkoenig (504) 862-1288 Zachary.j.steinkoenig@usace.army.mil MVN-2021-00317-CF

# **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Interested parties are hereby notified that a permit application has been received by the New Orleans District of the US Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to: [X] Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (86 Stat. 816; 33 USC 1344).

### PROPOSED HIGHWAY EXTENSION BETWEEN JEFFERSON HIGHWAY AND AIRLINE HIGHWAY IN EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH

**NAME OF APPLICANT**: CITY OF BATON ROUGE, c/o GeoEngineers, Inc., 11955 Lakeland Park Blvd Suite 100, Baton Rouge, LA 70809, Attn: Brandon Muller.

**LOCATION OF WORK**: Road extension between Jefferson Highway and Airline Highway in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, within East Baton Rouge Parish, within the Lake Pontchartrain Basin in hydrologic unit (HUC 08070202), as shown on the attached drawings.

**CHARACTER OF WORK**: The applicant has requested a Department of the Army authorization to clear, grade, excavate and deposit fill and/or aggregate material to construct and maintain a roadway/highway extension between Airline and Jefferson Highway in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The project is proposed to alleviate localized traffic. Approximately 0.61 acre of wetlands will be cleared and filled for the construction of the highway extension. Secondary impacts to wetlands are expected to be minimal with required best management practices to reduce runoff and erosion.

The applicant claims that the project has minimal impacts to isolated wetland pockets existing between Airline and Jefferson Highway. The wetlands are not of high value given their isolation and location within a highly commercial area. Impacts to wetlands were minimized to the maximum practicable degree.

The comment period for the Department of Army Permit will close in <u>**20 days**</u> from the date of this public notice. Written comments, including suggestions for modifications or objections to the proposed work, stating reasons thereof, are being solicited from anyone having interest in this permit and must be mailed so as to be received before or by the last day of the comment period. Letters concerning the Corps of Engineers permit application must reference the applicant's name and the Permit Application Number and <u>preferably</u> emailed to the Corps of Engineers project manager listed above or mailed to the Corps of Engineers at the address above, <u>ATTENTION: REGULATORY DIVISION</u>, <u>RGC</u>, <u>Zachary</u> <u>Steinkoenig</u>. Individuals or parties may request an extension of time in which to comment on the proposed work by writing or e-mailing the Corps of Engineers Project Manager listed above. Any request must be specific and substantively supportive of the requested extension and received by this office prior to the end of the initial comment period. The Branch Chief will review the request and the requestor will be promptly notified of the decision to grant or deny the request. If granted, the time extension will be continuous to the initial comment period and inclusive of the initial comment period, will not exceed a total of 30 calendar days. This public notice is also available for review online at https://go.usa.gov/xennJ.

### **Corps of Engineers Permit Criteria**

The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public, federal, state, and local agencies and officials, Indian Tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to determine whether to make, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. Further, all factors that may be relevant to the proposed will be considered, including the potential cumulative effects associated with the proposed project.

The New Orleans District is presently unaware of properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places near the proposed work but is pending further review in accordance with National Historic Preservation Act. The possibility exists that the proposed work may damage or destroy presently unknown archeological, scientific, prehistorical, historical sites, or data. As deemed necessary, copies of this public notice will be sent to the State Archeologist, State Historic Preservation Officer, and federally listed tribes regarding potential impacts to cultural resources. Our initial finding is that the proposed work would have no effect on any species listed as endangered by the U.S. Department of Commerce, nor affect any habitat designated as critical to the survival and recovery of any endangered species.

This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The applicant's proposal would result in the destruction or alteration of up to  $\underline{\mathbf{0}}$  acres of EFH utilized by various life stages of red drum and penaeid shrimp. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on EFH or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

If the proposed work involves deposits of dredged or fill material into navigable waters, the evaluation of the probable impacts will include the application of guidelines established by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency. Also, a certification that the proposed activity will not violate water quality standards will be required from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Environmental Services, before a permit is issued.

Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. You are invited to communicate the information contained in this notice to any other parties whom you deem likely to have interest in the matter.

JOHN M. HERMAN Chief, Central Evaluation Branch Regulatory Division

Enclosure

# INDEX TO SHEETS

SHEET NO. DESCRIPTION

SEE SHEET 1a FOR SHEET INDEX

## <u>SURVEY</u>

HORIZONTAL DATUM: LOUISIANA STATE PLANE COORDINATES LA SOUTH ZONE 1702 (NAD 83) (EPOCH: 2010) US SURVEY FEET

VERTICAL DATUM: NAVD 88 (GEOID 12B) US SURVEY FEET

<u>SCALES</u> PLAN: 1" = 20'PROFILE HORIZ: 1" = 20'PROFILE VERT: 1" = 2'

### TRAFFIC DATA

2022 ADT = 24,8002042 ADT = 34,100D = 61.9%K = 9.22%T = 5.60%

### ROADWAY CLASSIFICATION:

JONES CREEK RD. - SUBURBAN 4-LANE JEFFERSON HWY. - SUBURBAN 2-LANE TIGER BEND RD. – SUBURBAN 4-LANE PROFIT AVE. - URBAN 2-LANE

### DESIGN SPEED:

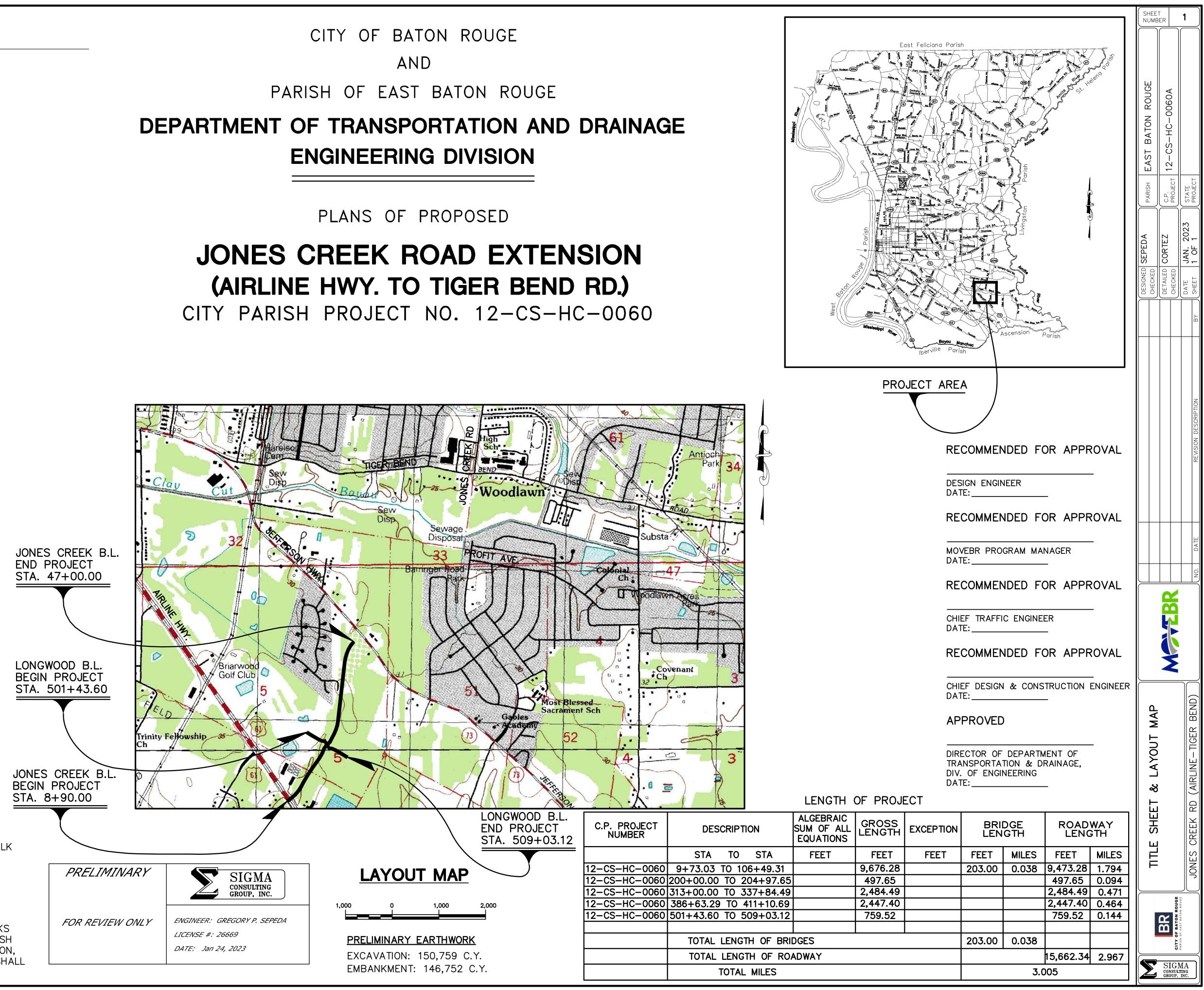
JONES CREEK RD. - 40 M.P.H. JEFFERSON HWY. - 30 M.P.H. TIGER BEND RD. - 40 M.P.H. PROFIT AVE. - 25 M.P.H.

### TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION:

PORTLAND CEMENT CONCRETE PAVEMENT, SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION, GRADING, EARTHWORK, DRAINAGE STRUCTURES, ASPHALT PAVEMENT, REMOVAL OF PAVEMENT, DRIVEWAYS.

### NOTES:

THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS FOR PUBLIC WORKS CONSTRUCTION, CITY OF BATON ROUGE AND PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, LATEST EDITION, AS AMENDED BY THE PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS, SHALL GOVERN ON THIS PROJECT.



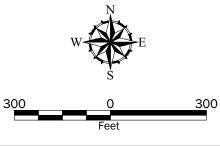
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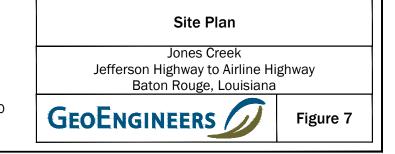


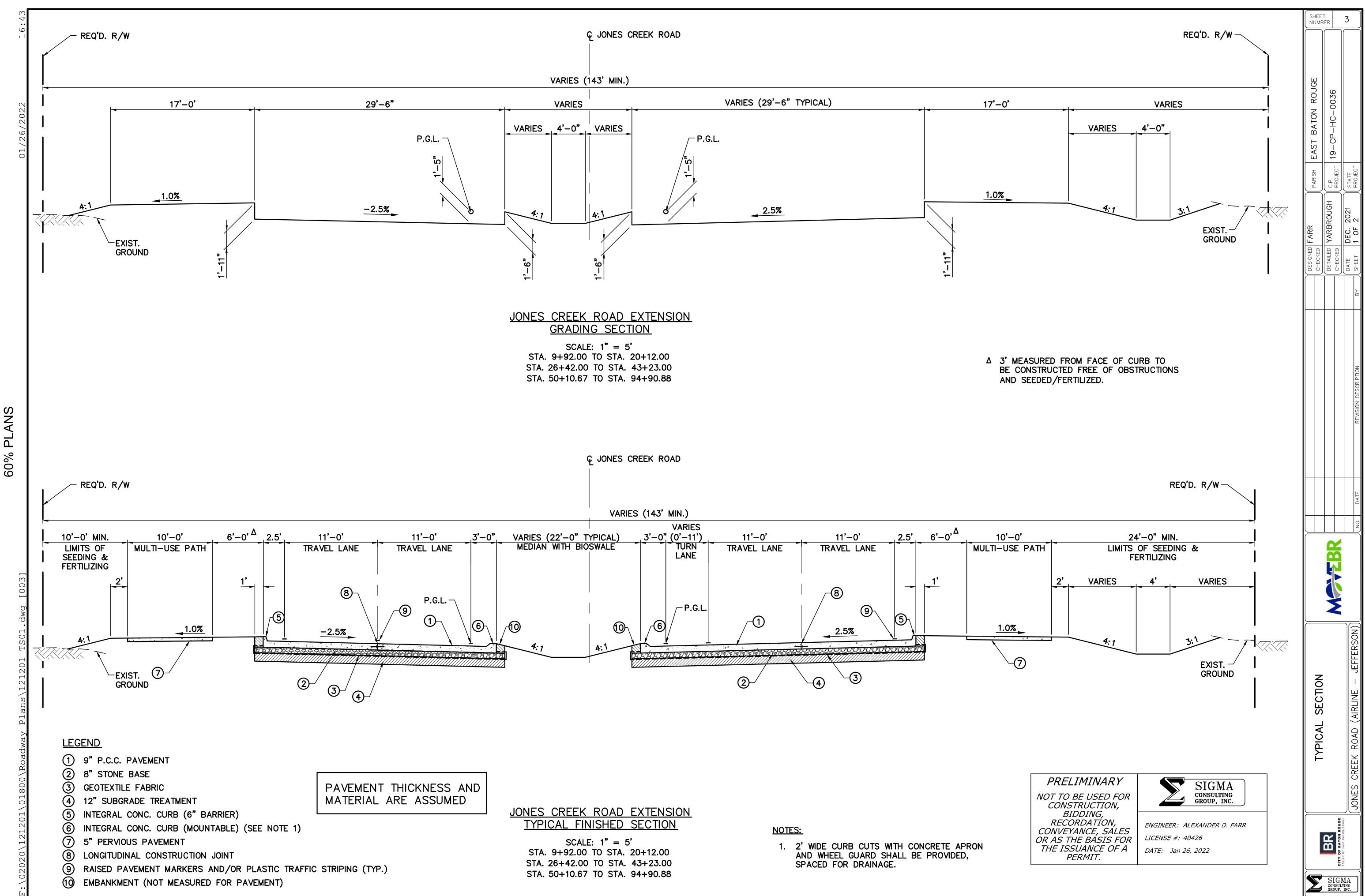
- Notes:
  The locations of all features shown are approximate.
  This drawing is for information purposes. It is intended to assist in showing features discussed in an attached document. GeoEngineers, Inc. cannot guarantee the accuracy and content of electronic files. The master file is stored by GeoEngineers, Inc. and will serve as the official record of this communication.

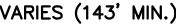
Data Source: Aerial from Bing Images.

