



BALDWIN COUNTY

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

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Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Baldwin County Commission under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order(s) 11988 and 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under ADECA's CDBG-DR Grant No. DR-21-001. The proposed County Priority Infrastructure Program (CPIP) project will extend County Road 65 from County Road 28 to County Road 36, with a series of dirt road paving and new road construction projects. This project will potentially impact up to 3.44 acres of wetlands. No floodplains will be impacted by the project. The approximate locations of the impacts are 30.4588833, -87.7170806, and 30.4660333, -87.7170639, and 30.4702944, -87.7170583, and 30.4943778, -87.7171944, and 30.4795083, -87.7170056, and 30.4941722, -87.7169167, and 30.4987056, -87.7169250.

The Baldwin County Commission has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain/wetland: Baldwin County has considered impacts to wetlands in the proposed design of CR 65. The centerline of the proposed roadway conforms to existing roadway sections, where right-of-way already exists, and provides a straight north-south roadway in new sections to minimize wetland crossings. In addition to the roadway segments, several new intersections have been proposed. Wetlands are present on three sides of the CR 34 intersection where a roundabout is proposed to ensure traffic safety and efficiency once constructed. The County considered multiple alternatives to the proposed roundabout design and selected an alternative that reduces total wetland impacts by 2.86 acres at that crossing. Not all proposed wetland impacts can be avoided due to the locations of the wetlands either immediately abutting the existing roadway or crossing the existing right-of-way. Once complete, the project will comply with all conditions of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 wetland permits and ADEM water quality certification. During project implementation, appropriate best management practices (BMPs) will be properly installed and maintained to prevent the movement of sediment off-site and into adjacent drainage and wetland areas.

The Baldwin County Commission has reevaluated alternatives to building in the wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to wetland development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order(s) 11988 and 11990 are available for public inspection, review and copy upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Baldwin County Commission at the following address on or before 8/13/2025: Baldwin County Commission, Central Annex II, PO Box 220, Silverhill, AL 36576, and (251) 937-0371, Attention: Mark Acreman, PE, Assistant County Engineer. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Baldwin County Commission, Central Annex II, 22070 Hwy 59, Robertsedale, AL 36567. Comments may also be submitted via email at sappleton@baldwincountyal.gov.

Public participation is solicited without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or disability. Persons who require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act or those requiring language translation services should contact Baldwin County Commission, Highway Department at 251-937-0371.