

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail
Hayneville, Alabama

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Proposed Construction of the Montgomery Interpretive Center



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Prepared for:
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LIST OF ACRONYMS

µg/m ³	Micrograms per cubic meter
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
ADEM	Alabama Department of Environmental Management
ADOT	Alabama Department of Transportation
A.M.E	African Methodist Episcopal
APE	Area of Potential Effect
ASU	Alabama State University
CBA	Choosing By Advantages
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CMP	Comprehensive Management Plan
CO	Carbon monoxide
DO	Director's Order
DOT	U.S. Department of Transportation
EA	Environmental Assessment
FCAA	Federal Clean Air Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
GWWO	Design Architectural Firm
MATS	Montgomery Area Transit System
MIA	Montgomery Improvement Association
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NHT	National Historic Trail
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
NO _x	Nitrogen oxides
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NPS	National Park Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O ₃	Ozone
Pb	Lead
PM ₁₀	Particulates < 10 micrometers
ppm	Parts Per Million
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SO ₂	Sulfur dioxide
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VA	Value Analysis
VOC	Volatile organic compounds
WSR	Wild and Scenic Rivers

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for the National Park Service (NPS) to support the proposed construction of a Montgomery Interpretive Center for the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (NHT). The Lowndes County Interpretive Center currently serves visitors at the Trail's midpoint, and an Interpretive Center is planned at the beginning of the trail in Selma. An Interpretive Center is needed in Montgomery, Alabama to allow visitors to learn about the history of the 1965 Voting Rights March at the endpoint of the Selma to Montgomery NHT. The Montgomery Interpretive Center will be the third center for the Selma to Montgomery NHT, providing visitors the opportunity to experience interpretation of the historic Voting Rights March along all sections of the trail.

This EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and the NPS regulations for implementing NEPA. This EA examines the consequences of the proposed project on the environment, cultural and historic resources, and visitor use and experience. This EA presents the alternatives considered during the NEPA process, the affected environment, the impacts associated with the proposed project, potential mitigation measures, environmental commitments, and agency consultation and coordination that was conducted to support this project.

Four alternatives were considered for the construction of the Interpretive Center including the Alabama State University site (the Preferred Alternative), the former Durr Drug site (Alternative 2), the Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Zion Church Site (Alternative 3), the St. Jude Fairview Plaza Site (Alternative 4). In addition to these alternatives, the No Action Alternative was also evaluated in this EA.

The potential duration of the impacts (short-term or long-term), the intensity of the impacts (negligible, minor, moderate, or major), and the classification of the impacts as beneficial or adverse were analyzed in detail for this project for each alternative. Cumulative effects were also considered. By analyzing all alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, and identifying mitigation measures that would minimize adverse effects, this EA assists in the decision-making process for the proposed project.

Impacts associated with the Preferred Alternative include short-term, adverse impacts to soils; air quality; noise and vibration; wildlife; aesthetics; and energy requirements and conservation; due to construction activities. Long-term, adverse impacts to energy requirements and conservation, air quality, wildlife, and vegetation are associated with the operation of the proposed Interpretive Center. However, these adverse impacts will be offset by mitigation measures and the many beneficial impacts of the project associated with land use, park operations, public health and safety, recreation, aesthetics, environmental justice, socioeconomics, and visitor use and experience. Currently, the No Action Alternative does not impact any of these natural, cultural or human resources and there would be no impairment to park resources associated with either the Preferred Alternative or the No Action Alternative.

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 INTRODUCTION

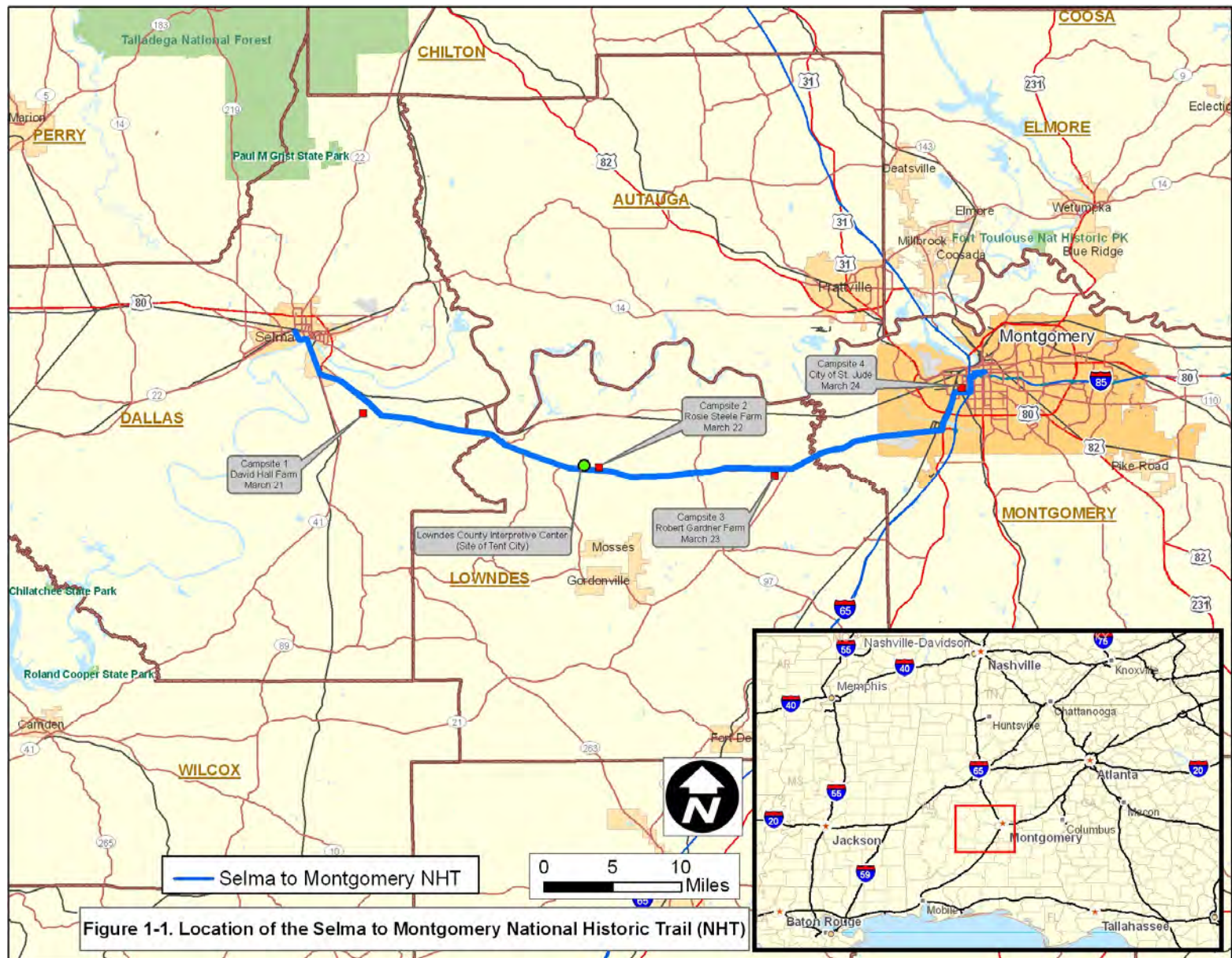
The National Trails System Act institutes the organization of national scenic, historic and recreational trails. Historic trails are designated as extended routes that follow as closely as possible nationally-significant, original routes of travel. The Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (NHT) was established by Congress in 1996, to commemorate the route, the people, and the events significant to the 1965 Voting Rights March in Alabama (NPS 2008a). The March route is a component of the National Trails System, and is administered by the National Park Service (NPS). The route is also designated as a National Scenic Byway/All-American Road, awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT). Additionally, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is a key partner in interpreting and protecting this historic route; with the majority of project funding provided through the Scenic Byways Program.

The NPS is preparing this Environmental Assessment (EA) to consider the environmental consequences associated with the proposed construction of an Interpretive Center in Montgomery, Alabama for the Selma to Montgomery NHT.

This EA has been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 and implementing regulations, 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508; National Park Service Director's Order (DO) #12 and Handbook, *Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making*; and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 as amended, and implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (NPS 2006a).

1.2 PROJECT LOCATION

The Selma to Montgomery NHT is a 54-mile trail that winds its way from the streets of Selma, Alabama, through the gentle rolling hills of Lowndes County, and into the state's capital of Montgomery (Figure 1-1). An existing Interpretive Center for the trail, the Lowndes County Interpretive Center, is located Hayneville, Alabama.



1.3 PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR THE PROPOSED ACTION

The purpose of this project is to construct an Interpretive Center for the Selma to Montgomery NHT in Montgomery, Alabama.

An Interpretive Center is needed in Montgomery to allow visitors to learn about the history of the 1965 Voting Rights March at the endpoint of the Selma to Montgomery NHT. The Lowndes County Interpretive Center currently serves visitors at the trail's midpoint, and an Interpretive Center is under construction at the beginning of the trail in Selma. The Montgomery Interpretive Center would be the third center for the Selma to Montgomery NHT, providing visitors an opportunity to experience interpretation of the historic Voting Rights March along the trail. Montgomery, being the largest city along the trail, is expected to have the highest number of visitors.

It is the mission of the NPS to preserve and interpret the history of the sites associated with the Voting Rights March and the ensuing signing of the Voting Rights Act on August 6, 1965.

1.4 PURPOSE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TRAIL

National Historic Trail purpose statements are based on specific legislation and associated legislative history for each trail. The authors of the 1968 National Trails System Act intended National Historic Trails to attempt to follow as closely as possible original historic trails or travel routes of national historic significance (National Trails System Act, P.L. 90-543 and amendments). The intent is to identify and protect the historic route and its historic remnants and artifacts for public use and enjoyment (Elkinton et al. 2008). The purposes of the Selma to Montgomery NHT include:

- Commemorating the events, people, and route of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965, as a reminder of the right and responsibility of all Americans to participate fully in the election process and the maintenance of vigilance in protecting the right to vote;
- Identifying, preserving, and protecting the historic route, and resources that inform the world about the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965;
- Interpreting and documenting the story of the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March of 1965, including its antecedents, and aftermath, in the context of the larger human and civil rights movement; and
- Enhancing and developing broad partnerships between the NPS, state and local governments, as well as various citizen groups, to achieve the trail's purpose.

Park significance statements place each park within its current regional, national, and international context. They provide a means to recognize important resources or characteristics that were perhaps not recognized at the time of establishment. Significance statements also identify the resources and values that the NPS is entrusted with managing and protecting. The significance of the Selma to Montgomery NHT in highlighting the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March as one of the most significant civil rights protests in American history includes:

- Events associated with the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March, which was the major catalyst for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, in which marchers brought the issue of voting rights to the forefront of the United States political agenda, and their peaceful means won broad support for their cause.
- Events associated with “Bloody Sunday”, which sent shock waves around the world, raised the nation’s consciousness, and convinced political leaders that the time had come for voting rights legislation.
- Events associated with the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which achieved the legal right to vote for all Americans, and forever changed the political life of the South and the United States as a whole.

A Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) for the Selma to Montgomery NHT was completed in 2005. The CMP sets management objectives for the NHT by providing a blueprint for administration, resource protection, interpretation and visitor experience, use of the Selma to Montgomery NHT, site development and marking. The CMP defines roles and responsibilities for the agencies, organizations and local interests that will partner with the NPS to carry out these responsibilities (NPS 2005a).

1.5 PROJECT HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

1.5.1 Project History

Historians view the 1965 Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March as one of the last great grassroots campaigns for human rights in the U.S. and the summit of the modern civil rights movement which originated in the 1950s. The March and complimentary events brought voting rights issues to the forefront of the United States political agenda and raised the nation’s consciousness about African-Americans’ struggle for equal rights.

Although African-Americans made up half of Dallas County, Alabama’s voting population, the county and state had systematically denied them the right to vote since 1901 by imposing literacy tests, poll taxes, and intimidation. In 1961 only 156 of the county’s 15,000 voting age African-Americans were registered to vote. The county sheriff and deputies harassed African-Americans who assembled at the courthouse to register to vote. Selma, located in Dallas County, became the seat of the grassroots voting rights movement that was being organized by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, headed by Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

On March 7, 1965, nonviolent marchers left Selma and headed towards the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery. When they crossed the Edmond Pettus Bridge in Selma, they were tear-gassed and beaten, and their procession was stopped by law enforcement officers. This display of violence, heaped upon nonviolent protesters, was captured by the news media and broadcasted worldwide. This event became known as “Bloody Sunday.” A second march was held on March 9, 1965, in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. led about 2,500 marchers out to the foot of the Edmond Pettus Bridge where marchers prayed for the victims. After a short prayer session, the marchers returned back to Selma, obeying the court order that restricted them from marching

all the way to Montgomery. Outraged protesters from across the country joined the marchers for a third march, a five-day event that began in Selma on March 21, 1965, and ended at the Capitol in Montgomery, this time with state and federal law enforcement protection.