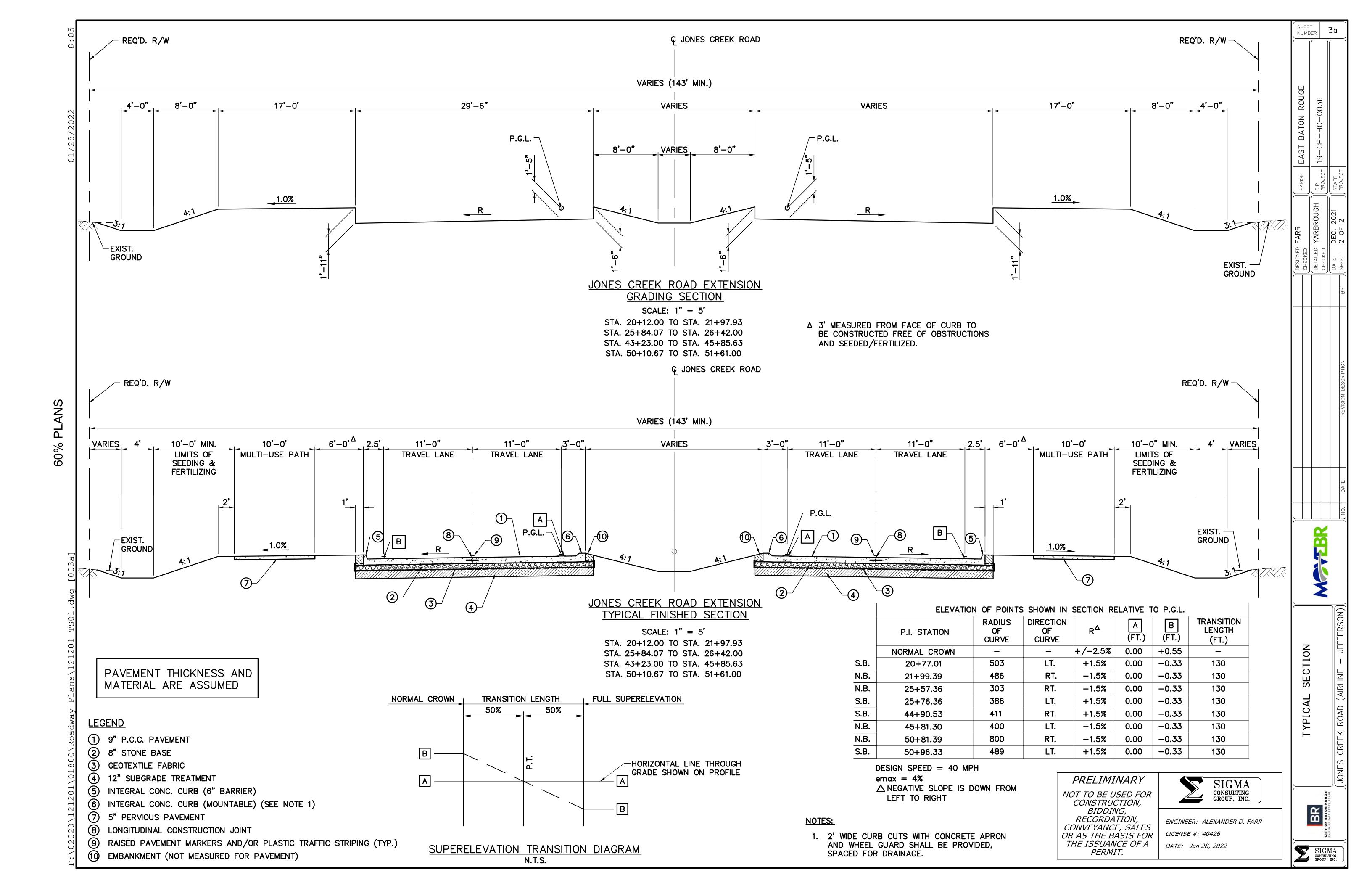
Projection: Louisiana State Planes, Southern Zone, US Foot

