



Office of Engineering
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John Bel Edwards, Governor
Eric Kalivoda, Secretary

December 12, 2023

State Project No. H.013284
Federal Aid Project No. H013284
MRB South GBR: LA 1 to LA 30 Connector
Iberville Parish

Ms. Raegan Ball
Acting Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70808

ATTN: Ms. Laura Phillips

SUBJECT: Request for Approval of Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Document

Dear Ms. Ball,

With this letter, we are requesting FHWA's approval on the Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) Document for the captioned project. This approval will allow us to adopt or incorporate by reference this planning product into the proceedings for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) phase of the project. The PEL and its appendices can be downloaded from:

<http://www17.dotd.la.gov/?f=44568&fid=baa950d2>

The PEL documents will be uploaded to the project website, www.mrbsouth.com, upon approval. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (225) 379-1816 or by email at paul.vaughtiii@la.gov.

Sincerely,

Paul Vaught
DOTD Project Manager

PV:pv

cc:	Robert Lott	DOTD Environmental
	Connie Betts	DOTD Planning
	Mark Bucci	DOTD Bridge Design
	Toby Picard	DOTD Road Design
	Mathilda Rilovich	DOTD Traffic Engineering



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Louisiana Division

5304 Flanders Drive, Suite A
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225)757-7600
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December 21, 2023

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-LA

Eric Kalivoda, Ph.D.
Secretary
Louisiana Department of Transportation
and Development
Baton Rouge, LA

Subject: Planning and Environmental Linkage Study Mississippi River Bridge South H.013284

Dear Dr. Kalivoda:

This letter acknowledges the completion of the Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) initiative undertaken by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD), in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), to study the feasibility of constructing a new crossing of the Mississippi River in the Greater Baton Rouge area. The resulting final PEL report, dated December 5, 2023, and entitled "Enhanced Planning Investigation MRB South GBR: LA 1 to LA 30 Connector," was submitted to FHWA on December 8, 2023, by Mr. Paul Vaught, P.E.

This planning initiative was developed to meet the requirements of 23 USC 168 "Integration of planning and environmental review." The report provides thorough documentation of the planning work completed and decisions made. Answers to the FHWA PEL Questionnaire are included in Chapter 7. The report will support an environmental review process to be conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

FHWA acknowledges that the Enhanced Planning Investigation MRB South GBR: LA 1 to LA 30 Connector report is consistent with 23 USC 168. Adoption or incorporation by reference of the report or portions of the report in NEPA proceedings is subject to the requirements of 23 USC 168.

FHWA appreciates DOTD's effort in conducting this PEL study and the opportunity to collaborate with DOTD in the development of this report. If you have questions, please contact Laura Phillips at (225) 757-7622, laura.phillips@dot.gov or Larry Breland at 225-757-7607, larry.breland@dot.gov.

Sincerely yours,

**MARY M
STRINGFELLOW**

Mary M. Stringfellow
Acting Deputy Division Administrator

Digitally signed by MARY M
STRINGFELLOW
Date: 2023.12.22 13:24:48 -06'00'

cc: Paul Vaught, LDOTD
Chad Winchester, LDOTD
Noel Ardoin, LDOTD Connie
Porter Betts, LDOTD