The marchers traveled along U.S. Highway 80 in Dallas County, continued through Lowndes County and Montgomery County, and ended the five-day trek at the Capitol in Montgomery. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee organized the logistics for the March—providing food, water, sanitation, and other services for the marchers, who camped out along the way. The City of St. Jude, a nondiscriminatory religious, health and educational complex established in the 1930s by a Catholic priest, was the campsite for the last night of the March (Campsite 4, Figure 1-1). Twenty-five thousand marchers concluded the historic Voting Rights March in Montgomery on March 25, 1965 with many notable speakers who addressed the crowd at a concluding rally near the Capitol. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered one of his most notable speeches at the rally. On August 6, five months after the Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, establishing the legal right to vote for all Americans.

1.5.2 Project Background

The Selma to Montgomery NHT is a 54-mile trail that begins at the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E) Church in Selma, Alabama. The trail follows the historic Voting Rights March along Interstate 80 through Dallas County and Lowndes County. The trail continues into the city of Montgomery and ends at the Alabama State Capitol on Dexter Avenue (Figure 1-1).

As a developing NPS trail, much is planned that would enhance the telling of the 1965 Voting Rights March story and would assist with protection and preservation of its resources (NPS 2005a). When the trail was designated, it was with the intention of eventually developing interpretive centers at three locations along its length in order to serve visitors at each section of the trail. The Selma Interpretive Center is in the planning stages (NPS 2007). The midpoint of the trail is served by the Lowndes County Interpretive Center, which was built in 2006 in Hayneville along Interstate 80 (Figure 1-2). The Lowndes County Interpretive Center is operated by the NPS in partnership with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ADOT). The proposed Montgomery Interpretive Center was previously discussed in the Selma to Montgomery NHT Comprehensive Management Plan and is now the focus of this EA (NPS 2005a).



Figure 1-2. Lowndes County Interpretive Center.

A Value Analysis (VA) process was conducted in June 2008 to evaluate five potential sites for the Montgomery Interpretive Center (NPS 2008a). Participants included representatives from the Selma to Montgomery NHT, GWWO, Inc. (Design Architect firm), and VHB Civil Engineers. The sites under consideration included:

- Alabama State University (ASU)
- Former Durr Drug
- H. Council Trenholm Technical College
- Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church
- St. Jude Fairview Plaza

The H. Council Trenholm Technical College Site removed itself from consideration, thus leaving four sites to evaluate.

Criteria for selection of the location of the new Interpretive Center included location/area, site character and quality, ability of the site to accommodate the building, parking and circulation, initial acquisition and construction cost, life cycle cost, and fundraising opportunities. Factors considered in the VA process included parking, access to highways, building location, bus access, utility infrastructure, maintenance, grounds, security, monthly utility cost, potential for fundraising, and partnerships. A comparison of the alternative sites based on the selection criteria may be found in Chapter 2 of this EA.

1.5.2.1 Previous Planning

The Selma to Montgomery NHT CMP (2005) set the management objectives for the trail by providing a blueprint for administration, resource protection, interpretation and visitor experience, use of the trail and site development and marking (NPS 2005a). The CMP outlined a strategy for establishing interpretive centers in Selma, Hayneville, and Montgomery. The CMP also included a description of the proposed Interpretive Centers and plans to include an information desk, exhibit space, theater, research area, office and storage space, cooperating association bookstore, and a common area (NPS 2005a). The Montgomery Interpretive Center

would also house NPS administrative offices due to its proximity to federal and state government offices and many other partnering agencies.

In addition, the Montgomery Interpretive Center would provide an overview of the story of the 1965 Voting Rights March and general orientation to the entire NHT (NPS 2005a). Exhibits would place the March in an historical context, linking it to other civil rights activities in Montgomery and the roles of national political leaders in the Modern Civil Rights Movement. Other exhibits at the Interpretive Center would describe the City of St. Jude's work in the African-American community; the role of the Washington Park neighborhood, referred to as the "Liberation Zone"; and the Stars of Freedom rally.

1.5.2.2 Scoping

Scoping is an effort to involve agencies and the general public in determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the environmental document. Scoping includes consultation with any interested agency, or any agency with jurisdiction by law or expertise to obtain early input. More detail on the scoping process can be found in Section 7.0 *Public Involvement and Agency Coordination*.

Internal scoping refers to the interdisciplinary process used by NPS staff and partners to define issues, alternatives, and data needs. Internal NPS scoping involved a meeting at which the Choosing By Advantages (CBA), Value Analysis process was conducted on March 11 and 12, 2008. The NPS and partners were also present at a site visit conducted on February 4, 2009.

External scoping is the process used to gather public input. A series of public meetings were held by the NPS in December, 2007, to solicit comments from the public. An alternative scoping newsletter was made available to the public on March 10, 2009. The newsletter notified the public that an environmental assessment is being prepared for this project and provided the project history, alternative project locations, a project description, a summary of the NEPA process and a description of the public scoping period. The newsletter and news release to alert the public about external scoping are located in Appendix A. Scoping letters for this project were sent on April 30, 2009 to state and federal agencies to inform them of the proposed project. Appendix B of this EA contains an example copy of the agency scoping letters and the agency response letters.

This EA will be available for public review for a 30 day period. Comments on this EA will be summarized and responded to in an Errata sheet. If no significant impacts are determined a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) would be prepared and signed by the NPS Regional Director. If significant impacts are determined an Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision would be completed.

1.6 ISSUES

Issues can be defined as the relationship between the alternatives and the human, physical, and natural environment (NPS 2001). Issues are used to define which environmental resources may experience either negative or beneficial consequences from an action. They do not predict the

degree or intensity of potential consequences that may result from an action. Issues were identified by the NPS, local and Federal agencies, and by the public during the scoping process. From these issues, impact topics were developed for each affected environmental resource area. Impact topics were used to define and focus the discussion of resources that could be affected by the alternatives, and were the focus in the evaluation of the potential environmental consequences of the alternatives.

For the construction of the Montgomery Interpretive Center, two issues arose during internal scoping. The first issue was the need for a partnership to provide adequate funding for the proposed project as this issue would have an impact on park operations. The second issue was the concern for a close connection between the site of the Interpretive Center and the physical trail itself.

1.7 IMPACT TOPICS

1.7.1 Derivation of Impact Topics

Potential impact topics were identified based on legislative requirements, executive orders, topics in *DO #12 and Handbook* (NPS 2001), *NPS Management Policies* (NPS 2006a), guidance from NPS, input from other agencies, public concerns, and resource information specific to the Montgomery Interpretive Center. A summary of impact topics is provided below, along with the rationale for their inclusion in the EA or dismissal from further consideration.

1.7.2 Impact Topics Included in this Document

The following impact topics have the potential to be affected by the proposed action and are evaluated in detail in this EA:

Soils – Soil disturbance during construction of the Montgomery Interpretive Center is expected, therefore impacts to soil resources are anticipated.

Air Quality – During the demolition and construction phase of the project, the operation of equipment is expected to generate some criteria pollutant emissions, including carbon monoxide and particulate matter. Impacts to air quality would also occur with the operation of the Interpretive Center.

Noise and Vibration – The demolition and construction phase of this project is expected to have noise and vibration impacts.

Vegetation – Vegetation at the proposed project locations would be disturbed during demolition and construction activities.

Wildlife – Wildlife could be disturbed during demolition and construction activities, and wildlife habitat would be altered.

Archaeology – A review of the Alabama State Archaeological Site Files was performed in order to determine if there are any previously recorded sites within the project areas of the proposed alternatives sites for construction. There are no previously recorded archaeological sites within the proposed project areas. Since there are no previously recorded sites and modern development has impacted Alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 4, then no archaeological resources are expected to be impacted by the proposed project and no archaeological testing is necessary at those sites. There is little modern development at Alternative 1 and, therefore, no impact to any potential archaeological resources has occurred.

Historic Resources – The category of historic resources was retained due to the presence of two properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within and adjacent to the proposed alternative sites. Additionally, undocumented historic resources may exist within the vicinity of the project that could be impacted.

Land Use – The ASU site is currently a grass field, and the former Durr Drug site and the St. Jude Fairview Plaza are currently commercial spaces. Land use at these sites would be impacted with the proposed demolition of buildings and/or construction of a new Interpretive Center.

Socioeconomics – Demolition of the St. Jude Fairview Plaza would impact current employees at this site. The creation of jobs during the construction phase of the proposed project would impact socioeconomics of the surrounding area.

Visitor Use and Experience – The proposed Interpretive Center would impact visitor use and experience.

Park Operations – The construction and implementation of the Interpretive Center would impact park operations.

Public Health and Safety – During the construction phase of the project, there may be impacts to public health and safety. The operation of the Interpretive Center also has implications for public health and safety.

Recreation – The proposed project would impact recreational uses at the proposed sites as well as current recreational use of the Selma to Montgomery NHT.

Environmental Justice – The category of environmental justice was retained to thoroughly analyze the presence of minority or low-income populations in the vicinity of the project.

Aesthetics – Aesthetics of the area would be affected during construction.

Energy Requirements and Conservation – The construction phase and operation of the center would have energy requirements.

Infrastructure – The proposed demolition of buildings at the alternative sites would result in large quantities of construction waste materials. These materials would require hauling to a disposal site; therefore, impacts along the haul route are expected.

Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Substances – The 2005 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the former Durr Drug site noted that there was a strong possibility that hazardous materials are present in the warehouse which would be demolished. Also, the St. Jude Fairview Plaza buildings predate bans on asbestos and lead paint, and a gas station exists on the site; therefore, hazardous materials are anticipated on these sites.

1.7.3 Impact Topics Dismissed from Further Analysis

Geology – The proposed action does not have the potential to affect the geology in the vicinity of the project.

Topography – Due to the relatively level nature of the previously disturbed sites, no major grading would be required; therefore no impacts to topography are expected from the proposed project.

Floodplains – None of the alternative sites proposed for the Interpretive Center lie within the 100-year floodplain.

Wetlands – No wetlands are located at any of the proposed alternative sites.

Threatened and Endangered Species – Consultation between the NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Alabama Natural Heritage Program occurred in April 2009. These agencies stated that no federal or state listed species or habitats are known to occur within the proposed project areas (Appendix B).

Ecologically Critical Areas – There are no Critical Wildlife Areas in the vicinity of the proposed Interpretive Center. The USFWS Critical Habitat database does not show any areas of Critical Habitat in Montgomery County (USFWS 2009).

Wild and Scenic Rivers – There are no designated wild and scenic rivers within the project area as defined in the Wild and Scenic Rivers (WSR) Act (16 U.S.C. 1271-1287). Additionally, no study rivers defined as “designated for potential addition to the national wild and scenic rivers system” by the WSR Act are located in the vicinity of the site (NPS 2006a).

Cultural Landscapes – The Selma to Montgomery NHT encompasses three distinct cultural landscapes (NPS 2005a). The cities of Selma and Montgomery are considered urban cultural landscapes, and the Lowndes County portion of the Trail is considered a rural cultural landscape. Since the urban landscape along the portions of the trail within the project area have already been altered by modern development, no impacts to the urban landscape of Montgomery are expected from the proposed project.

Indian Sacred Sites and Indian Trust Resources – There are no known Indian Sacred Sites or Indian Trust Resources associated with the alternative sites, therefore no impacts to these resources are expected from the proposed project (NPS 2005a).

Prime and Unique Farmlands – The proposed project would occur in a disturbed urban area. Therefore, the proposed project is not expected to impact prime or unique farmlands.

1.8 RELATIONSHIPS TO OTHER PROJECTS AND PLANNING

As part of the environmental analysis and consideration of potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, other planned projects in the region were identified as having the potential to cumulatively affect resources along the Selma to Montgomery NHT. Other projects occurring or scheduled to occur in the near future within the vicinity of the proposed action or related to the proposed action include:

- Construction of Selma Interpretive Center
- Construction of large buildings at ASU
- Renovation of Nat King Cole House at ASU
- Construction of ASU stadium and associated parking lot
- Renovation of the Mount Zion A.M.E Church
- Construction of a new Interstate exit ramp for access to the Montgomery Interpretive Center if it were located at the Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church site
- Demolition of the existing George Washington Carver High School and construction of new school facilities adjacent to the both the former Durr Drug site and the Fairview Plaza Site

1.9 APPLICABLE LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Applicable Federal policies, executive orders and regulations are listed in Table 1-1 below, and how they relate to each resource that was originally considered. In addition, NPS *Management Policies* (NPS 2006a) was used for guidance for numerous impact topics. Other regulations specific to NPS include the Director's Orders listed and the NPS Organic Act of 1916.