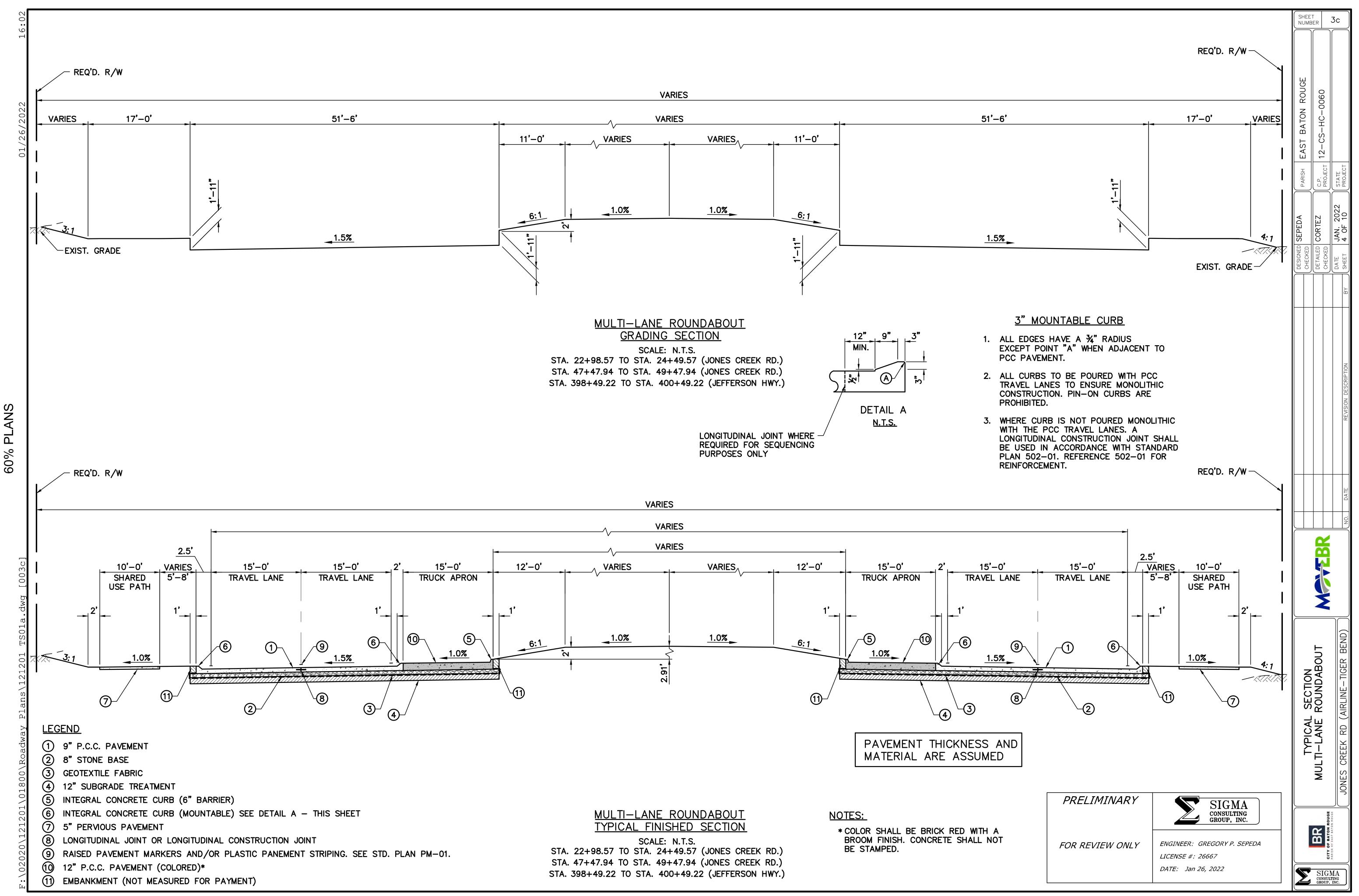


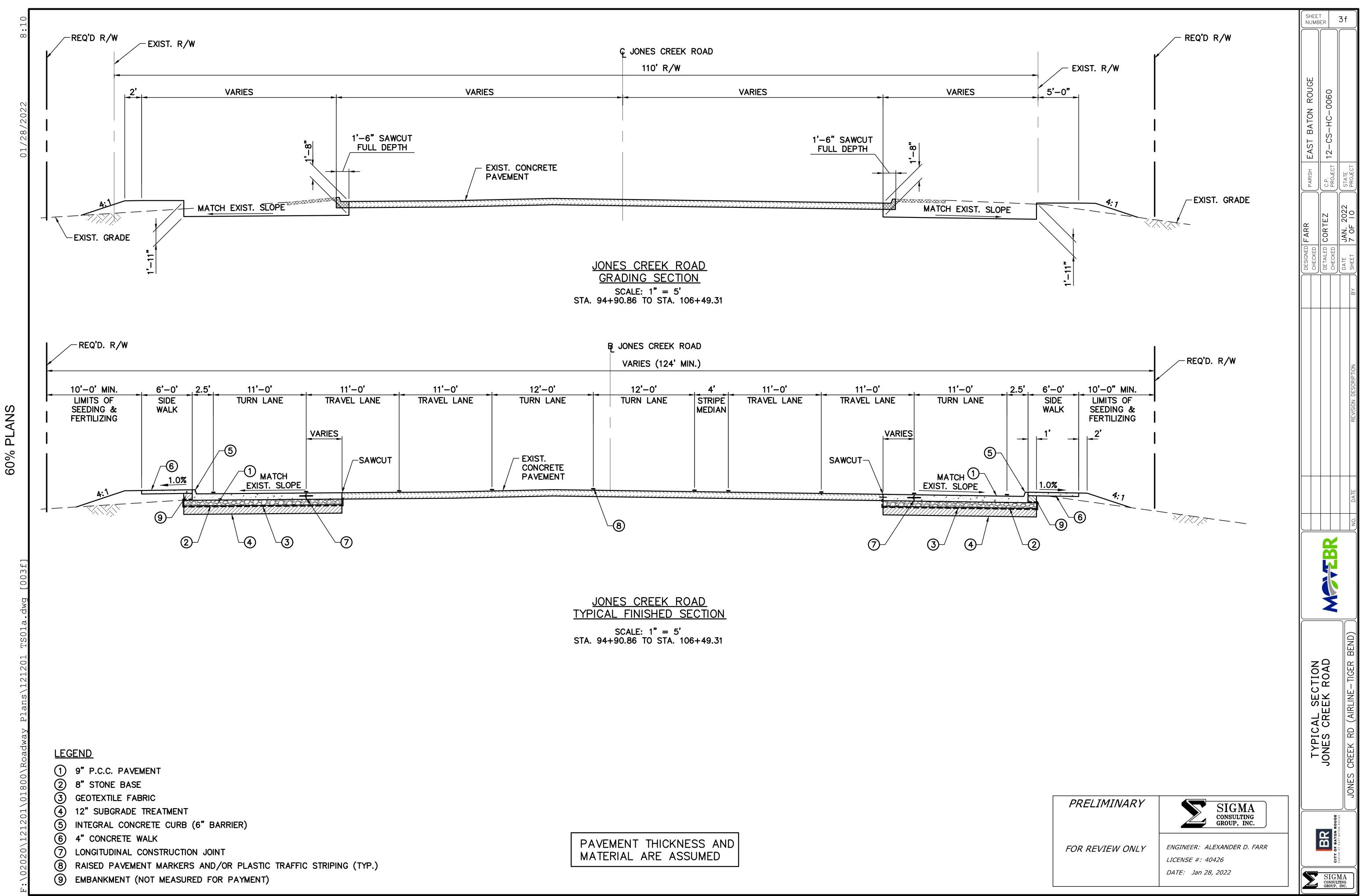


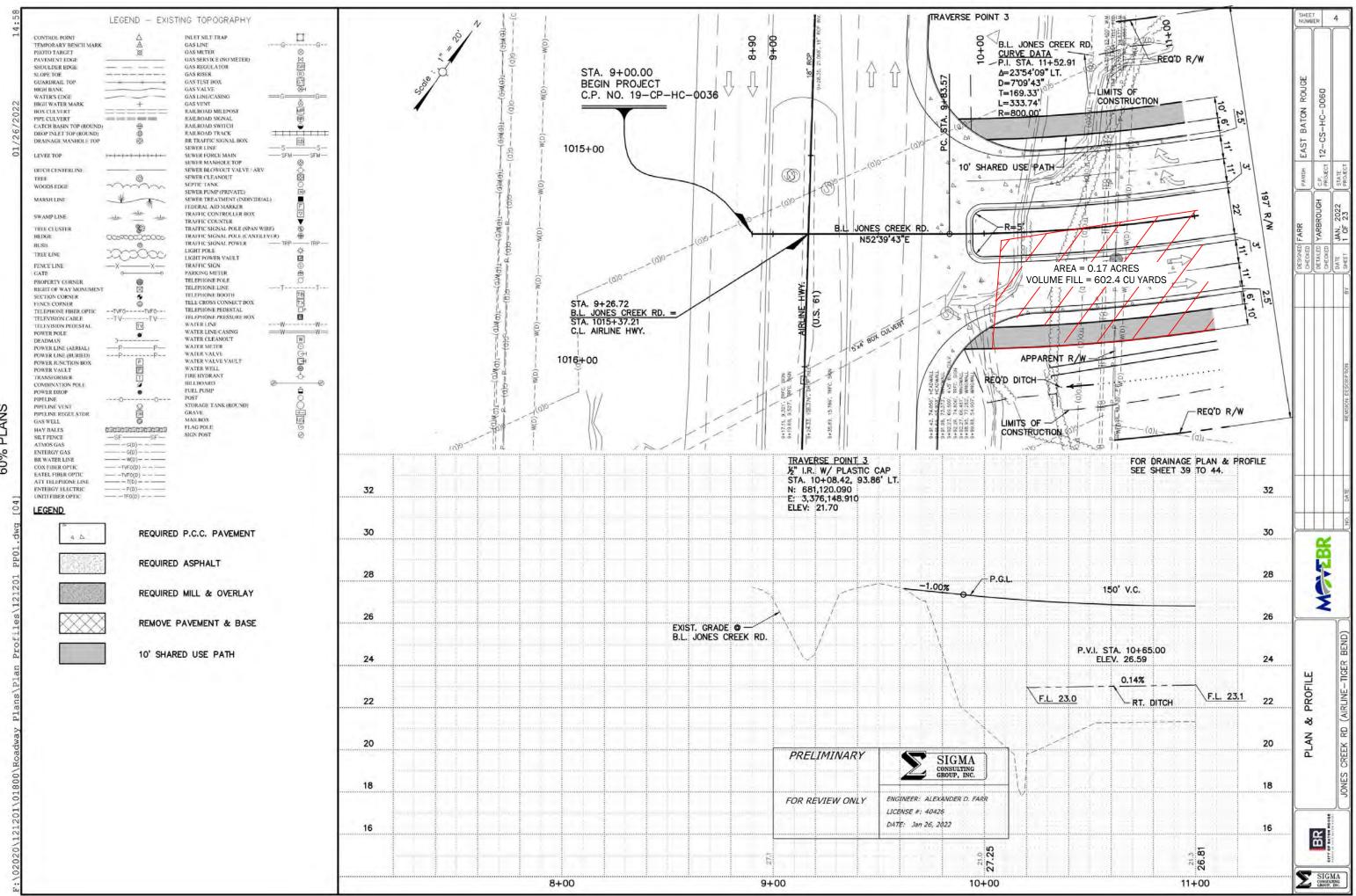




