



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**®
Rock Island District

PUBLIC NOTICE

Applicant: Illinois DOT - District 6

Date: April 4, 2023

Expires: May 3, 2023

CEMVR-RD-2022-1617

Section 404/408

**Joint Public Notice
US Army Corps of Engineers
Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

1. **Applicant:** Illinois Department of Transportation - District 6, c/o Jeffrey P. Myers, P.E., Region Engineer 126 East Ash Street Springfield, Illinois 62704.

Agent: Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. (CMT), c/o Mr. Stan Hansen, 2750 W, Washington Street Springfield, Illinois 62702.

2. **Project Location:**

US Route 67 over Illinois River in Beardstown, Illinois.
Section 15, Township 18 North, Range 12 West.
Cass and Schuyler County, Illinois.
Datum NAD-83. UTM Zone 16.
Latitude: 40.01055, Longitude: - 90.44349.

3. **408 Request:** In compliance with 33 USC 408 (Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899; hereinafter Section 408), A requestor has the responsibility to acquire all other permissions or authorizations required by federal, state, and local laws or regulations, including any required permits from the USACE Regulatory Program under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 USC 403), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC Section 1344) and/or Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (33 USC 1413). The compliance determination for any Section 10/404/103 permit decision associated with the proposed alteration is separate from and will not be included in the Section 408 compliance determination. An approval under Section 408 does not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges nor does it authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.

4. **Project Description:** This project consists of removing and replacing the structure (SN 009-0001) that spans over the Illinois River and Curry Lake as well as the reconstruction of the roadway approaches and the 6th Street/US 67 intersection near Beardstown, IL. The proposed structure (SN 009-0504) will be built approximately 162 feet west (downstream) from the existing bridge and will be 16 spans consisting of 4 units and will use steel web plate girders. Unit 1 will be 64 inches web plate girders, Unit 2 will be 128 inches web plate girders, and Unit 3 & 4 will be 82 inches web plate girders. The substructure will be drilled shafts. The total length of the structure will be 3,563 feet to 9 inches. The existing structure will be demolished after the proposed roadway and structure are constructed and open to traffic. Riprap will be placed for erosion control and scour protection.

5. Purpose and Need: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a transportation facility between Jacksonville and Macomb, Illinois that provides improved transportation continuity, enhanced economic stability and development, upgraded rural access, and improved travel efficiency while connecting the project area to other major transportation systems and communities in western Illinois. One of the major goals of the Illinois transportation system is to enhance the state's economic advantage, expand economic bases in urban and rural areas, and retain existing economic bases and employment. A system of new and improved roadway facilities that link major economic markets is planned to strengthen the regional and statewide economic future. The Beardstown Bridge removal and replacement is one component of the larger U.S. 67 improvement project, which is part of a statewide plan to improve regional transportation continuity and enhance the linkage of west central Illinois to major economic markets. This improvement will connect sections of highway to the north and south that are currently either under construction or are in the planning phase.

6. Avoidance and Minimization Statement: Measures will be taken to avoid and minimize impacts to wetlands, natural plant communities, and species to the extent practicable while incorporating Best Management Practices such as properly installed and maintained erosion control measures. A total of 9.92 acres of wetland impacts may occur as a result of constructing the new bridge.

7. Agency Review:

A. Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers. The Department of the Army application is being processed under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344).

B. U.S. Department of Homeland Security, United States Coast Guard. The U.S Coast Guard Section 9 Bridge Permit, encompassing the bridge from abutment to abutment, has not yet been applied for.

C. State of Illinois.

(1) The project plans have been submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for review.

(2) The Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation, and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5).

(3) Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the Office of Water Resources at dnr.dworm@illinois.gov or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR regulatory and other programs can be found at <http://dnr.state.il.us/owr>.

8. Historical/Archaeological: Memorandum of Agreement among The Federal Highway Administration, The Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, The Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, The Osage Nation, The Peoria Tribe Of Indians of Oklahoma, The Potawatomi Forest County Community, and The Illinois Department of Transportation regarding replacement of the bridge that carries US 67 over the Illinois River at Beardstown, Cass and Schuyler Counties, Illinois. This MOA was signed on December 14, 2021. The project has been reviewed and concurred by the District Archaeologist.