Table 1-1. Applicable Federal Laws and Regulations

Resource	Relevant Laws and Regulations
Aesthetics	NPS Organic Act
Air Quality	Clean Air Act NPS Organic Act
Cultural, Historic, and Archaeological Resources	National Historic Preservation Act Archaeological Resources Protection Act Director's Order #28 NPS Organic Act
Energy Requirements and Conservation	Energy Policy Act Executive Orders 13031, 13123, 13149 NPS Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design (1993)
Environmental Justice	Executive Order 12898
Infrastructure	NPS Organic Act Director's Order #12
Land Use	NPS 2006 Management Policies NPS Land Acquisition Policy Implementation Guideline (NPS-25) Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act
Noise	Director's Order #47 Noise Control Act
Park Management and Operations	NPS Organic Act
Prime and Unique Farmlands	Farmland Protection Policy Act Memorandum on Prime and Unique Agricultural Lands and NEPA (CEQ 1980)
Public Health and Safety	Architectural Barriers Act Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Director's Orders #42 and #83 Executive Order 13045
Recreation	NPS Organic Act Director's Order #12
Socioeconomic Resources	Director's Orders #2 and #12
Soils	National Cooperative Soil Survey Standards
Terrestrial Resources	Migratory Bird Treaty Act Wilderness Act Executive Order 13112
Threatened and Endangered Species	Endangered Species Act NPS Organic Act
Visitor Use and Experience	NPS Organic Act Director's Order #12
Wildlife	Migratory Bird Conservation Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act

1.10 REQUIRED PERMITS

The Alabama Department of Environmental Management (ADEM) program establishes permitting requirements for construction sites disturbing more than one acre of land. The NPS would be required to develop and implement construction site erosion and sediment control and storm water management plans. The NPS would also be required to obtain a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination Systems (NPDES) permit from the state and develop and implement a construction site erosion and sediment control plan.

1.11 SCOPE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA guidelines, and it examines the consequences of a proposed action on the environment. This document analyzes the short-term, long-term, and cumulative effects of the preferred alternative and the other action alternatives, along with the “No Action Alternative.” By comparing the action alternatives with the No Action Alternative, and identifying mitigation measures that would minimize adverse effects, this EA would assist stakeholders in the decision-making process.

Comparison of alternatives was conducted using the CBA process. The CBA process is a decision making process based on calculating and compiling the advantages of different alternatives. The CBA process was completed for the Montgomery Interpretive Center on June 19, 2008. This process is discussed in more detail in Chapter 2.

1.12 ORGANIZATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Chapter 1 discusses the project location, the purpose and need for the proposed action, the purpose and significance of the trail, the project history and background, previous planning, scoping, issues, and impact topics considered, evaluated, and dismissed. Chapter 1 also includes the project’s relationship to other projects and planning, applicable statutory and regulatory requirements and the scope of the environmental assessment. Chapter 2 discusses the proposed action, the no action alternative, the environmentally preferred alternative, and the alternatives that were considered but dismissed. Chapter 3 describes the affected environment, including a discussion of physical, natural, socio-economic, and cultural resources in relation to the alternatives. Chapter 4 presents the environmental consequences for the described alternatives (proposed action and no action) to physical, natural, and cultural resources. Chapter 5 discusses the mitigation measures that would minimize any adverse impacts. Chapter 6 describes the environmental commitments including the unavoidable adverse impacts and irreversible or irretrievable commitments of resources. Chapter 7 discusses the public involvement and scoping process as well as agency consultation and coordination that occurred throughout the NEPA process. Chapter 8 includes a list of document preparers, Chapter 9 includes references, and the appendices follow the main report.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

This chapter provides a description of the No Action Alternative, the Preferred Alternative, the other Action Alternatives, the Environmentally Preferred Alternative, and alternatives considered but dismissed.

2.1 NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The No Action Alternative is required for the NEPA process to review and compare all feasible alternatives to the existing baseline conditions. Under the No Action Alternative, the NPS would not construct a Montgomery Interpretive Center for the Selma to Montgomery NHT. Without the Interpretive Center, visitors to the Montgomery section of the NHT would lack adequate interpretation of the 1965 Voting Rights March. The Montgomery section of the NHT is expected to receive the highest numbers of visitors. The Selma to Montgomery NHT has an existing Interpretive Center at the trail's midpoint, and an Interpretive Center is currently under construction at Selma (NPS 2005a).

2.2 ACTION ALTERNATIVES

The proposed project includes the construction and implementation of an Interpretive Center in Montgomery, Alabama at one of the four alternative sites. The proposed Interpretive Center would be 15,000 square feet and may be designed similar to the Lowndes County Interpretive Center; however if the NPS feels that a different design may capture the essence of the Montgomery site better than a different design may be chosen. A parking area would accommodate 76 cars, 8 buses, and 2 recreational vehicles. Regardless of the site, the Interpretive Center would include interpretive exhibits, a museum, restrooms, and an outside picnic area. A paved access road would be constructed to the Interpretive Center from the existing road infrastructure, including curbs and sidewalks.

Figure 2-1 shows the location of the four action alternative sites within the City of Montgomery. Table 2-1 includes a comparative summary of the four action alternatives being considered.

The Montgomery Interpretive Center would be operated similar to the Lowndes County Interpretive Center. NPS staff would provide program oversight, operate the visitor center, and provide interpretive/education programs. The ADOT or other partners would provide additional staff to maintain utilities, space, grounds keeping, maintenance, and security. The NPS expects to hire two Park Rangers and one Park Guide (STEP) when funding is made available. The NPS would recruit and manage a Volunteer in Parks Program to supplement staffing needs. Volunteer duties would include manning the information desk, showing films, and presenting interpretive and education programs.



Figure 2-1. Alternative Locations for the Selma to Montgomery NHT Montgomery Interpretive Center.

Table 2-1. Comparison Summary of the Action Alternatives

Description of Project Needs	Alternative 1: Alabama State University	Alternative 2: Former Durr Drug	Alternative 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church	Alternative 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza
Site	5.12-acre site provided by ASU at no cost to NPS.	5.8-acre site and buildings provided to NPS for \$3 million.	1.8-acre site provided by Mt. Zion at no cost to NPS.	10-acre site and buildings provided to NPS for \$1.2 million.
Parking	0.12-acres provided on site or on adjacent future lots.	Ample parking after clearing existing buildings and site.	1.48-acres of adjacent land provided by City of Montgomery would be constructed for parking	Ample parking after clearing existing buildings and site.
Access to Highways	Fair.	Good.	Fair.	Good.
Building Location	Future cultural development area.	Adjacent to Selma to Montgomery NHT.	Adjacent to Selma to Montgomery NHT.	Adjacent to Selma to Montgomery NHT.
Bus Access	On a current bus route.	On a current bus route.	A future bus stop.	On a current bus route.
Utility Infrastructure	Electric, gas, water, storm and sewer present.	Electric, gas, water, storm and sewer present.	Electric, gas, water, storm and sewer present.	Electric, gas, water, storm and sewer present.
Maintenance	Provided by ASU.	Provided by NPS.	Provided by City of Montgomery.	Provided by NPS.
Grounds	Provided by ASU.	Provided by NPS.	Provided by City of Montgomery.	Provided by NPS.
Security	Provided by ASU.	Provided by NPS.	Provided by City of Montgomery.	Provided by NPS.
Monthly Utility Cost	Provided by ASU.	Provided by NPS.	Provided by City of Montgomery.	Provided by NPS.
Potential for Fundraising	Good potential from alumni groups.	Potential from friends groups only.	Good potential from associated groups.	Potential from friends groups only.

Table 2-1. Comparison Summary of the Action Alternatives (continued)

Description of Project Needs	Alternative 1: Alabama State University	Alternative 2: Former Durr Drug	Alternative 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church	Alternative 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza
Partnership	Yes.	No.	Yes.	No.
Total estimated cost of construction (including site acquisition and building demolition)	\$12,636,273	\$15,892,722	\$12,497,512	\$14,754,450
Total life cycle costs (present worth)	\$13,199,874	\$17,687,067	\$13,061,148	\$16,104,348

Source: NPS 2008b.

2.2.1 ALTERNATIVE 1: Alabama State University Site (Preferred Alternative)

The Alabaman State University (ASU) site is a 5.12-acre site that ASU will provide at no cost to the NPS. The site is located on the eastern side of the campus and is bordered by Hall Street to the west, Carrie Street to the east, Tuttle Avenue to the north, and Marguerite Street to the south (Figure 2-2). Interstate 85 is located less than 200 feet from the northeastern corner of this site, but the highway's impacts are shielded by an earthen berm planted with trees (NPS 2008a). The site is on the Montgomery Area Transit System (MATS) bus route. The site is approximately one mile from the Selma to Montgomery NHT, but many historical events took place on or near the ASU campus in the period leading up to and after the Voting Rights March.

The site is covered with lawn grasses and has several deciduous trees. A parking lot is located to the east of the site along Carrie and Marguerite Streets. Utility infrastructure including electricity, gas, water, stormwater management and sewer is present on the site. ASU has indicated that they would provide maintenance, grounds upkeep, security and monthly utility costs for the Interpretive Center. Parking would either be on site or on other adjacent ASU parking lots planned for construction under other projects (Figure 2-2).

ASU has a history of successful fundraising, which would be an important asset in any future relationship between ASU and the NPS (NPS 2008b).

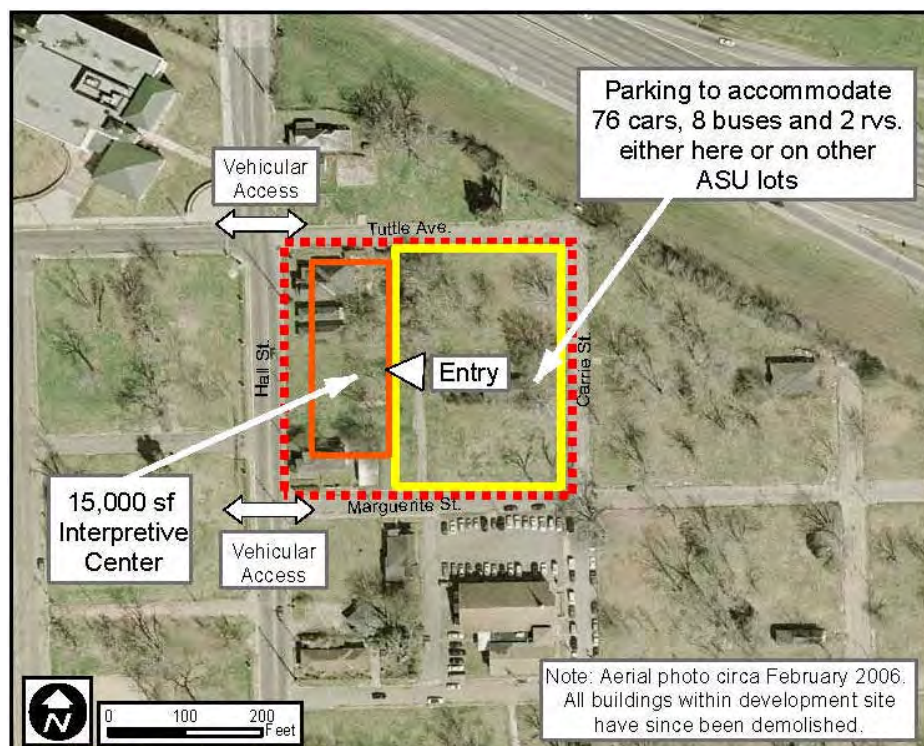


Figure 2-2. Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative). Alabama State University Site Development Diagram

2.2.2 ALTERNATIVE 2: Former Durr Drug Site

The former Durr Drug site is a 5.8-acre site which includes several interconnected warehouse buildings and an office building (NPS 2008b). The property and buildings are being offered to the NPS for \$3.0 million, which includes lease buy-outs and relocation of existing businesses. This site is located on the south side of West Fairview Avenue directly across the street from the City of St. Jude (Figures 2-1 and 2-3). Access to and from Interstate 65 is located less than a half mile from the site, which is currently on the MATS bus route.

The former Durr Drug site is located on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and is near the historic Campsite 4 (Figure 2-1). The former Durr Drug Building was built in the late 1950s and thus existed on the site during the March. The original Durr Drug building was torn down and replaced with a newer structure. The warehouse portions of the site would need to be demolished to provide adequate parking for the Interpretive Center. A 2005 Phase I Environmental Site Assessment noted there is a strong possibility that hazardous materials are present, and that if significant renovations or demolition were to occur, asbestos and lead surveys should be conducted by certified inspectors (NPS 2008b).