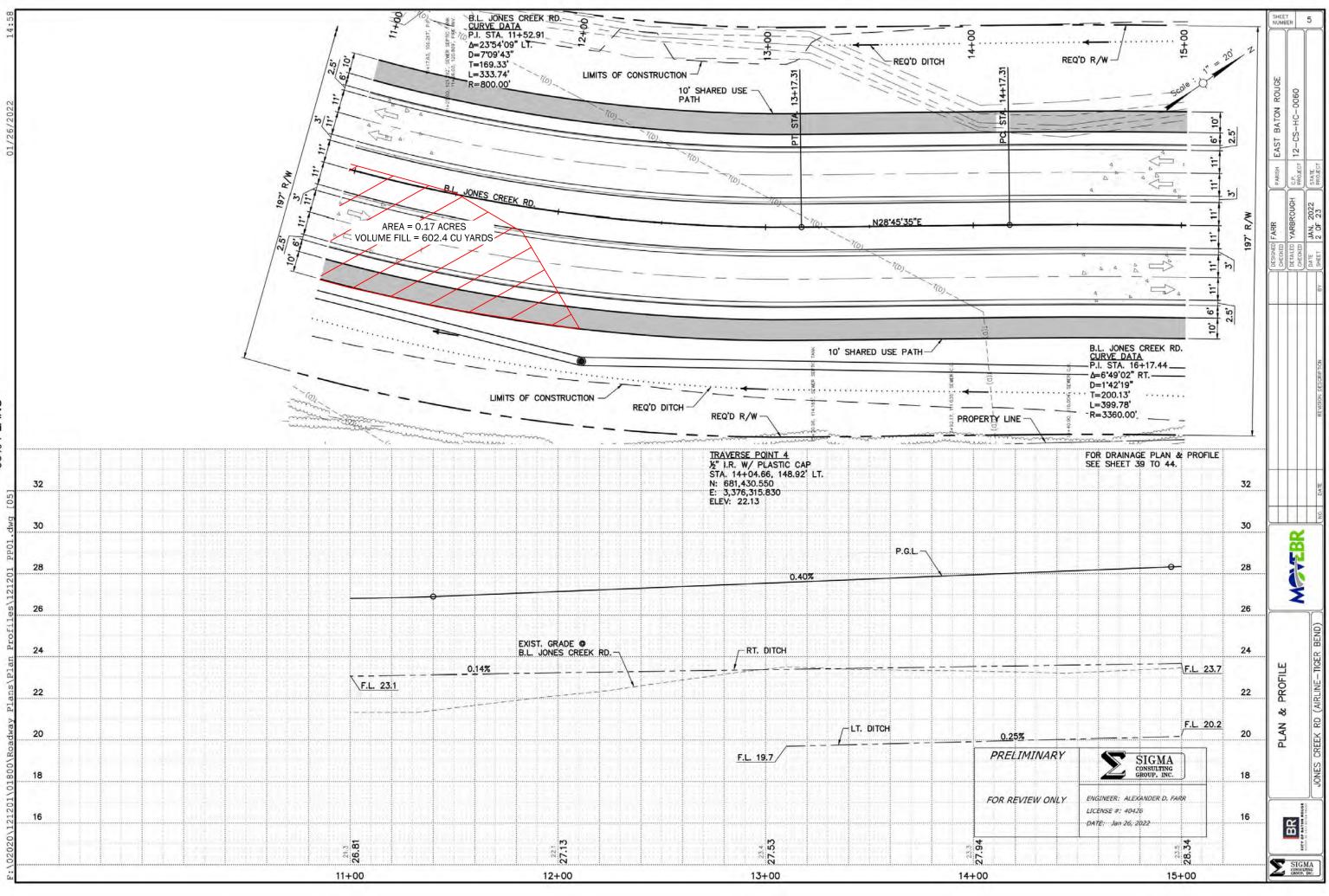




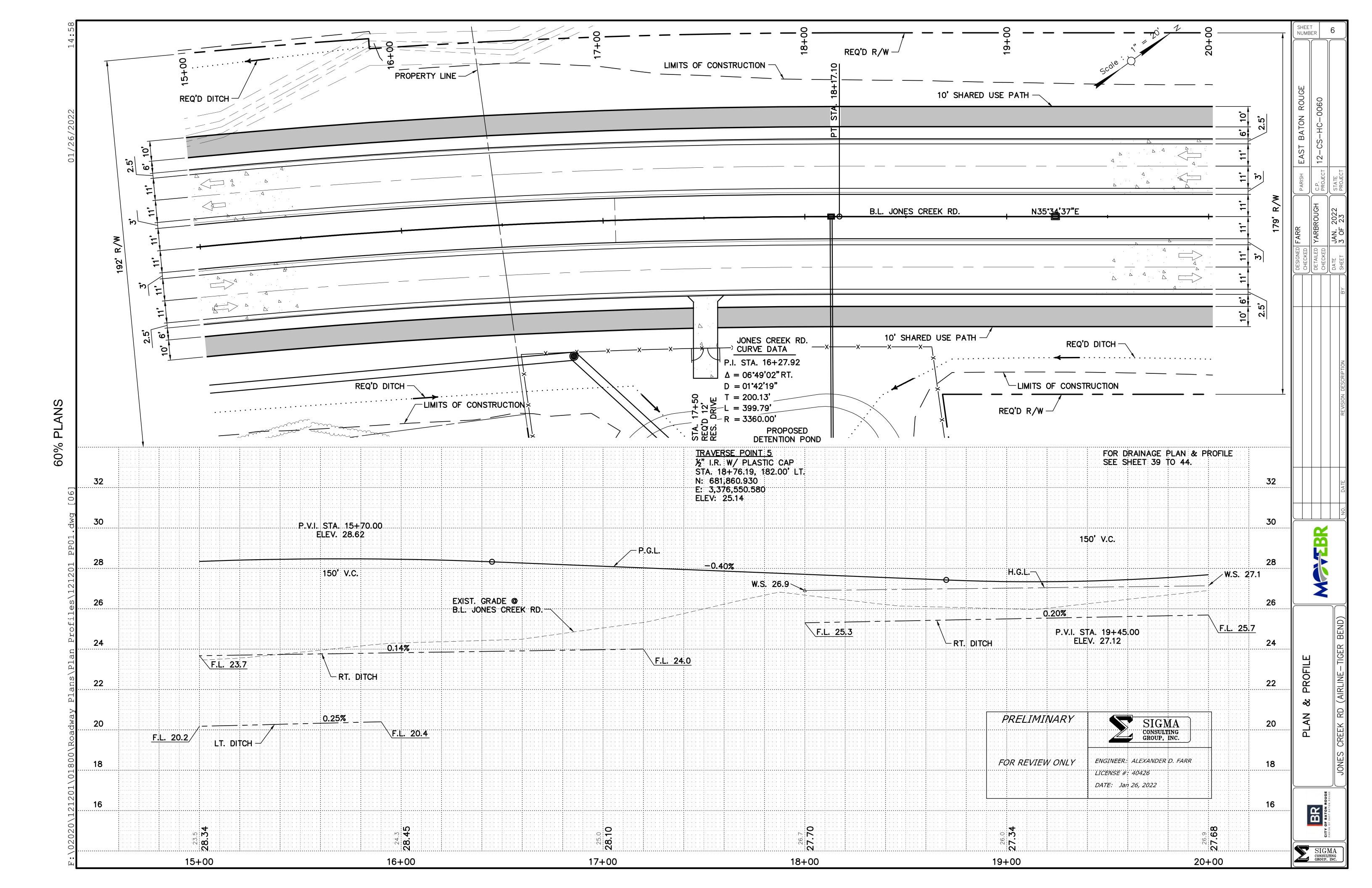


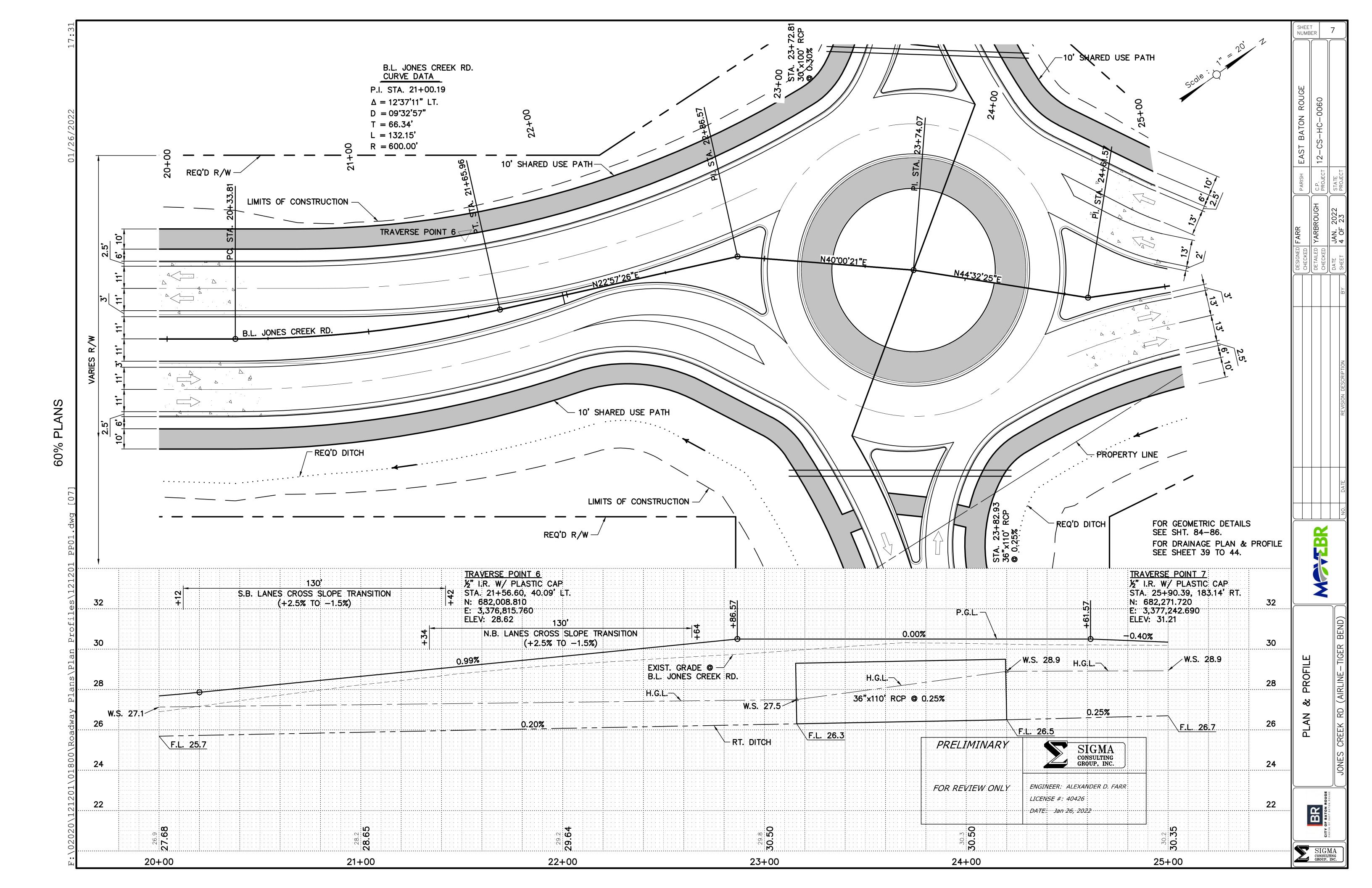


