

Chapter 4. DRAFT SECTION 4(F)EVALUATION

Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act of 1966 established a national policy for the USDOT to avoid the use of significant public parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges and historic sites as part of a project, unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative to the use of such land and such program includes all possible planning to minimize harm to such park, recreational area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or historic site resulting from such use.

4.1.1. North Unit

There are six Section 4(f) resources in the North Unit. Four of the resources are parks/recreation areas and two are preserves. Five of the six resources are owned by the Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of East Baton Rouge (BREC), with the sixth a Livingston Parish Recreation District facility. The resources by section are:

- Scotlandville Park - N2 Interstate 110 at Harding Boulevard
- Hooper Road Park - N3 6261 Guynell Drive.
- Cohn Preserve - N4, N5 and N6 11332 Foster Road
- James Watson Park - N5 10800 Foster Road.
- Cohn Arboretum- N6 12056 Foster Road
- Live Oak Ball Park - N12 36965 LA Highway 16, Watson

4.1.2. South Unit

There are six Section 4(f) resources in the South Unit. They include three parks, a NRHP listed historic property, and two NRHP listed or eligible archaeological sites determined to warrant preservation in place. The resources by section are:

- Woodstock Park - S3 LA 30 (Nicholson Drive). This 52.98-acre BREC park
- Longwood Plantation - S3 River Road, Baton Rouge. Longwood Plantation House is NRHP listed
- NRHP eligible Longwood Plantation (16EBR041) archaeology site - S3 Archaeology site associated with Longwood Plantation House, located within the National Register listed property boundary
- East Iberville District Park - S5 Monticello Drive, St. Gabriel
- NRHP eligible Broussard Mounds (16AN001) archaeology site
- Sunshine Park – S12 5035 Iberville Street, St. Gabriel

4.1.3. East Unit

There is one Section 4(f) resource in the East Unit, the Ascension Civic Center, located in section E1

4.2. Avoidance Alternatives

At the current Tier 1 EIS stage, the Project can:

- Identify those Section 4(f) resources that preliminary engineering analysis indicates have potential avoidance alternatives, and document the avoidance alternatives; or

□ Identify Section 4(f) resources where a potential use is currently unknown as specific alternative alignments have not been identified, and avoidance by modifying a corridor section to avoid the resource is not reasonable.

4.2.1. North Unit

- Live Oak Ball Park - N12

Almost the total area of this resource is located in section N12 on the south edge west of LA 16. Two potential avoidance alternatives would be: (1) modifying the corridor section to avoid the resource, or (2) no Tier 2 EIS phase alternative alignment development within James Watson Park.

Although it is feasible to modify the corridor section, it is not a prudent alternative at this phase of the Project. A prudent and feasible alternative is the Project committing not to use Live Oak Ball Park. This determination is based on the location of the resource within the corridor section, and the ability to adjust alternative alignments if this section is within the preferred Baton Rouge Loop Corridor

4.3. Draft Section 4 (f) Evaluation summary

Of the thirteen Section 4(f) resources in the three Project Units, ten have been identified as having a prudent and feasible avoidance alternative. These ten Section 4(f) resources are: Cohn Preserve; James Watson Park; Cohn Arboretum; Live Oak Ball Park; Longwood Plantation; Longwood Plantation archaeology site; East Iberville District Park; Broussard Mounds archaeology site; Sunshine Park; and Ascension Civic Center.

For these ten resources, the Project commits to no use in the Tier 2 EIS phase with no alternative alignment development within the resource. This commitment is noted in the Draft Section 4 (f) Evaluation (Chapter 4) and Chapter 6 of this Tier 1 EIS.

The three remaining Section 4(f) resources

Please see www.brloop.com Resource Center BRLOOP DRAFT EIS Vol.1,Ch. 4