Utility infrastructure including electric, gas, water, storm, and sewer is present at the site. If chosen, the NPS would be responsible for all costs associated with maintenance, grounds upkeep, security, and monthly utility costs. The Value Analysis analyzed a 15,000 square foot Interpretive Center within the existing renovated building, with an additional 5,000 square foot warehouse area within the existing building to be used for future expansion, (Figure 2-3).

The former Durr Drug site does not come with a partnership, and thus has no special fundraising capacity.

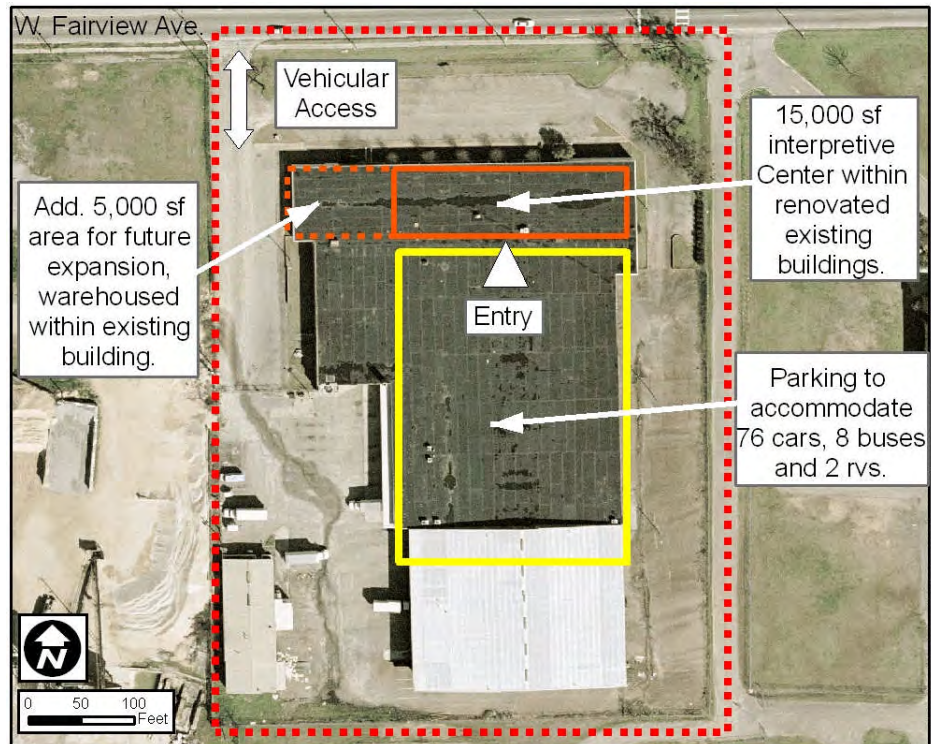


Figure 2-3. Alternative 2. Former Durr Drug Site Development Diagram.

2.2.3 ALTERNATIVE 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church Site

The Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church site is located on a 1.8-acre site that the City of Montgomery will provide at no cost to the NPS. In addition, the City of Montgomery will provide an adjacent 1.48-acre site for the required parking areas. The site is located less than 500 feet northeast of the intersection of Interstates 65 and 85. Currently there is no direct access to either of the interstates from the site, however the City of Montgomery has indicated that they would construct an entry-exit ramp to be constructed from one or both highways. The site is bordered by South Holt Street to the west, Grady Street to the north, and Stone Street to the south (Figure 2-4).

The site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and contains the Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church, a building that was on the site during the 1965 Voting Rights March, and was the setting for several historic meetings related to Civil Rights and Voting Rights history. The Church has been recently stabilized and is in the process of further improvements.

The site is located in an area of development as identified in the City of Montgomery's Downtown Plan (NPS 2008b). The building directly to the north of the church would be demolished prior to construction of the Interpretive Center, and the buildings across the street would be demolished to provide space for its associated parking lot. There are no plans to demolish Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church with this alternative.

Utility infrastructure including electricity, gas, water, storm and sewer are present at this site. The City of Montgomery would provide costs associated with facility maintenance, grounds upkeep, security, and monthly utilities. The Interpretive Center parking area would be located on a 1.48-acre site across the street, with additional parking sites available if needed (Figure 2-4).

While the Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church site is adjacent to Interstates 65 and 85, there is no direct connection from the site to the highway. If the Montgomery Interpretive Center is constructed at the Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church Site, the city would construct a direct connection to the highway (NPS 2008b).

The Mt. Zion Foundation presented a strong fundraising plan, proposing that resources of the Mt. Zion Foundation and its partners be pooled together. The Mt. Zion Foundation has distinguished itself in its fundraising capabilities including grant writing, which would be an important asset in any future partnership with the NPS.

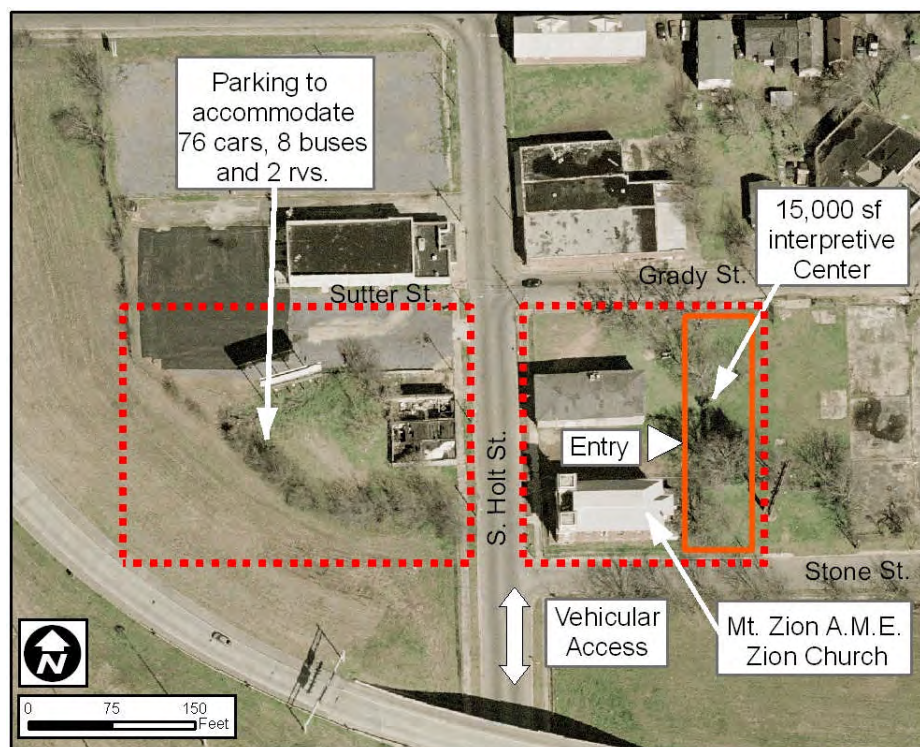


Figure 2-4. Alternative 3. Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church Site Development Diagram.

2.2.4 ALTERNATIVE 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza Site

The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site is a 10-acre site which includes a 41,000 square foot strip mall, a gas station, a vacant fast food restaurant, a retail store and a shed. The property is being offered to the NPS for “fair market value”, which several years ago was estimated at \$1.2 million (NPS 2008b). There may be additional lease buy-out fees required, depending on the timing of the purchase. St. Jude Fairview Plaza is located on the north side of West Fairview Avenue and

is bordered by Oak Street to the west and Interstate 65 to the east (Figure 2-5). The site is adjacent to an entry-exit system connecting to I-65, and is currently on the MATS route.

The site is near the City of St. Jude complex and is across the street from historic Campsite 4 (Figure 2-1). None of the existing buildings on the site were present during the 1965 Voting Rights March, and would therefore not be used as part of the Interpretive Center. Therefore, building demolition and site clearing would be required. The following businesses that currently exist on the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site would be closed or relocated and the buildings demolished: Simply Fashion, Family Dollar, Rent-A-Center, Calhoun Foods, Cash Advance, MoMoney Taxes, Shoe Show, and one additional business that has already closed. Construction of the buildings on the site predates bans on asbestos and lead paint, so the required hazardous material surveys would need to be conducted by certified inspectors (NPS 2008b). A gas station and another business on the site would remain in operation.

Utility infrastructure including electricity, gas, water, storm and sewer are present. The NPS would be responsible for all costs associated with maintenance, grounds upkeep, security, and monthly utilities.

The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site does not come with a partnership, and thus has no special fundraising capacity.

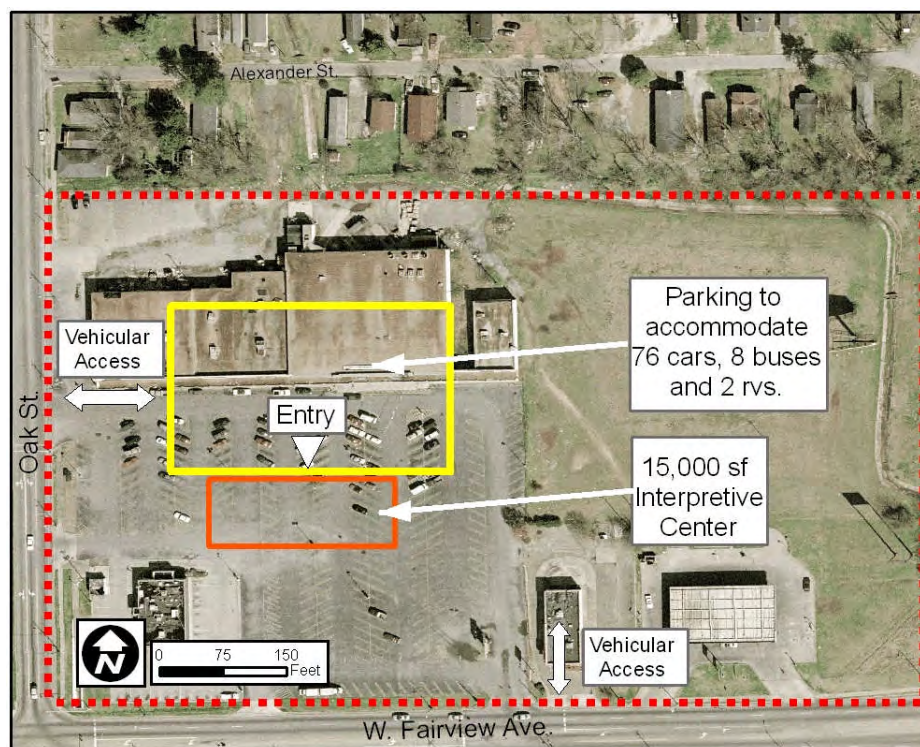


Figure 2-5. Alternative 4. St. Jude Fairview Plaza Site Development Diagram.

2.3 MITIGATION MEASURES OF THE ACTION ALTERNATIVES

Mitigation measures are taken to lessen the adverse effects of the action alternatives. Due to the action alternatives and associated environmental impacts, mitigation will be required for impacts to soils, noise and vibration, vegetation, wildlife, public health and safety, and hazardous substances. Mitigation measures are discussed in detail in Chapter 5, and summarized below:

- Soils - Disturbed soils are susceptible to erosion and until revegetation takes place, best management practices and sediment and erosion control measures would be used during the implementation of the proposed project.
- Noise and Vibration - Impacts of noise and vibration due to demolition and construction activities to the surrounding neighborhoods would be mitigated by restricting these activities to daylight hours.
- Vegetation and Wildlife - Demolition and construction would disturb vegetation and wildlife, and would cause loss of wildlife habitat. These impacts would be mitigated by re-vegetation after the construction phase is complete.
- Public Health and Safety - The demolition and construction areas would be fenced during these activities to mitigate impacts on public health and safety.
- Hazardous Substances - If hazardous substances are found during the survey of buildings proposed for demolition, appropriate measures would be taken to contain, remove, and dispose of them according to hazardous material regulations.

2.4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED

The H. Council Trenholm State Technical College Site is a 2-acre tract on Mobile Highway containing the defunct Culinary Arts Centre building and a vacant lot. The site was considered as a potential location for the Interpretive Center, but the landowner decided to withdraw the site from the process due to a change in plans for the site.