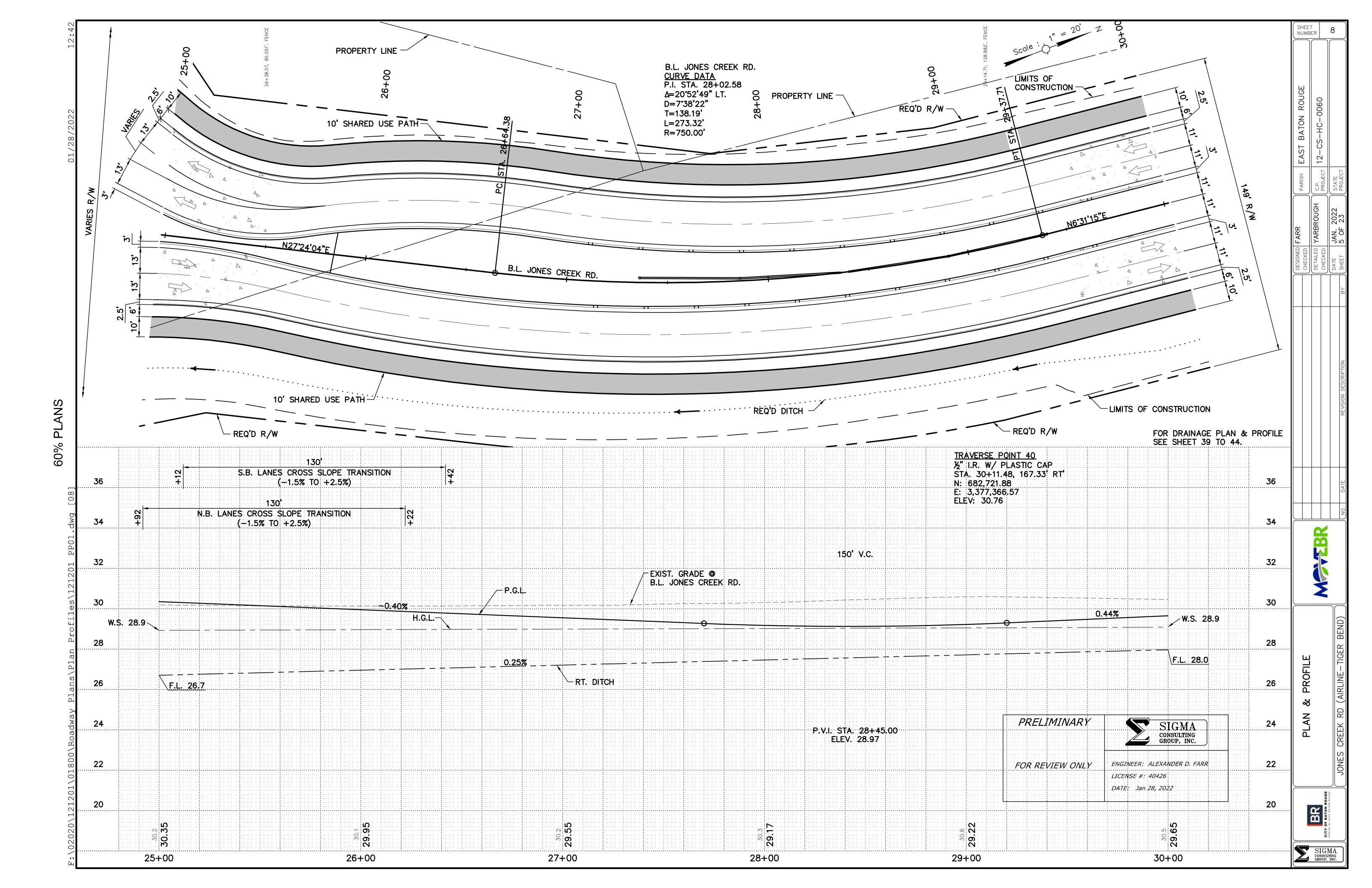
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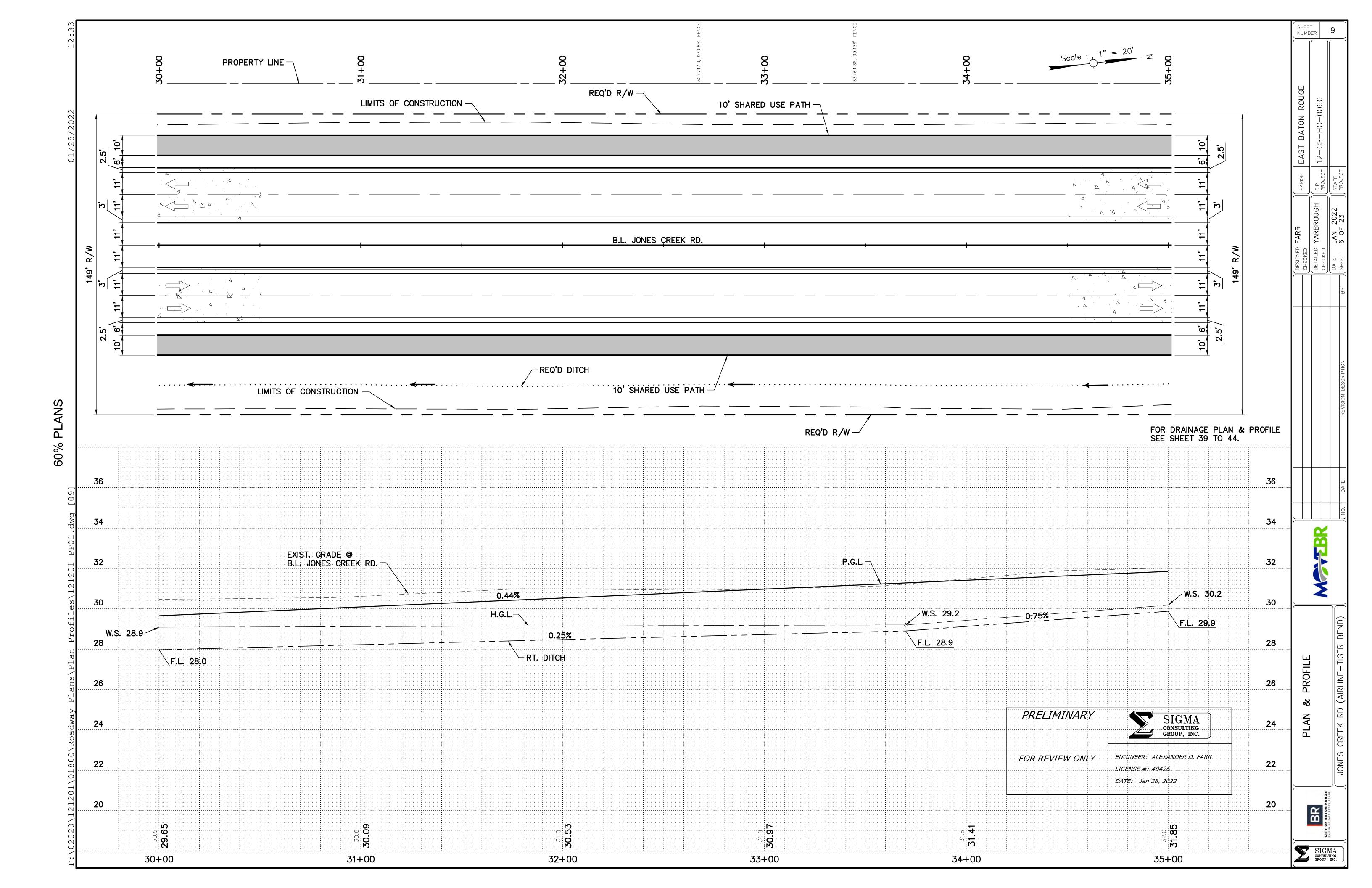


