



Southwest Trail System Project
Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties

Virtual Public Meeting: April 24 – May 18, 2022
Live Event: May 3, 2022



On behalf of Garland, Saline, and Pulaski Counties, the Arkansas Department of Transportation, and the Federal Highway Administration, we welcome you to our virtual public meeting for the Southwest Trail System.

Virtual Public Meeting – Agenda



Project Overview Project History Alignment Adjustments Live Online Virtual Event

Southwest Trail – Virtual Public Meeting – April 24 – May 18, 2022 2

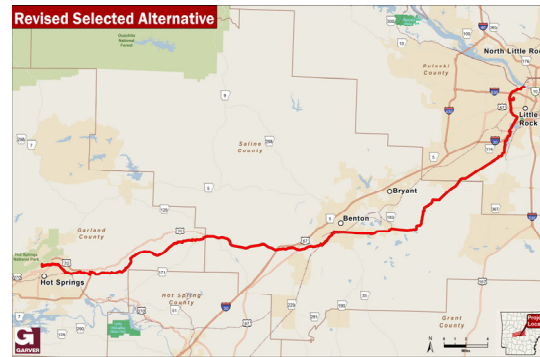
This Virtual Public Meeting provides an opportunity for the public to comment on the alignment adjustments to the Selected Alternative for the proposed Southwest Trail System Project.

This is a listen-only presentation. The topics discussed include the project overview, the project history, the Alignment Adjustments, and information on the live interactive presentation that will take place online on Tuesday, May 3, from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm.

Project Overview

Pulaski, Saline, and Garland Counties are working to develop a trail to connect to Hot Springs National Park, the Old River Bridge on the Saline River, the Little Rock Central High School Historic Site, and the Arkansas River Trail System.

This trail will pedestrians and bicyclists to safely enjoy outdoor recreation while providing an economic stimulus to the local and regional economies.



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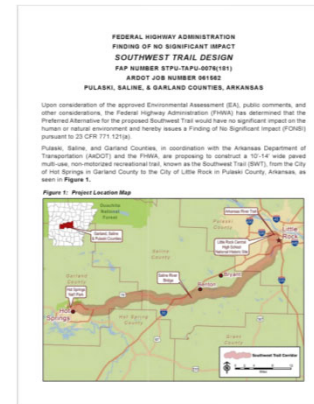
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Pulaski, Saline, and Garland Counties are working to develop a trail to connect to Hot Springs National Park, the Old River Bridge on the Saline River, the Little Rock Central High School Historic Site, and the Arkansas River Trail System that allows for pedestrians and bicyclists to safely enjoy outdoor recreation while providing an economic stimulus to the local and regional economies.

The image on the screen shows the Revised Selected Alternative.

Project History

- ARDOT reviewed the comments received from the previous Virtual Design Public Hearing in 2020.
- In October 2020, FHWA approved the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which cleared the full 60-mile trail project for engineering design.
- Adjustments have been made to the Selected Alternative which is the reason for this re-evaluation and public meeting.



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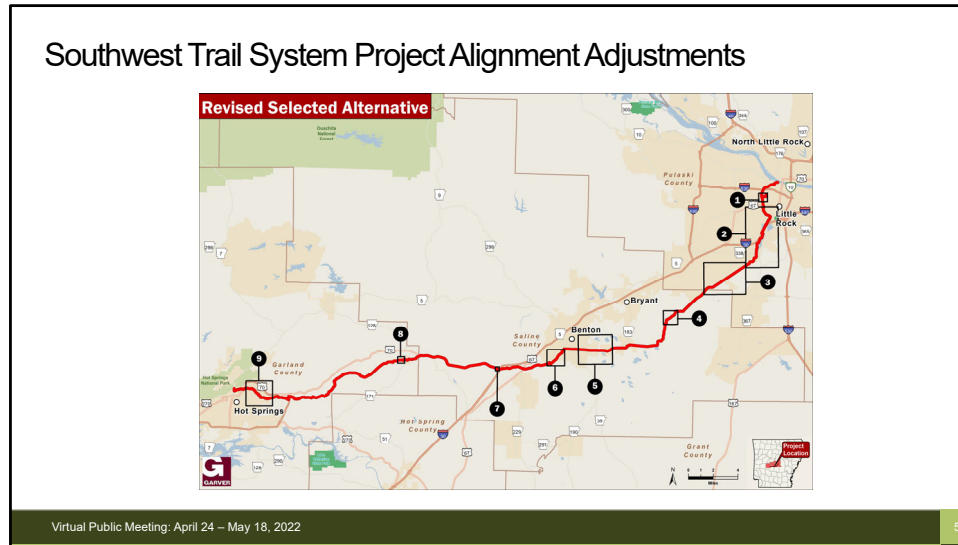
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Previously, the Garver Team conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA), which analyzed options for the trail route across Pulaski, Saline and Garland counties, reviewing each for impacts to the public and the environment, which was reviewed with the opportunity for public comment during the Virtual Design Public Hearing in 2020. This continued the process in following the National Environmental Policy Act.