2.5 SELECTION OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Selection of a preferred alternative was accomplished by using the CBA Value Analysis process developed by Jim Suhr (Suhr 1999). CBA is a decision making process based on calculating and compiling the advantages of different alternatives for a variety of factors. By using the CBA process, the NPS was able to determine which of the alternatives would be the best location for the Montgomery Interpretive Center. The alternatives were examined in detail, given the information available on existing conditions, and preliminary site plans were developed for each alternative. The project team, which consisted of individuals from the NPS Southeast Regional Office, ADOT, Alabama Historical Commission, and Montgomery Friends of the Historic Voting Rights Trail, met at the park headquarters during the week of March 10, 2008 to conduct the CBA process.

In the CBA process, factors represent areas of concern that were expressed by the NPS technical advisors and park staff. High and low assessment criteria were established for each factor. High criteria describe very favorable or desirable environmental conditions. Minimum criterion generally reflects the minimum standards permitted by federal law or NPS policy. Advantages

were determined by calculating the difference between attributes for each factor among the alternatives.

The factors developed for the CBA process included: site development considerations, quality of visitor experience, resource protection considerations, and the potential for NPS partnership opportunities.

Elements of a “factor” are considered “attributes” in CBA parlance. Attributes were identified for each of the factors. Under the factor of “Site Development Considerations,” the “attributes,” or measures, of the factor were determined to be site size and ease of vehicular access. Attributes for visitor experience were proximity to the trail for interpretive opportunities, site arrival experience, and whether Voting Rights March activities were associated with the site. Attributes for resource protection included benefits to cultural resources. Attributes for partnership opportunities included those that could provide assistance with interpretation/visitor services, law enforcement/security, facility and grounds maintenance, and curatorial/research/archive assistance.

The advantages of each factor were determined and these advantages were compared to one another, to determine which advantage was most important to this project, or “paramount.” The next step was to compare the other advantages to this “paramount advantage” to determine their importance relative to the paramount advantage and then to assign an appropriate score for each. After this exercise was completed, the scores of each alternative were calculated, and the alternative that scored the highest was considered the preferred alternative.

The results of the CBA concluded that the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site was the preferred location of the Montgomery Interpretive Center based on the site’s advantages. However, a Cost Benefit Analysis was then used to compare the costs of site acquisition and building based on preliminary schematic designs, as well as life cycle costs. The costs of acquiring and developing the ASU site were much lower, and therefore ASU became the preferred alternative site for the Montgomery Interpretive Center of the Selma to Montgomery NHT.

2.6 ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The environmentally preferred alternative is determined by applying the criteria from Section 2.7 (D) of NPS DO-12. These are the same criteria outlined in NEPA, which is guided by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. CEQ regulations provide direction that “the environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that will best promote the national environmental policy as expressed in Section 101(b) of NEPA.” Generally, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment. It also means the alternative that best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural and natural resources.

Consistency with Section 101(b) of NEPA

NPS policy requires the identification of an environmentally preferred alternative to aid NPS decision-makers in choosing among the alternatives. The environmentally preferred alternative

is the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed by NEPA. This includes alternatives that meet the six goal statements of Section 101(b) of NEPA, which are listed in Table 2-2. A summary of the alternatives and whether each would meet the goal statements are also presented in Table 2-2.

Table 2-2. Selection of the Environmentally Preferred Alternative

NEPA GOAL STATEMENT	NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE 1: Alabama State University Site	ALTERNATIVE 2: Former Durr Drug Site	ALTERNATIVE 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church Site	ALTERNATIVE 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza Site
(1) Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.	Interferes with achieving this goal.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving and interpreting historical resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving and interpreting historical resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving and interpreting historical resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving and interpreting historical resources.
(2) Assure for all generations safe, healthful, productive, and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving and interpreting cultural resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving and interpreting cultural resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving and interpreting cultural resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving and interpreting cultural resources.
(3) Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or other undesirable and unintended consequences.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Contributes toward this goal by removing dilapidated structures that may contain hazardous or toxic substances.	Contributes toward this goal by removing dilapidated structures that may pose a safety risk.	Contributes toward this goal by removing dilapidated structures that may contain hazardous or toxic substances.
(4) Preserve important historic, cultural and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice.	Interferes with achieving this goal.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving important historic resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving important historic resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving important historic resources.	Contributes toward meeting this goal by preserving important historic resources.
(5) Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and a wide sharing of life's amenities.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Interferes with achieving this goal by eliminating jobs.
(6) Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Contributes toward this goal by renovating existing building for Interpretive Center.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.	Neither contributes to nor detracts from meeting this goal.

The No Action Alternative would not meet the management goals and objectives of the Selma to Montgomery NHT. In addition, this alternative does not realize the provisions of the NEPA goals, as summarized in Table 2-2. Although the No Action Alternative would not create any disturbance, the existing conditions would continue without providing additional benefits to visitor use through the construction of the Montgomery Interpretive Center.

All of the action alternatives would contribute toward meeting NEPA goals (1), (2), and (4) through the construction of an Interpretive Center designed to preserve and interpret important aspects of our national history and culture.

Alternative 3 would involve demolition of the dilapidated structures at the Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church site. These structures may pose a safety risk, and their removal relates to NEPA goal (3). Alternatives 2 and 4 would interfere with NEPA goal (3) since there is a high potential for hazardous materials at the former Durr Drug and St. Jude Fairview Plaza sites.

Alternatives 1 and 3 would best meet NEPA goal (5) because ASU and the Mt. Zion Foundation have strong fundraising abilities. The ability to raise funds is an important asset in a partnership with the NPS, and would enhance the capability of the Montgomery Interpretive Center to reach a broad audience.

NEPA goal (6) would be best met by the Alternative 2. Renovation of the existing building at the former Durr Drug site would conserve resources. The other three action alternatives involve construction of a new building on the site.

Both Alternatives 1 and 3, the ASU site and the Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church site, meet the Selma to Montgomery NHT purposes and the NEPA goals. Alternatives 1 and 3 are the environmentally preferred alternatives.

2.7 COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES AND SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Table 2-3 summarizes the direct and indirect impacts to the resources of the Selma to Montgomery NHT for each of the Alternatives.

Table 2-3. Alternatives Comparison Table and Summary of Environmental Consequences

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1: ASU	Alternative 2: Former Durr Drug	Alternative 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church	Alternative 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza
Soils	No impact.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during construction.	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts during construction.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during construction.	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts during construction.
Air Quality	No impact.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to dust and emissions from construction; long-term minor adverse impacts from operation of a building.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to dust and emissions from demolition and construction; long-term minor adverse impacts from operation of a building.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to dust and emissions from demolition and construction; long-term minor adverse impacts from operation of a building.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to dust and emissions from demolition and construction; long-term minor adverse impacts from operation of a building.
Noise and Vibration	No impact.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during construction. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts during operation due to increase in car and bus traffic.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during demolition and construction. Negligible impacts to noise during operation.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during demolition and construction. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts during operation due to increase in car and bus traffic.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during demolition and construction. Negligible impacts to noise during operation.

Table 2-3. Alternatives Comparison Table and Summary of Environmental Consequences (Continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1: ASU	Alternative 2: Former Durr Drug	Alternative 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church	Alternative 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza
Vegetation	No impact.	Long-term, minor adverse impacts due to net loss of vegetation.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to net gain in vegetated areas.	Long-term, minor adverse impacts due to net loss of vegetation.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to net gain in vegetated areas.
Wildlife	No impact.	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts during construction. Long-term, minor adverse impacts due to loss of habitat.	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts during demolition and construction. Long-term beneficial impacts due to net gain of habitat.	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts during demolition and construction. Long-term, minor adverse impacts due to loss of habitat.	Short-term, minor, adverse impacts during demolition and construction. Long-term, beneficial impacts due to net gain of habitat.
Cultural	No impact.	No impact due to the fact that there are no extant historic structures in the project area and the setting has already been altered due to modern development.	No impact since the setting has already been altered due to modern development and plans to demolish George Washington Carver High School.	Moderate, long-term, adverse impacts from the introduction of the Interpretive Center into a setting that is primarily residential and small-scale commercial and the increased traffic that the Center would bring.	No impact since the setting has already been altered due to modern development and plans to demolish George Washington Carver High School.

Table 2-3. Alternatives Comparison Table and Summary of Environmental Consequences (Continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1: ASU	Alternative 2: Former Durr Drug	Alternative 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church	Alternative 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza
Socioeconomics	No impact.	Short-term, beneficial impacts with creation of construction jobs and long-term, beneficial contribution to local economy and education. Negligible impacts to local businesses during construction.	Short-term, beneficial impacts with creation of construction jobs. Long-term, beneficial contribution to local economy and education. Long-term, adverse impacts if jobs are lost. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to local businesses during the construction and demolition.	Short-term, beneficial impacts with creation of construction jobs and long-term, beneficial contribution to local economy and education. Negligible impacts to local businesses during construction and demolition.	Short-term, beneficial impacts with creation of construction jobs and long-term, beneficial contribution to local economy and education. Long-term, moderate adverse impacts with loss of jobs. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to local businesses during the construction and demolition.
Environmental Justice	No impact.	Long-term beneficial impacts due to new jobs and educational opportunities.	Long-term beneficial impacts due to new jobs and educational opportunities.	Long-term beneficial impacts due to new jobs and educational opportunities.	Long-term beneficial impacts due to new jobs and educational opportunities.
Land Use	No impact.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to development of open space.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to renovation of existing building.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to infilling of Church site.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to redeveloping a developed area.
Recreation	No impact.	Long-term, beneficial impact with creation of picnic area.	Long-term, beneficial impact with creation of picnic area.	Long-term, beneficial impact with creation of picnic area.	Long-term, beneficial impact with creation of picnic area.
Aesthetics	No impact.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during construction and long-term, beneficial impacts upon completion.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during construction and long-term, beneficial impacts upon completion.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during construction and long-term, beneficial impacts upon completion.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts during construction and long-term, beneficial impacts upon completion.

Table 2-3. Alternatives Comparison Table and Summary of Environmental Consequences (Continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1: ASU	Alternative 2: Former Durr Drug	Alternative 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church	Alternative 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza
Public Health and Safety	No impact.	Negligible impacts during demolition and construction. Long-term, beneficial impacts due to safe, accessible building.	Negligible impacts during demolition and construction. Long-term, beneficial impacts due to safe, accessible building.	Negligible impacts during demolition and construction. Long-term, beneficial impacts due to removal of dilapidated structures.	Negligible impacts during demolition and construction. Long-term, beneficial impacts due to safe, accessible building.
Energy Requirements and Conservation	No impact.	Short-term minor adverse impacts due to energy use during construction and long-term, minor adverse impact due to operation of the building.	Reduced short-term adverse impacts due to renovation of existing building. Long-term minor, adverse impacts due to operation of the building. Short-term, beneficial impacts to the conservation of recycled materials.	Short-term minor adverse impacts due to energy use during construction and long-term, minor adverse impact due to operation of the building. Short-term, beneficial impacts to the conservation of recycled materials.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to energy use during construction and long-term, minor, adverse impacts due to operation of the building. Short-term, beneficial impacts to the conservation of recycled materials.
Infrastructure	No impact.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to hauling of demolition waste on local roads.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to hauling of demolition waste on local roads.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to hauling of demolition waste on local roads.	Short-term, minor adverse impacts due to hauling of demolition waste on local roads.
Hazardous, Toxic and Radioactive Substances	Long-term, minor adverse impacts due to the presence of these substances.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to the removal of hazardous substances.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to the removal of hazardous substances.	Long-term, beneficial impacts due to the removal of hazardous substances.	Long-term, impacts due to the removal of hazardous substances.
Visitor Use and Experience	No impact.	Long-term, beneficial impacts with construction of a new Interpretive Center.	Long-term, beneficial impacts with construction of a new Interpretive Center.	Long-term, beneficial impacts with construction of a new Interpretive Center.	Long-term, beneficial impacts with construction of a new Interpretive Center.

Table 2-3. Alternatives Comparison Table and Summary of Environmental Consequences (Continued)

Resource	No Action Alternative	Alternative 1: ASU	Alternative 2: Former Durr Drug	Alternative 3: Mt. Zion A.M.E Zion Church	Alternative 4: St. Jude Fairview Plaza
Park Operations	No impact.	Long-term, beneficial impacts with ASU partnership.	Long-term, minor, adverse impacts due to increased need to provide services.	Long-term, beneficial impacts with City and Mt. Zion Foundation partners.	Long-term, minor, adverse impacts due to increased need to provide services.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

3.1 CHAPTER OVERVIEW

Chapter 3.0 describes the characteristics of the affected environment at the proposed alternative sites. A description of existing environmental conditions provides a better understanding of planning issues and establishes a benchmark by which the magnitude of environmental effects of the alternatives can be compared. The discussion that follows focuses on the current conditions present at the proposed alternative sites. The information in Chapter 3.0 is organized by the same environmental topics used to organize the impact analysis in Chapter 4.0.