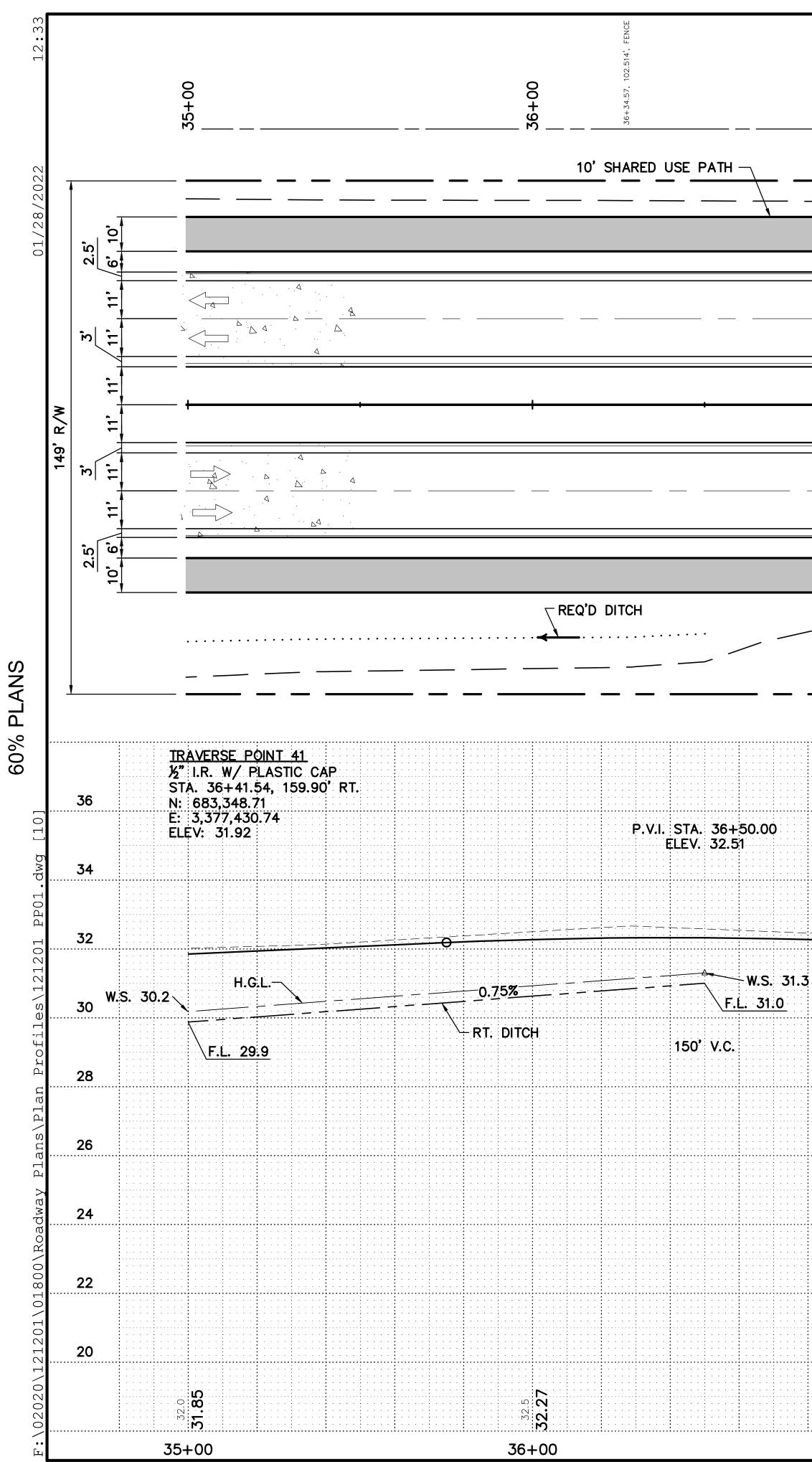
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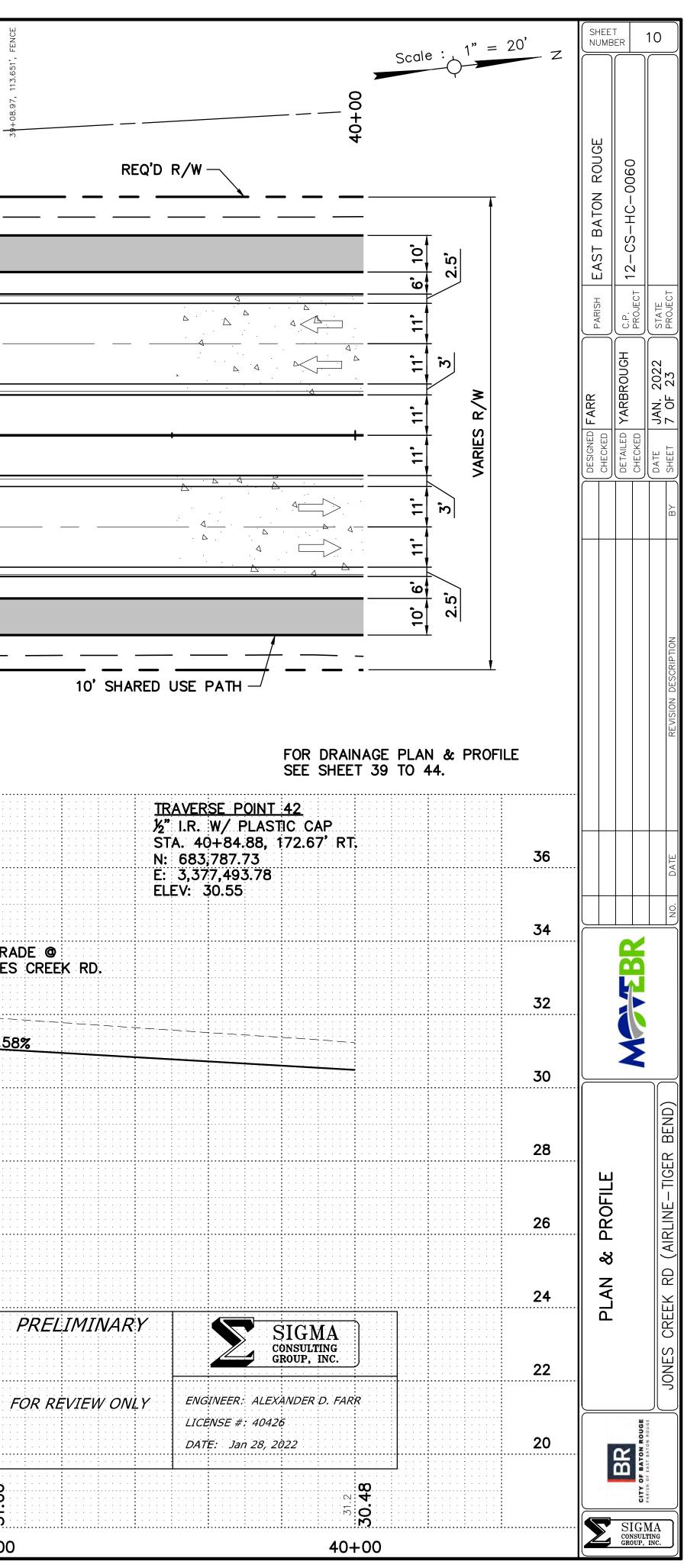