9. Endangered Species:

A. District staff have performed a preliminary review of this application for the potential impact on threatened or endangered species pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act as amended. The following threatened or endangered species are listed by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) on the IPaC website as occurring in Cass and Schuyler County, Illinois:

Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*)
Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*)
Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)
Decurrent False Aster (*Boltonia decurrens*)
Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*)

B. The proposed project is being coordinated with the FWS through this public notice. Any comments concerning Federally-listed threatened or endangered species or their critical habitat will be considered in the final assessment of the proposed project. The project area had a biological assessment sent to the USFWS on January 2021. On February 3, 2021, the USFWS concurred with a determination of not likely to adversely affect for northern long eared and Indiana bats, for this project. ILDOT has determined that this project will have no effect on the Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), and Prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*); therefore, consultation with the Service is not required. After reviewing site specific information, including

- 1) the scope of the project
- 2) the environmental baseline
- 3) the status of *B. decurrens* known to be present in the project area
- 4) the effects of the action
- 5) any cumulative effects

It is the Service's biological opinion that this project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of *B. decurrens*. No critical habitat has been designated for *B. decurrens*, and therefore none will be affected.

10. Dredge/Fill Material Guidelines: The evaluation of the impact of the proposed activity on the public interest will also include application of the guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency under authority of Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR Part 230).

11. Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue the Corps permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food production and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

12. Who Should Reply: The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity. These statements should be submitted on or before the expiration date specified at the top of page 1. These statements should bear upon the adequacy of plans and suitability of locations and should, if appropriate, suggest any changes considered desirable.

13. Public Hearing Requests: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided.

14. Reply to the Corps of Engineers: Comments concerning the Corps permit should be addressed to the District Engineer, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District, ATTN: RD (Jeff Nelson), Clock Tower Building - Post Office Box 2004, Rock Island, Illinois 61204-2004. For additional information contact Mr. Jeff Nelson at 309-794-5559 or email: Jeffrey.e.nelson@usace.army.mil.