Chapter 3.0 addresses the topics that were not dismissed from further consideration as described in Chapter 1.0 for the project area. The topics are organized by physical and natural resources; the human environment; energy requirements and conservation; infrastructure; hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances; visitor use and experience; and park operations. For this chapter, the project area is defined as the proposed construction footprints for each of the four alternatives described in Chapter 2 for the physical and natural resources. The project area is expanded for the human environment to capture the existing conditions applicable to the site and beyond.

3.2 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

This section discusses the physical environment, including soils, air quality, and noise at the four alternative sites proposed for construction of the Montgomery Interpretive Center.

3.2.1 Soils

Soils at each of the proposed sites have been previously disturbed. Each site currently contains existing buildings or has had buildings on the site at some point during the last ten years. Therefore, it is likely that the original soils have been altered by the removal of topsoil and addition of fill material. Table 3-1 describes the characteristics of each soil series found at the project sites.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: Soils at the ASU site belong to the Cahaba series (USDA 2006). Soils of the Cahaba series consists of deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in loamy and sandy alluvium. The soils are typically a fine sandy loam with a gentle slope of 2 to 5 percent.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The former Durr Drug site contains mostly soils belonging to the Amite series (USDA 2006). The Amite series consists of deep, well-drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in loamy marine alluvium. The soils are typically a fine sandy loam with a gentle slope of 2 to 5 percent. Soils underlying the existing building at the site belong to the Kaufman series. The Kaufman series consists of very deep, somewhat poorly-drained, very slow, permeable soils that formed in clayey alluvium. The soils are typically a clay loam with slopes generally less than one percent.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: Soils at the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site belong to the Ruston series (USDA 2006). The Ruston soil series contains very deep, well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in loamy marine or sediment deposits. Ruston soils are typically a fine sandy loam with slopes of 2 to 8 percent. The northeast corner of the site contains soils belonging to the Iuka series (USDA 2006). Iuka soils consist of deep, moderately well drained, moderately permeable soils that formed in stratified loamy and sandy alluvial sediments. Soils are typically a fine sandy loam with slopes less than 2 percent.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site contains soils that belong to the Amite series, Iuka series, and Ruston series (USDA 2006). The soils belonging to the Amite series are similar to those found at the former Durr Drug site (Alternative 2), except the soils have a greater slope of 5 to 8 percent. Soils within the central area of the site belong to the Iuka series, which are similar to those of Mt Zion A.M.E. Zion Church (Alternative 3). Soils belonging to the Ruston series are located along the eastern side of the site. These soils are also similar to those found at Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church (Alternative 3).

Table 3-1. Characteristics of Soils at the Proposed Alternative Sites.

Soil Name	Landform	Natural Drainage	Slope	Parent Material
Cahaba fine sandy loam, eroded, very gently sloping phase	Stream terraces	Well drained	2-5%	Loamy fluviomarine deposits derived from sedimentary rock
Amite fine sandy loam, eroded, gently sloping phase	Hills	Well drained	5-8%	Loamy marine deposits derived from sedimentary rock
Amite fine sandy loam, eroded, very gently sloping phase	Ridges	Well drained	2-5%	Loamy marine deposits derived from sedimentary rock
Kaufman clay loam	Flood plains	Somewhat poorly drained	0-2%	Clayey alluvium derived from sedimentary rock
Ruston fine sandy loam, eroded, gently sloping phase	Hills	Well drained	5-8%	Pleistocene loamy fluviomarine deposits derived from sedimentary rock
Ruston fine sandy loam, eroded, very gently sloping phase	Ridges	Well drained	2-5%	Pleistocene loamy fluviomarine deposits derived from sedimentary rock
Iuka soils, local alluvium phases	Flood plains	Moderately well drained	0-2%	Coarse-loamy alluvium derived from sedimentary rock

Source: USDA 2006.

3.2.2 Air Quality

The Federal Clean Air Act (FCAA) requires all federal agencies to comply with existing federal, state, and local air pollution control laws and regulations. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sets primary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) required by the FCAA for air pollutants that cause health threats. The FCAA defines six criteria pollutants. These criteria pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), particulate matter with size less than 10 µm³ (PM₁₀), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ozone (O₃), and lead (Pb). Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) are not criteria pollutants, but are of interest since they participate in the formation of ozone. Table 3-2 presents a summary of the pollutants, their characteristics, and their health and welfare impacts.

Table 3-2: Air Pollutants and Their Characteristics.

<i>Pollutant</i>	Characteristics
Particulates (PM ₁₀)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mixture of solid particles and liquid droplets; fine particles (less than 10 micrometers) produced by fuel combustion, power plants, and diesel buses and trucks• Can aggravate asthma, produce acute respiratory symptoms, including aggravated coughing and difficult or painful breathing, and chronic bronchitis• Impairs visibility
Sulfur Dioxide (SO ₂)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can cause temporary breathing difficulties for people with asthma• Reacts with other chemicals to form sulfate particles that are a major cause of reduced visibility in many parts of the country• Main contributor to acid deposition
Nitrogen Oxides (NO _x)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High temperature fuel combustion exhaust product• Can be an irritant to humans and participates in the formation of ozone• Reacts with other pollutants to form nitrate particles that are a significant contributor to visibility reduction in many parts of the country• Contributor to acid deposition
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Odorless, colorless gas produced by fuel combustion, particularly mobile sources• May cause chest pains and aggravate cardiovascular diseases, such as angina• May affect mental alertness and vision in healthy individuals
Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fuel combustion exhaust product• Consists of a wide variety of carbon-based molecules• Participates in the formation of ozone
Ozone (O ₃)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not directly emitted by mobile, stationary, or area sources• Formed from complex reactions between NO_x and VOC emissions in the presence of sunlight• Occurs regionally due to multiplicity of sources• Can irritate the respiratory system• Can reduce lung function• Can aggravate asthma and increase susceptibility to respiratory infections• Can inflame and damage the lining of the lungs• Interferes with the ability of plants to produce and store food, which makes them more susceptible to disease, insects, other pollutants, and harsh weather• Damages the leaves of trees and other plants
Lead (Pb)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lead causes damage to the kidneys, liver, brain and nerves, and other organs and may lead to osteoporosis (brittle bone disease) and reproductive disorders• Lead exposure causes high blood pressure and increases heart disease and may lead to anemia• Lead can slow down vegetation growth and can cause reproductive damage in some aquatic life and cause blood and neurological changes in fish

The FCAA requires that each NAAQS be revised every five years to reflect the most recently available health information. Areas of the country where air pollution levels persistently exceed the NAAQS standards are normally designated as nonattainment areas. Each of the potential project sites are located in Montgomery County, Alabama, which is part of the Columbus (Georgia)-Phenix City (Alabama) Interstate Air Quality Control Region. The region is in attainment for all six criteria pollutants (USEPA 2009).

The ADEM Air Division is responsible for managing the State's air resources and implementing programs designed to ensure that Alabama's air quality meets federal standards (ADEM Air Division 2009).

For 2008, O₃ levels in Montgomery County were 0.082 parts per million (ppm) for the 2nd highest 1-hour average and 0.069 ppm for the 4th highest 8-hour average for the year. These levels were below the USEPA air quality standards for ozone: 0.12 ppm (1-hour average), and 0.075 ppm (8-hour average) (USEPA 2008). The annual mean for PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ were 13.32 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m³) and 28µg/m³, respectively. These levels were also below the USEPA air quality standards for particulate matter: 15µg/m³ (PM_{2.5}) and 50µg/m³ (PM₁₀) (USEPA 2008). Data for other criteria pollutants are unavailable.

3.2.3 Noise

The proposed locations for the Interpretive Center are all located within the urban district of the City of Montgomery. Current noise sources in the surrounding area are predominantly the result of human activities. These activities include traffic from the local roads, including two interstate highways, and noises created by local businesses.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: The ASU site is less than 200 feet from Interstate 85. The noise associated with the highway is minimized by an earthen berm that has been planted with trees (NPS 2008b). Other noise sources in the vicinity of the proposed project location include noise generated by pedestrians on campus, local vehicle traffic, and air conditioning systems in the nearby science building.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The former Durr Drug site is located in a commercial area, which includes small businesses and the City of St. Jude complex, which contains a church, administration office, and elementary and high schools. Sources of noise in this area come from the local traffic along West Fairview Avenue and from the children playing outside at the City of St. Jude complex.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site is located less than 500 feet northeast of the intersection of Interstates 65 and 85, and is therefore subjected to both local and highway traffic noise.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza is adjacent to the City of St. Jude. Noise associated with this site would be similar to Alternative 2, the former Durr Drug site. The major noise sources would come from local traffic and the activities associated with the City of St. Jude complex.

3.3 NATURAL RESOURCES

This section discusses the vegetation and wildlife in the vicinity of the four proposed sites for the Montgomery Interpretive Center.

3.3.1 Vegetation

Vegetation at the four alternative sites consists of mowed lawn grasses, with a few deciduous trees and shrubs. The sites are all in urban, developed areas.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: The site at ASU is mainly covered with mowed, maintained grass. There is a gravel path that crosses the site and concrete slabs, stairways, and sidewalks which lead to former demolished homes. Approximately twenty-five large, deciduous trees are scattered throughout the site along with a small number of shrubs.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: Vegetation surrounding the former Durr Drug site includes small areas of mowed, maintained grass, and approximately five small trees and shrubs. The trees and shrubs are located in front of the building and were planted for landscaping purposes. The majority of the site includes impervious parking areas.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The area surrounding the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site contains areas with sparse grass cover. The site also contains a few deciduous trees located throughout the site.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site contains a strip mall and a large parking lot. Small areas of mowed, maintained lawn surround the parking lot.

3.3.2 Wildlife

The four alternative sites are all located in an urban region of Montgomery, Alabama. These sites are developed and are associated with human activities and disturbance. Therefore, wildlife in the area is limited to species tolerant of human activities. Very little suitable habitat for wildlife exists at the proposed alternative sites.

Small to medium sized mammal species such as raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), eastern gray squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*), eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), and opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) could be present at the sites. Bird species vary with habitat type and cover. Sparrows, robins, starlings, and doves may occasionally be present at the sites.

3.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

3.4.1 Prehistoric Historic Background

The first evidence of people in this region is from the Paleo-Indian period (approximately 11,000-10,000 B.P.). There is consensus that the Paleo-Indian period is a time of great environmental and cultural change as the Southeast became populated. The climate changes shaped the biotic resource structure and influenced prehistoric group size, technological organization, and mobility patterns (Anderson and Hanson 1988; Anderson et al. 1990:5, 2005; Cable 1982).

Paleo-Indian peoples were hunters and gathers who exploited regional, seasonal resources. Research beginning in the mid to late 1980s and continuing today (including Alabama studies) indicates that Southeastern Native Americans relied on a more varied diet including plants and small game (Hollenbach 2005; Sassaman et al. 1990; Walker 2000; Walker et al. 2001) during this and subsequent periods. The Paleo-Indian period is characterized by occurrences of fluted and unfluted lanceolate points such as Clovis, Folsom, Cumberland, Suwannee, Beaver Lake, Simpson, and Quad. Dalton points occur at the end of this period from secure contexts in Alabama (Soday 1954).

The terminal Pleistocene and Early Holocene transition was marked by stabilization of generally warmer climatic conditions. Increased population densities in the Southeast parallel this climate shift and characterize the Archaic period (10,000-3,000 B.P.). Significant research of north Alabama rockshelters, such as Stanfield-Whorley and Russell Cave (see Walthall 1980), has contributed to our understanding of Archaic lifeways in the Southeast.

Anderson (2005) suggested that the Early Archaic peoples used most of the landscape, continuing the strategy of Paleo-Indian land use. The onset of the Archaic period is characterized by notched points such as Palmer, Big Sandy, and Kirk and is followed by a bifurcate tradition (Walthall 1980). At the onset of the Middle Archaic period, a constriction of group mobility range and cultural divergence has been documented in some locations, in part caused by the drier conditions of the Hypsithermal. During the Middle Archaic, stemmed points (such as the Morrow Mountain types) replaced earlier notched varieties. In addition, ground-stone technologies were utilized to a higher degree including the manufacture of steatite vessels. Compared to the Middle Archaic, the Late Archaic period marks a shift to aquatic resources and a more entrenched logistical mobility strategy. The Gulf Formational period of Alabama temporally and culturally overlaps Terminal Archaic/Early Woodland manifestation in the Southeast. This was a period of cultural innovation and diffusion as represented by the introduction of the Gulf Tradition fiber-tempered pottery in many regions and followed by the transition to sand-tempered wares. Stemmed and side-notched hafted bifaces also are diagnostic of this era.

