NDOR PQS Project Review Memo
Section 106 - Tier II Project

Control Number 42772 Project Number ITS-NH-80-5(79) Review Date 11/23/15

Project Name Elm Creek - Alda Project Location Buffalo and Hall Counties

Date of Project Description Reviewed 01/15/2015

Project Results in no historic properties affected ☐ No ☑ Yes ☑ Tier II Project

THPO/Tribal Consultation? ☐ No ☑ Yes	CLG Consultation? ☑ No ☐ Yes
THPO/Tribes(s): Ponca Tribe of Nebraska	CLG:
Date Correspondence Sent: 12/21/15	Date Correspondence Sent:
THPO/Tribal response date: no response: 01/26/16	CLG response date:
THPO/Tribal comment:	CLG comment:

Other Consulting Parties Identified:

n/a

APE considered is consistent with 36 CFR 800.16(d): ☑ Yes

Archeological Resources	**Above Ground Resources**
Are NRHP listed or eligible properties present within the APE? ☑ **No** ☐ **Yes**	**Are NRHP listed or eligible properties present within the APE?** ☑ **No** ☐ **Yes**
Please list:	**Please list:**

Is Temporary Easement Required from ANY Historic Property Listed Above? ☑ **No** ☐ **Yes**

Is Permanent Easement Required from ANY Historic Property Listed Above? ☑ **No** ☐ **Yes**

Is Right of Way Required from ANY Historic Property Listed Above? ☑ **No** ☐ **Yes**

If Yes, describe:

Construction Commitments: ☑ No ☐ Yes

If Yes, detail here:

Project would result in no historic properties affected: ☐ No ☑ Yes

Tier II Project Evaluation Complete

Stacy Stupka-Burda

Digitally signed by Stacy Stupka-Burda
DN: cn=Stacy Stupka-Burda, o=NDOR, ou=Planning & Project Development, email=stacy.stupka-burda@nebraska.gov, c=US
Date: 2016.01.26 08:08:46 -06'00'

01/26/16

NDOR PQS Review

Date

The Area of Potential Effects
The area of potential effect (APE) includes the areas of nine construction activities as described in the project description, including gate, sign, tower, control cabinet, and pull box installation, as well as areas of trenching of electrical conduit. These areas are all within the ROW of existing transportation facilities with extant visual intrusions common, and therefore an expanded APE for visual effects is not required.

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

NEBRASKA DIVISION

100 Centennial Mall North
Room 220
Lincoln, NE 68508
(402)742-8460

December 21, 2015

Randy Teboe, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
P.O. Box 288
Niobrara, NE 68760

Dear Mr. Teboe:

Project ITS-NH-80-5(79), CN 42772
Elm Creek - Alda
Buffalo and Hall Counties
Cultural Resources Evaluation

Please review this document on historic resources for the subject project as required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended and implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. 36 CFR Part 800.2 (c) (2), specifically addresses consultation between Tribes and federal agencies.

An evaluation of the potential for cultural resources, both archeology and standing structures, is included below [and in enclosures].

Project Description
This project would deploy automated gates and CCTV cameras on I-80 entrance ramps at the Elm Creek Interchange 257 at mile marker (MM) 257.04, the Odessa Interchange 263 at MM 263.69, the West Kearney Interchange 272 at MM 272.64, the East Kearney Interchange 275 at MM 275.63, the Minden Interchange 279 at MM 279.92, the Gibbon Interchange 285 at MM 285.66, the Shelton Interchange 291 at MM 291.39, the Wood River Interchange 300 at MM 300.13 and the Alda Interchange 305 at MM 305.69.

The West Kearney Interchange 272 may require four automated gates due to two separate lanes divided by a triangle median. The Elm Creek Interchange 257, West Kearney Interchange 272 and Shelton Interchange 291 would not require CCTV Camera installation due to existing units or units to be installed prior to this project. All interchanges are located within Buffalo and Hall Counties.

Scope details include:

- Installation of automated gates, post mounted signs, climbable truss towers, and control cabinets all with ground rods.
- Trenching or jacking of electrical conduit and installation of pull boxes.
- Cameras, new or existing, at these interchanges would be used for visually verifying operation of the gates.
- Construction activities may result in minor soil disturbance outside the hinge point.
- Project surveying and staking would be required.

- Areas disturbed during construction would be stabilized utilizing methods of erosion control.
- This project is located within a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) community. Post construction storm water management best management practices may be necessary. Additional consultation with the Roadside Stabilization Unit may be required.
- No additional property rights would be required to build this project.
- This project would be constructed under traffic with lane closures controlled by appropriate traffic control devices and practices.

Area of Potential Effects (APE)

The APE for archeological properties and standing structures was chosen to adequately identify any historic properties that may be potentially altered by this undertaking. The APE of this project is confined to the nine discontiguous interchange locations where automated gates and CCTV cameras would be installed. The direct APE for each includes the area of construction activities described above and included in the installation of automated gates, signs, towers, control cabinets and pull boxes, as well as the trenching or jacking of electrical conduit. These construction areas are all within the right-of-way (ROW) of existing transportation facilities with extant visual intrusions common, and therefore an expanded APE for visual impacts beyond areas of direct construction impact is not required. No detour routes are planned. Definition of a broader *indirect* APE for secondary or cumulative impacts is also not required in this instance.

Archeological Evaluation

An archeological evaluation was conducted by Highway Archeologist Courtney Ziska in June-September 2015 (Enclosure 1). A review of the Nebraska State Historical Society Cultural Resources Geographic Information System (NCRGIS) database and historic maps indicated that there is one previously recorded archeological site (25BF24) possibly located within the APE at MM 263.69. An archeological reconnaissance of the APE at each of the nine locations was completed by Archeological Technician Nic Fogerty on June 16, 2015. As a result of the reconnaissance, five locations with potential for archeological resources were intensively pedestrian surveyed with negative results. The remainder of the APE is limited to construction activities in previously disturbed soils along the I-80 roadway and interchanges, with low potential for intact archeological deposits.

25BF24

25BF24, a prehistoric site with possible Dismal River affiliation, was previously recorded on the NCRGIS as being located within the S½ of Section 9, T8N, R17W, with a more precise location unconfirmed. No evidence of the site was observed during the archeological pedestrian survey of the project APE. Information recorded on the original site survey form indicates that the site is located along the north banks of the Platte River, which suggests any significant and intact deposits may be south and east of the APE at MM 263.69, with the APE being disturbed and/or destroyed by the construction of I-80 and the Odessa Interchange. Based on this information and the negative survey results, it is recommended that 25BF24 is not present in the APE for this proposed undertaking.

No further field evaluation is recommended for this undertaking. There are no archeological historic properties within the APE of any of the nine proposed automated gate and CCTV camera locations.

Standing Structures
A standing structure evaluation was completed during the course of the archeological investigation by Highway Archeologist Courtney Ziska, and in consultation with Preservation Associate Diane Laffin, in September 2015 (Enclosure 2). Through a review of aerial view imagery and a vehicular reconnaissance completed by Archeological Technician Nic Fogerty in June 2015, it was determined that there are no above ground resources present within the APE of this undertaking. As such, there are no architectural or structural historic properties within the APE of any of the nine proposed automated gate and CCTV camera locations.

Recommended Effect
This undertaking has been reviewed under the programmatic agreement entitled *Programmatic Agreement Among the Federal Highway Administration, the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Nebraska Department of Roads to Satisfy the Requirements of Section 106 for the Federal Aid Highway Program in the State of Nebraska* (July 2015) and meets the requirements to be considered a Tier II Project. Tier II projects result in a project effect recommendation of no historic properties affected.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is providing this documentation for your review and comment and requests that Ponca Tribe of Nebraska notify FHWA of any objections within 30 days of receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions regarding this information, do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Scott H. Stapp
Environmental Protection Specialist

Enclosures