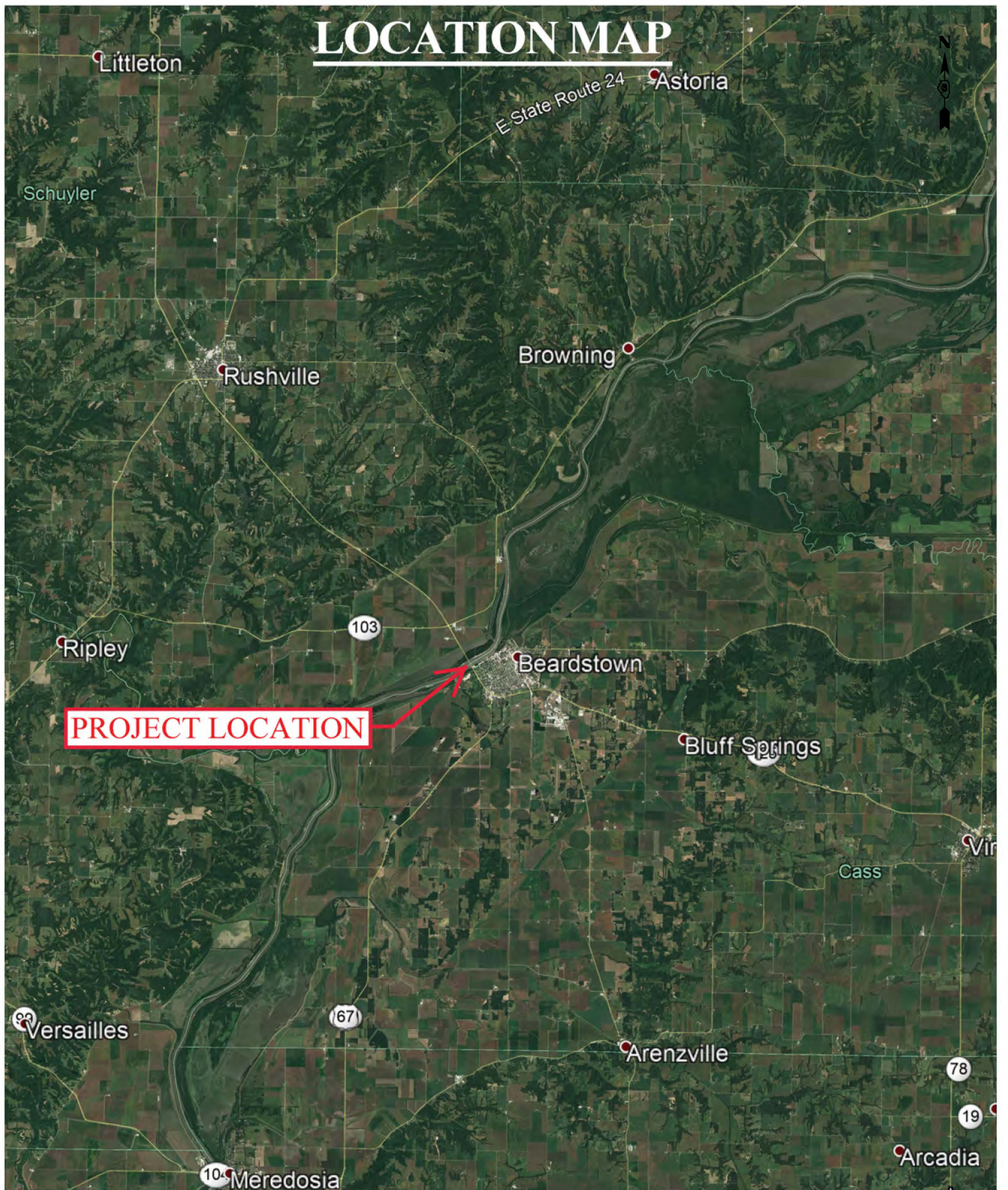


Attach
Plans

Mr. Matthew A. Zehr,
Chief, Special Projects Branch
Regulatory Division

Drawings No. CEMVR-RD-2022-1617
Exhibit A, Location Map
Exhibit B, Preferred Alternative Map
Exhibit C, Proposed Action Area Map

LOCATION MAP



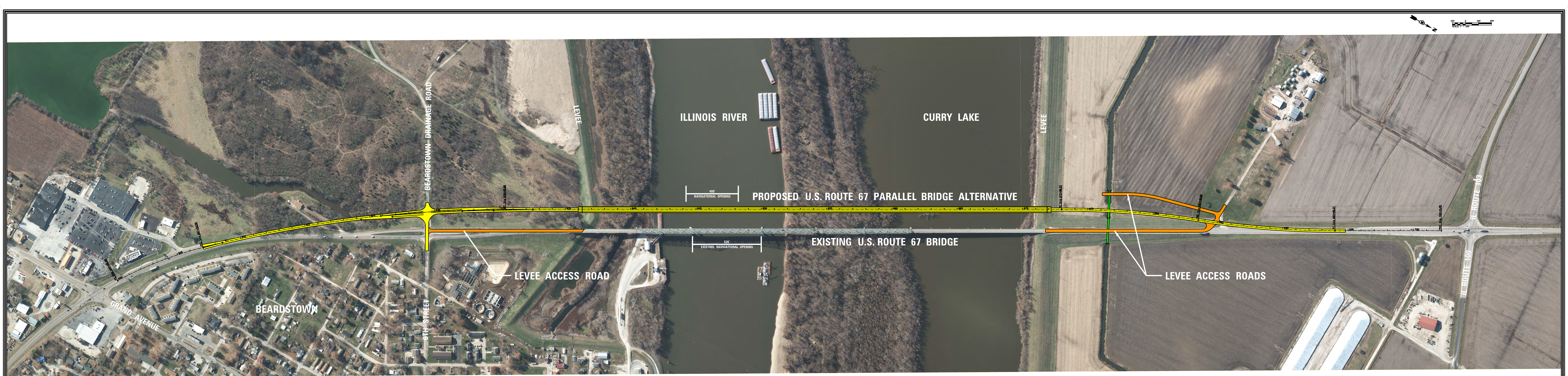
CEMVR-RD-2022-1617 ILDOT, Exhibit A, Location Map



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**BEARDSTOWN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CASS AND SCHUYLER COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**PROJECT LOCATION MAP
EXHIBIT A
DATE: SEPTEMBER 2020**