By the Woodland period (3,000-1,000 B.P.), the climate had stabilized to modern conditions, which eventually allowed for greater sedentism. In addition to hunting and gathering, increasing reliance on horticulture (particularly starchy and oily seeded domesticates) appeared as a key

parameter for the Woodland period (Fritz 1993). Seasonal and permanent base camps were common during the Woodland period and were coupled with more elaborate and regionally specific cultural manifestations such the Hopewell Interaction Sphere.

The Woodland period of the region is characterized by the Miller phase pottery and developments (Walthall 1980). In regards to cultural material, this is marked by a continuum of pottery that progressed from the sand-tempered fabric-marked types (Early) to cord-marked types and Hopewell related items (Middle). Late in the Woodland period, clay tempering of the cord-marked wares became popular. The hafted biface typology of the Woodland period further illustrates cultural evolution as the large-stemmed types of the proceeding Archaic period were replaced by small-triangular forms by the Late Woodland. This marks the adoption of the bow and arrow as the primary means of hunting (as opposed to the atlatl) in the Southeast (see Blitz 1988). More elaborate cultural manifestations (i.e. iconography, earthen architecture) increased during the terminal part of this timeframe.

In many areas of the Southeast, advances in agricultural subsistence throughout the Woodland period fed an increasingly hierarchical social system within resident and/or immigrant groups. Increased population density and need for natural resources furthered the development of territorial ranges and distinct cultures of greater complexity within a political network. This evolution in cultural development marks the Mississippian period from 1,000-450 B.P. (A.D. 1500).

Conventionally, this period was defined by the presence of flat-topped mounds, open plazas, permanent occupation, agriculture based subsistence, and new ceramic types. Alabama's Moundville site is a classic example of these manifestations. In addition to these large cultural centers, archaeologists recognize a "pan-southeastern interaction sphere" (Schnell and Wright 1993) that occurred through a complicated network of villages and mound centers across the Southeast.

Evidence of shell-tempered ceramic specimens and increased iconographic expressions in material culture is diagnostic of the Mississippian period. The hafted bifaces remain relatively unchanged and were small and triangular in form (such as the Madison type). These cultural manifestations waned toward the latter part of the Mississippian period, and were in decline when Spanish explorers initially traversed the region.

The Proto-historic period (circa A.D. 1500-1750) is marked by initial contact of European explorers in the Southeast during the early 1500s, and the reformation of the Native American sociopolitical structure (Walthall 1980). The first European settlements focused on the Atlantic coast and Florida, and did not significantly encroach on the Black Warrior drainage basin until the 1700s. However, the increased European presence was paralleled by acculturation (via direct and indirect means) and the development of the deer skin trade, which spread across the Southeast during the middle to late eighteenth century.

The Historic Native American timeframe (circa A.D. 1750-1840) saw the elaborate cultural manifestations of the Pre/Proto-historic Crow Creek peoples and others reorganize into the historic Native American tribes, specifically the Creek and Choctaw. Artifacts representative of

these periods range from Native American pottery and lithic tools to European trade beads, metal tools, and other items. This pattern significantly shifted with the forced removal of Native Americans from the Southeast during the early 1830s and the widespread settlement of the region by European descendants.

3.4.2 Historic Background

The first European presence in central Alabama occurred during the expedition of Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto, who passed through Ikanatchati -- a Native American village originally located where present-day Montgomery now stands -- and camped for one week in Towassa (Neeley 2001:1). After this initial contact, more than a century passed before Europeans attempted to once again venture into central Alabama (Rogers et al 1994:24). European settlement in Alabama initially concentrated along the coast as the French founded Mobile in 1699. The establishment of Fort Toulouse by the French in 1717 opened the interior of Alabama up to more European traders, allowing both the French and the British to establish trading posts within the vicinity of the Fort (Rogers et al 1994:29-30).

Following their defeat by Andrew Jackson in 1814 in the Creek-American War, the Creeks were forced to surrender the majority of their land to the United States government, including what is now central and southern Alabama (Neeley 2001). Incorporated into the Mississippi Territory, the land was surveyed and organized into several counties, including Montgomery County. The increased worldwide demand for cotton and the rich land in which to grow it made Montgomery County prime real estate, in part due to the Alabama River running through the county. Both Andrew Dexter, from a prominent Boston family, and John Scott, a Virginia planter, purchased large tracks of land in Montgomery County at the land auction in Milledgeville, Georgia (Neeley 2001). Dexter founded New Philadelphia, located along the Alabama River and the Federal Road -- a thoroughfare that ran between Milledgeville and New Orleans. Due to its prime location, New Philadelphia thrived, attracting traders and settlers. Scott did not fare as well as Dexter with his initial purchase, so he bought additional land and established the town East Alabama adjacent to New Philadelphia. A rivalry between the two towns ensued until the Alabama Territorial Legislature incorporated them in December 1819, just days before Alabama become the twenty-second state, and named the town Montgomery, after Revolutionary War hero Richard Montgomery (Neeley 2001).

Over the next two decades, Montgomery became the trade and transportation center for neighboring farms and communities. The expulsion of Native Americans from the Southern States by the United States government in the 1830s brought more settlers into Alabama and helped to boost the size and prosperity of Montgomery. In 1846, the people of Alabama voted to move the state capital to Montgomery (Rogers et al 1994: 148).

Montgomery's prosperity continued through the 1850s as the railroads connected Montgomery to Georgia, ushering in a new wealth and sophistication to the Alabama capital. However, Montgomery's wealth and status was short-lived as the heated debate over slavery intensified. In January 1861, after Lincoln's inauguration, representatives from the seceding states met in Montgomery to discuss and organize a Confederate government (Rogers et al 1994: 189). Montgomery became the temporary capital for the Confederate States of America and held

Jefferson Davis' inauguration on the state capitol building's steps (Rogers et al 1994: 190). The Confederate States of America capital was soon moved to Richmond, Virginia and Montgomery became a major supporter of the southern cause.

Montgomery entered Reconstruction fairly unscathed, losing only some of its manufacturing facilities and steamboats. With most of its infrastructure intact and the newly freed African-American population establishing their own neighborhood centers within the city limits, Montgomery was able to successfully urbanize. The 1880s ushered in a new wave of prosperity to the town as Montgomery installed electric lights, improved rail lines, paved streets and sidewalks, and, in 1886, began operation of the first electric trolley system in the country, the "Lightning Route" (Neeley 2001: 2).

In 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested, sentenced, and convicted for refusing to give up her seat on a public bus to a white man. This event sparked the creation of the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA), lead by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In response, MIA, using the influence and reach of the local African-American churches, organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott (Rogers 1994: 549-550). The year-long boycott brought national attention to the Civil Rights movement as well as Montgomery and its segregation policies. Montgomery found itself in the national spotlight ten years later when King and approximately 3,200 marchers left from Brown Chapel and crossed the Edmond Pettus Bridge out of Selma. The march ended at the Alabama state capitol, culminating with King delivering one of his more memorable addresses in front of 25,000 demonstrators (Rogers et al 1994: 564).

Much like its varied and prosperous history, Montgomery has continued to grow and diversify. Besides housing several government agencies on the state and city level, Montgomery also has a large military presence due to Maxwell and Gunter Air Force Bases. Also contributing to Montgomery's economy and diversity are several public universities, such as Alabama State University and Auburn University – Montgomery; private universities such as Huntington College; high-tech manufacturing; and cultural events.

3.4.3 Existing Conditions

Cultural resources include archaeological sites, historic structures, cultural landscapes, NRHP listed properties, and Native American sacred and religious sites. For the evaluation of cultural resources, the area of potential effect (APE) is defined as the construction area and all properties located within the viewshed immediately surrounding the project area.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: The ASU project area does not contain archaeological sites, historic structures; NRHP listed properties, or recorded Native American sacred and religious sites. A brand new parking lot, modern trailers that are part of the library facilities, and another lot of trees and grass surround the site. The Nat King Cole boyhood home, on the northeast corner of Tuttle and Hall streets, is adjacent to the project area. The house was moved to the campus from its original location. The Cole boyhood home is not a previously documented or evaluated resource. The historic core of the ASU campus is listed on the NRHP; however, it is not within the viewshed of the project area. A developed subdivision was formerly located within the site. These homes have been previously demolished and evidence of the

homes, including remaining concrete slabs, stairways, and sidewalks leading to the former homes are located at the site.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The former Durr Drug site does not contain any archaeological sites, historic structures; NRHP listed properties, or recorded Native American sacred and religious sites. The commercial buildings and warehouse all appear to have been constructed after 1960. Across the street from the former Durr Drug site are the City of St. Jude, a hospital, school, and social services facility that is listed on the NRHP. The City of St. Jude pioneered nondiscriminatory health service, education, and social services during a time when racial segregation was mandated by law (Sullivan et al 1990). At the time, the St. Jude Catholic Hospital was the only health facility in Montgomery to have both integrated staff and patients and played a vital role in providing quality health care for blacks. In 1965, the City of St. Jude hosted Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and 2000 of the Selma-to-Montgomery Voting Rights marchers, who met and camped on the St. Jude campus for the night before rallying the State Capitol. George Washington Carver High School, constructed in 1948, sits directly to the east of the project area. Carver High School is not a previously documented or evaluated resource.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church does not contain any archaeological sites or recorded Native American sacred and religious sites. The Mount Zion A.M.E. Zion Church is a historic structure and is listed on the NRHP. The church served as the meeting place for the MIA, a group formed in reaction to the arrest, trial, and conviction of Rosa Parks (Anderson and Binkley 2002). With Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as president, MIA organized the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a critical event launching the civil rights movement in Montgomery under the leadership of African-American churches. The church was also the location of other Civil Rights activity, both before and after the organization of the MIA. There are two unrecorded and unevaluated historic properties within the viewshed. The first, located directly across from the church, is a vacant one-story commercial structure, consisting of only its exterior and interior load bearing walls. The other is a two-story concrete block structure located immediately north of the church that is currently the home of the F and AM Masons and Order of the Eastern Star organization. The site is located within a historically African-American neighborhood comprised of historic residential and small-scale commercial structures.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site does not contain any archaeological sites, historic structures; NRHP listed properties, or recorded Native American sacred and religious sites. The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site includes a modern strip mall consisting of a chain grocery as the anchor store and six associated businesses. There is also a gas station, a former fast food restaurant, and an additional stand-alone modern commercial building. George Washington Carver High School, constructed in 1948, is immediately across the street, to the south, from the site and the NRHP-listed City of St. Jude is across the street to the west. The history and significance of the City of St. Jude is discussed above. Alexander Street, located behind the site to the north, is a historically African-American neighborhood consisting of early-to-mid-twentieth century residential structures. The majority of these houses are of the shotgun and bungalow type with vernacular structures and a community church also present. The neighborhood was not previously documented or evaluated.

3.5 HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

This section discusses the human environment associated with the alternative sites including socioeconomics; environmental justice; land use; recreation; aesthetics; and public health and safety.

3.5.1 Socioeconomics

The U.S Census Bureau provides population data, demographic information, housing statistics, and employment information at the state, county, city, and census tract levels. Each of the sites is located within Montgomery, Alabama. Census data for the city of Montgomery is currently available from the 2006 Census, while tract specific data is only available from the 2000 Census. Therefore, the 2000 Census data will be used for comparison purposes. The proposed project locations are located in the following Census Tracts:

- Alternative 1. ASU – Census Tract 15
- Alternative 2. Former Durr Drug– Census Tract 24
- Alternative 3. Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church – Census Tract 2
- Alternative 4. St. Jude Fairview Plaza – Census Tract 11

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population within the state of Alabama was estimated to be 4,599,030 in 2006 and within the City of Montgomery the population was estimated to be 201,998 (USCB 2009). Population projections for Montgomery County, as determined by the Center for Business and Economic Research of the University of Alabama, estimate a change in the county population from 223,510 in 2000 to a projected 259,679 in 2025, for a total increase of 16.2 percent over a 25-year period (University of Alabama 2004).

Educational Attainment

The ASU site population has the highest levels of educational attainment relative to each of the proposed sites, with 25.9 percent of the residents over the age of 25 having attained a Bachelor's degree or higher and 74 percent of residents holding a high school education or greater (Table 3-3). This may be due to the location of the site within the college campus. The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site has the lowest percentage of residents over age 25 with high school education or higher (48.8 percent), and the second lowest attainment of Bachelor's degree or higher education (12.2 percent). The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site has the lowest percentage (11.3 percent) of residents over age 25 with a Bachelor's degree or higher and 53.5 percent of residents attaining a high school degree or better. Census data for the Durr Drug site indicate that residents in this area fall in the middle in terms of educational attainment with 69.8 percent having a high school education or greater and 18.4 percent holding a Bachelor's degree or higher (Table 3-3).