ARDOT reviewed the comments received from citizens, public officials, and public agencies during the Virtual Design Public Hearing. Upon compilation of and response to public comments received, a final Environmental Assessment (EA) was submitted to ARDOT and FHWA for review, comment, and approval.

In October 2020, FHWA approved the EA and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), which cleared the full 60-mile trail project for engineering design. Adjustments have been made to the Selected Alternative which is the reason for this re-evaluation and public meeting.

Southwest Trail System Project Alignment Adjustments



As detailed design has advanced, the designers have been working closely with community leaders to address possible improvements. Coming from this collaborative process are several locations of the Selected Alternative that have been revised to better address current social, environmental, and public concerns regarding the location and implementation of the trail. The proposed modifications to the Selected Alternative are located at nine separate locations along the alignment. The revised project alignment is referred to as the Revised Selected Alternative, an approximately 50-foot-wide study area centered on the proposed trail location.

Each individual revised project alignment is available for review on the Virtual Public Meeting Project website under the exhibits and materials page.

Impacts Table

Table 1: Revised Selected Alternative's Anticipated Impacts

Resource Category	Revised Selected Alternative*
Construction Cost	\$50-\$60 million
Annual Economic Benefit	\$4.8 million
Relocations Required	0
EJ Block Group Impacts (acres)	122
Visual Impacts to Trail Users	Beneficial Change
Right of Way Required (acres)	157
Park Connections	5
Known NRHP Sites Impacted	0
Stream Impacts (linear feet)	19,028
Wetland Impacts (acres)	25.0
Floodplain Impacts (acres)	96.8
Hazmat Sites Impacted/Remediated	11
Farmland Impacts (acres)	134.9

*Values are current estimates and subject to change

Regarding the environment, the most important impacts from the project are shown in the table. While every effort has been made to minimize negative impacts during the alternative studies, and additional efforts have been made during the detailed design, there is not an alternative that avoids all impacts.

The Selected Alternative best maximizes the benefits from the project while minimizing the negative impacts to the extent possible.

Live Online Virtual Event



LIVE Interactive Q&A Forum
Tuesday, May 3, 2022
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Comment Forms will be accepted until:
4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2022

For more information, visit: SWTrail.TransportationPlanroom.com

Contact us:
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There is a live online virtual event scheduled on Tuesday, May 3 from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm.

The project team will present information about the alignment adjustments to the selected alternative and answer questions from attendees. Instructions for attending the live event are located on the Southwest Trail System Project website, which can be found at: SWTrail.TransportationPlanroom.com.

We encourage you to complete and submit your comment forms through several methods. An online comment form is available on the public meeting website. You may also email or mail your comment forms to the addresses on your screen. Oral comments may also be submitted to 501-823-0730.

Comments will be accepted through Wednesday, May 18 at 4:30 p.m. For additional questions concerning this project, assistance with attending the question and answer live event, or if you need help submitting your comments, please contact us at the email address or phone number on your screen.



Thank you for participating in the Virtual Public Meeting for the Southwest Trail System Project connecting the city of Hot Springs with the City of Little Rock.