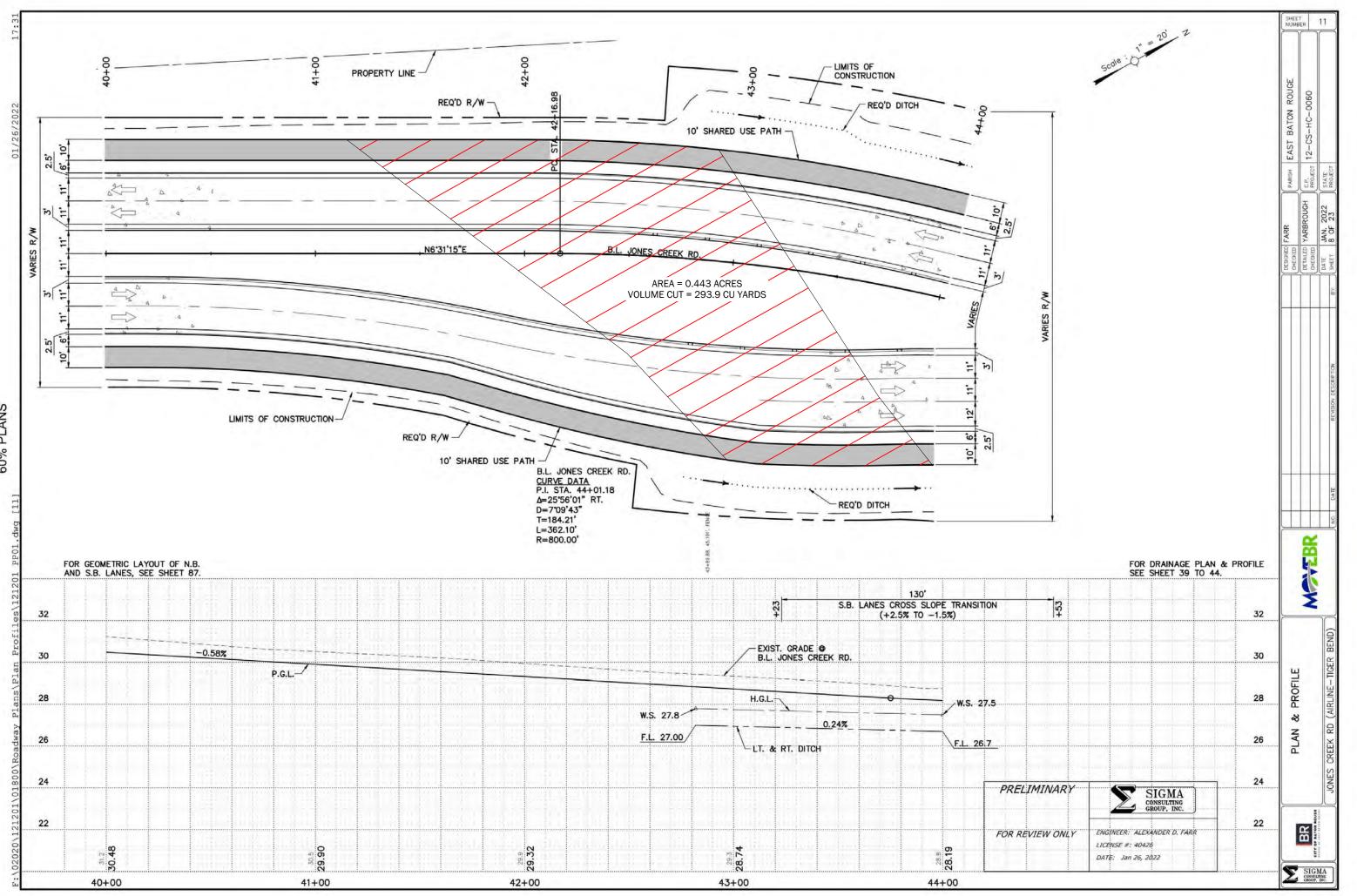




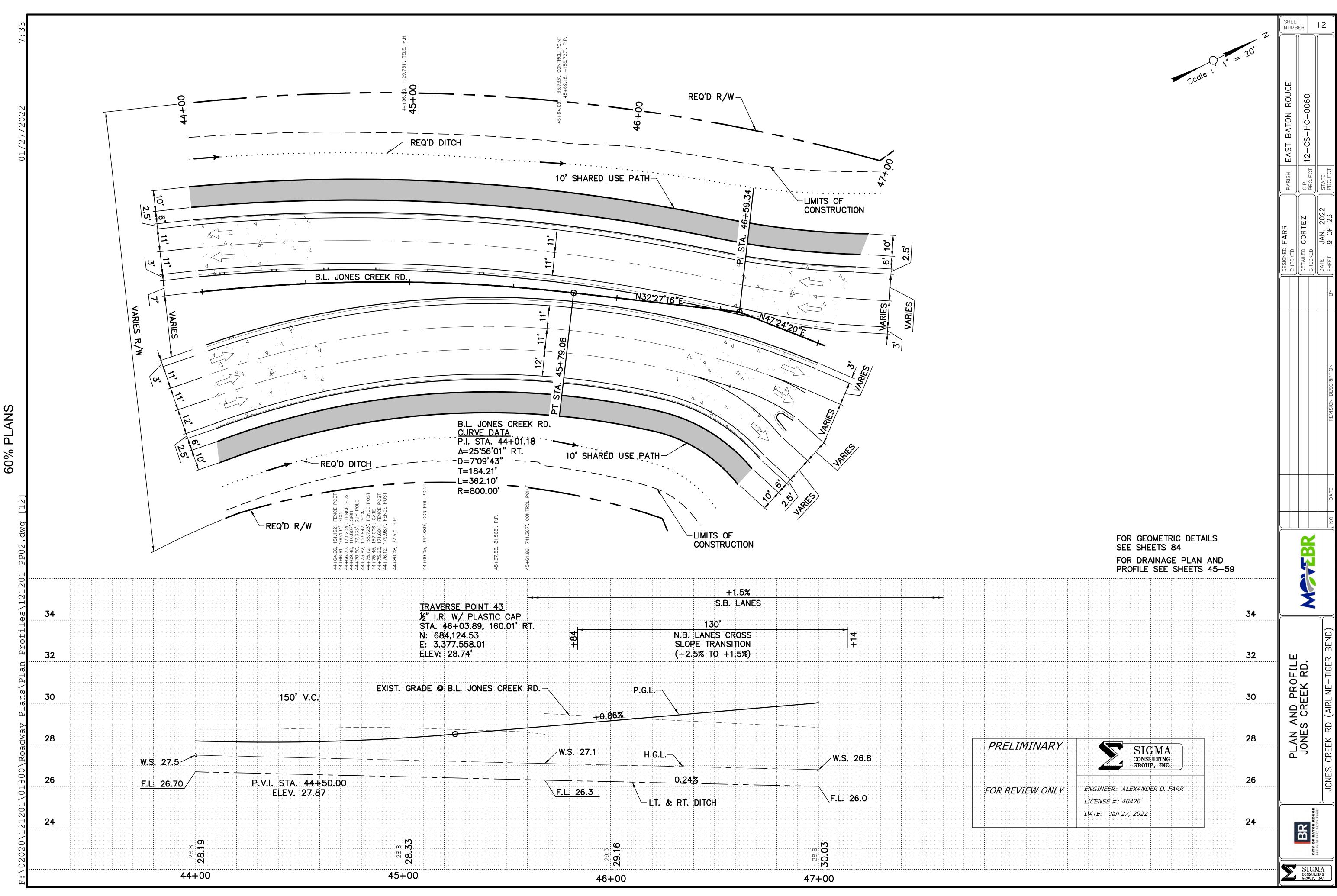


8 PROPERTY LINE -LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION -B.L. JONES CREEK RD. LIMITS OF CONSTRUCTION -REQ'D R/W - EXIST. GRADE @ B.L. JONES CREEK RD. \_\_\_ **P.G.L**. -0.58% 32.4 **32.20** 31.0**6 32.5 31.64** 37+00 39+00 38+00





60% PLANS



Ч 60%