There are a number of grade schools, high schools, colleges and other educational institutions within a reasonable distance of all of the proposed locations, which would allow for field trips, after school trips, etc. The proposed sites are all located within a reasonable distance to the ASU

campus (5,600 students), Zelia Evans Early Childhood Center (59 students), Huntingdon College (800 students), Forrest Ave. Magnet School (675 students), B.T.W. Magnet High School (477 students), Houston Hill Jr. High (265 students), Bethany Christian Academy (96 students) and Highland Avenue Elementary (334 students), and a number of other County of Montgomery Public Schools.

Table 3-3. Educational Attainment, Employment Statistics, Median Age, and Home Values for Census Tracts in the Proposed Project Areas.

	Alabama	City of Montgomery	ASU (Census Tract 15)	Former Durr Drug (Census Tract 24)	Mt Zion A.M.E. Zion Church (Census Tract 2)	St. Jude Fairview Plaza (Census Tract 11)
Population	4,447,100	223,510	4,353	2,597	2,131	4,113
High School Graduate or Higher	75.3%	80.7%	74%	69.8%	48.8%	53.5%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	19%	29.4%	25.9%	18.4%	12.2%	11.3%
In Labor Force (population 16 years and over)	59.7%	62%	51.7%	44.7%	31.1%	42.6%
Median Age	35.8 years	32.9 years	21.5 years	31.5 years	36.3 years	38.5 years
Median value of Single-family owner occupied homes	\$85,100	\$86,800	\$81,300	\$49,500	\$47,600	\$44,000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000a-d.

Employment

Within the city of Montgomery, of the 62 percent of civilians over 16 years and over that are employed, 37 percent are employed in management, professional and related occupations and 29.3 percent of the population work in sales and office occupations. The remaining employed population works in service occupations (15.7 percent), construction, extraction, and maintenance occupations (6.6 percent) and production, transportation and materials moving occupations (11.4 percent). The median age ranges from 21.5 years old at the ASU site to 38.5 years old at the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site (Table 3-3). In all four Census tracts, the median age is well over 16, indicating that more than half of the population is old enough to be employed. In 2005, roughly 38,845 people living in the City of Montgomery were employed by the government (USCB 2009).

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: The labor force, 16 years and older at this location is comprised of 57.1 percent of the population. Currently there are no employment opportunities at the proposed site; however, ASU does employ a significant number of individuals living within this area for other on-campus jobs.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: In the area surrounding the former Durr Drug site, 44.7 percent of the population 16 years old and over is in the labor force. Currently employment at the former Durr Drug building is associated with the data management business located at the site.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: Census track data for the area surrounding the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church shows that only 31.1 percent of the population age 16 or older is in the labor force. Currently the only known employment at this site may be associated with the renovation activities at the church, which would mainly employ individuals in the construction industry.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: Census track data for the area surrounding this site indicates that 43.6 percent of the population 16 years and over are in the labor force. The St. Jude Fairview Plaza currently employs people at the following businesses: Simply Fashion, Family Dollar, Rent-A-Center, Calhoun Foods, Cash Advance, Mo Money Taxes, and Shoe Show.

Population Density and Distribution and Housing

Single-family, owner occupied homes had the highest median value of \$81,300 at the ASU site, and the lowest median value of \$44,000 at the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site (Table 3-3). Single-family home values in the area surrounding the Former Durr Drug site and the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site fell in the middle, values at \$49,500 and \$47,600 respectively (USCB 2009).

3.5.2 Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations requires Federal agencies to make achieving environmental justice part of its mission. Specifically, each agency must identify and address “disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations.” The intent is to prevent minority and low-income populations from being disproportionately affected by adverse human health and environmental impacts of federal actions.

There have been no notable environmental justice issues affecting the area surrounding any of the alternative locations.

Composition

The minority population is defined as the non-white and multi-racial population of a given area and includes African American, American Indian, Alaska Native, Asian, Hispanic, Latino, and persons reporting two or more races.

The City of Montgomery's population was estimated to be 223,510 in 2000, of whom 49.6 percent were African Americans, 47.7 percent were white, 0.3 percent American Indian or Alaska Native, 1.1 percent Asian, 1 percent two or more races, and 1.2 percent Hispanic or Latino (USCB 2009). Within the city of Montgomery and within all of the four census tracts, African Americans make up the majority of the population. St. Jude Fairview Plaza site has the highest percentage of African Americans (97.6 percent) and the area surrounding the ASU site has the lowest percentage, with 70.8 percent of the population being African Americans (Table 3-4). Total minority populations within each of the census tracks ranges from 73 percent at the ASU site to 99 percent at the former Durr Drug and St. Jude Fairview Plaza sites (Table 3-5). ASU is also a historically African-American university.

Table 3-4. Population Composition

	Alabama	City of Montgomery	ASU (Census Tract 15)	Former Durr Drug (Census Tract 24)	Mt Zion A.M.E. Zion Church (Census Tract 2)	St. Jude Fairview Plaza (Census Tract 11)
Population	4,447,100	223,510	4,353	2,597	2,131	4,113
% White	71.1%	48.9%	27.5 %	0.7%	13.7%	1.6%
% African American	23.0%	48.6%	70.8%	97.4%	85.1%	97.6%
% American Indian	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%	0.0%	0.1%	0.1%
% Asian	0.7%	1.0%	0.4%	0.9%	0.1%	0.1%
% Native Hawaiian	0.03%	0.03%	0.05%	0.0%	0.0%	0.02%
% Some Other Race	0.7%	0.3%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.07%
% Two or More Races	1.0%	0.9%	0.7%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000a-d.

Table 3-5. Minority Population, Income, and Poverty Data for the Proposed Alternative Sites.

Census Tract	Site Location	Total Population	Total Minority Population	Median Household Income in 1999	Individuals Living Below Poverty Level
15	ASU	4,353	3,187 (73%)	\$21,732	738 (17%)
24	Former Durr Drug	2,597	2,594 (99%)	\$19,857	959 (37%)
2	Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church	2,131	1,855 (87%)	\$16,149	498 (23%)
11	St. Jude Fairview Plaza	4,113	4,079 (99%)	\$14,100	1,918 (47%)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000a-d.

Income Distribution

In the city of Montgomery, the median household income was \$35,627 in 2000 (USCB 2000). The median household income was \$21,732 in the area surrounding the ASU site, which was the highest of the four census tracts. The area surrounding St. Jude Fairview Plaza site had the lowest median household income of \$14,100. Census tract data also indicates that poverty is the greatest in the area surrounding St. Jude Fairview Plaza site with 47 percent or 1,918 individuals living below the poverty level and the median family household earning \$14,100 a year. The area surrounding the ASU site supported the least number of individuals living in poverty with a median household income of \$21,732 and 17 percent of individuals living below the poverty level (Table 3-5).

3.5.3 Land Use

Downtown Montgomery is urbanized, with state government offices and cultural institutions dominating the downtown core.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: The Alabama State University operates on a 383-acre campus with a mixture of contemporary buildings that amount to more than 16.7 million square feet of space. The campus boasts an array of academic buildings, residence halls, dining facilities and athletic facilities. ASU has a robust and active campus building program with continuous construction projects in order to meet the needs of the growing population of students, faculty and staff. The current plans at ASU include the construction of a number of additional large buildings on the campus (ASU 2009). The proposed site for the Interpretive Center located on the ASU campus is currently an open grass covered space on the eastern side of the ASU campus. Concrete slabs, stairways, and sidewalks which lead to former demolished homes are located along Hull Street.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The Former Durr Drug site includes several interconnected warehouse buildings and an office building. The original Durr Drug building was torn down and replaced with a newer structure that is used for commercial office space and warehouse space. The site is across the street from the City of St. Jude Complex.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The area surrounding the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church is a mix of residential and commercial land. The site is located in an area of development as identified in the City of Montgomery's Downtown Plan (NPS 2008b). The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church has been recently stabilized and is currently undergoing further improvements and is not currently holding church services. Thus far, the majority of restoration has focused mainly on the exterior. Other buildings on the site are vacant and deteriorating.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site is currently a commercial strip mall with businesses including Simply Fashion, Family Dollar, Rent-A-Center, Calhoun Foods, Cash Advance, Mo Money Taxes, and Shoe Show. The site is adjacent to the City of St. Jude Complex. The City of St. Jude is a 56-acre complex containing a church, former hospital, administration building, social services center, and existing elementary and high school (NPS 2005a). The hospital closed in 1985, and much of the existing building now serves as apartments for low-income families. The nearby Washington Park neighborhood shows some signs of economic distress and physical decline (NPS 2005a).

3.5.4 Recreation

No recreational opportunities currently exist on the proposed alternative sites; however, the Selma to Montgomery NHT offers designated pedestrian and bicycle routes for exploration of the NHT and surrounding areas (NPS 2005a).

The City of Montgomery also offers a number of recreational opportunities within close proximity of each of the proposed Interpretive Center sites. The City of Montgomery has approximately 90 parks, five special needs accessible facilities, 32 ball fields, a golf course, tennis courts, planetarium, lodges for indoor and outdoor events, and a therapeutic recreation center that are managed by the Parks and Recreation Department (City of Montgomery 2008a).

There are a number of recreational draws located on the ASU campus and just outside the campus boundaries. Some of the recreational options include Oak Park (1/2 mile from ASU), the Acadome, 12 court lighted Tennis Complex, Crampton Bowl and ASU Hornet Stadium and track field.

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, the former Durr Drug and St. Jude Fairview Plaza sites are all within close proximity to each other as well as many recreational options, including Gateway Park, River Walk Amphitheater, Montgomery Skate Board, River Walk Stadium, River Walk and the Montgomery Zoo.

3.5.5 Aesthetics

The aesthetic nature of the area surrounding the four alternative sites is one of urban development.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: The ASU campus features Georgian style red-brick classroom buildings and other architecturally contemporary structures. The ASU campus is

listed on the NRHP. The site proposed for the center is a grass lot with a gravel path, and concrete slabs, stairways, and sidewalks leading to former demolished homes. The site is across the street from a large ASU Health Sciences building (ASU 2009).

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The former Durr Drug site contains a large brick office building, warehouse and parking lot in a commercial area. It is located on Fairview Avenue, across from the City of St. Jude Complex. The City of St. Jude was founded in the 1930's by a Catholic priest and contains a church, a former hospital that was converted to apartments, and an elementary and a high school. The City of St. Jude is listed as a Historic District on the NRHP.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church is a large, red-brick structure listed on the NRHP. Besides the church, there are two vacant dilapidated brick and cinder block structures located on the site, one behind the church and one across the street. The site is less than 500 feet from the intersection of Interstates 65 and 85.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza is currently a strip mall with seven operating stores, a gas station and a large parking lot. A closed restaurant with boarded-up windows is also on the site. The site is next to the City of St. Jude which is described above.

3.5.6 Public Health and Safety

General public health and safety concerns throughout the Selma to Montgomery NHT and in the vicinity of the proposed alternative sites in Montgomery include:

- The Selma to Montgomery NHT section in the City of Montgomery is located along five miles of busy streets, therefore safety of pedestrians, cyclists and drivers while traveling along the trail is a concern.
- Vandalism occurs on park interpretive signs.
- Safety around abandoned, deteriorating buildings at the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site may be an issue.
- Urban crime.

The Selma to Montgomery NHT has had no visitor safety accidents or incidents (NPS 2006b). Trail staff and partners regularly inspect visitation areas to identify hazards to visitors. Once identified, trail staff removes hazards or make appropriate repairs. Busy streets along the trail pose a safety concern for pedestrian, cyclists and drivers along the trail.

Capitol police force patrols state and federal properties located throughout the city. Vandalism occurs on park interpretive signs and typical urban crime occurs throughout the city.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: ASU's police force works 24 hours a day, in three shifts and protects the campus and observes nearby property. Municipal police routinely patrol the campus and provide extra reinforcement for densely populated areas. State trooper protection is readily available on call to protect areas near State property, including the ASU property.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The Montgomery Police Department's Community Policing Division is located two minutes from the former Durr Drug site. Police are often present in the vicinity of this site due to the close proximity of the George Washington Carver School and St. Jude School, which contribute a consistent flow of children and parents at these facilities each day.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: Currently the Federal Weed and Seed initiative employs a comprehensive, multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention and community revitalization in the area surrounding the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church. The Weed and Seed program aims to prevent, control and reduce violent crime, drug abuse and gang related activity in this high-crime neighborhood. Currently the area is subject to constant police bicycle patrol.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site is also located within close proximity to the Montgomery Police Department's Community Police Division. