

**Federal Emergency Management Agency**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for**  
**the City of Batesville Replacement of Pedestrian Bridge on New Location**  
**Independence County, Arkansas**  
**FEMA-1751-DR-AR**

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is proposing to assist the City of Batesville with the replacement of a pedestrian bridge in a new location in Independence County, Arkansas. Heavy rainfall in March of 2008 caused regional flooding within the Poke Bayou and surrounding areas, including parts of the City of Batesville. This flooding caused extensive damage to the City of Batesville public park system including a walking trail pedestrian bridge that crossed the Poke Bayou.

The City proposes to construct a replacement pedestrian bridge in a new location, crossing the Stillhouse Branch of the White River. The City considered replacing the pedestrian bridge at the former location; however, the lack of site access due to recent private land development along the park boundaries prevents reconstructing the bridge in the same location. The proposed project site is adjacent to Riverside Park, 280 feet east of Chaney Drive (River Road). The new bridge would be a 31-foot long and 10-foot wide precast concrete bridge. Rip-rap will be used under the bridge and around the wing walls to prevent undermining of the bridge footings and the adjacent creek bank. An estimated 850 square feet of rip-rap will be installed as part of the bridge construction. Concrete footers on both stream banks would support the bridge over the stream. The bridge footings will each be 6 feet wide and 11.5 feet long. The footings are designed to be 1.5 feet below the bottom of the creek bed. Both footers would be placed outside the stream channel that carries normal base flow. The opening under the bridge will be 30 feet wide and 9.5 feet high. The proposed bridge is to be constructed from precast bridge panels.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and the implementing regulations of FEMA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared to assess the potential impacts of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives on the human and natural environment. The Draft EA summarizes the purpose and need, affected environment, and potential environmental consequences for the actions considered. The Draft EA is available for comment and can be viewed and downloaded from FEMA's website at <http://www.fema.gov/plan/ehp/envdocuments/ea-region6.shtm> or viewed and copied at the following location between April 27, 2011 and May 26, 2011:

- Batesville City Hall, 500 E. Main Street, Batesville, AR 72501

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date of April 27, 2011. Written comments on the Draft EA can be mailed or faxed to the contact below. If no substantive comments are received, the Draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.

Dorothy Weir  
Environmental Specialist, FEMA Region VI  
800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209  
Fax: 940-383-7299