CEMVR-RD-2022-1617 Exhibit B, Preferred Alternative Map

EXHIBIT B

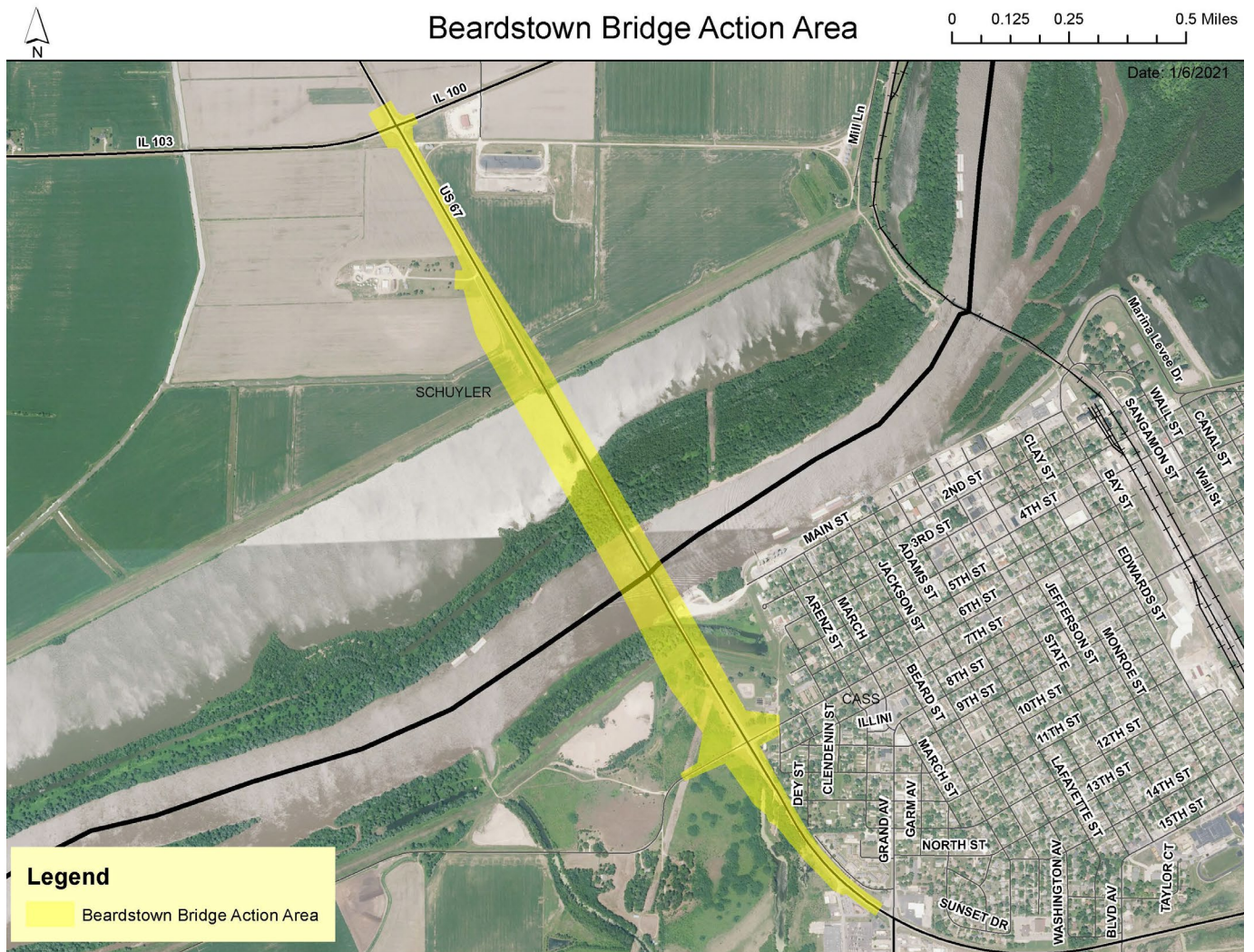
September 2020



U.S. ROUTE 67 (BEARDSTOWN) – PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE



EXHIBIT C



CEMVR-RD-2022-1617 Exhibit C, Proposed Action Area Map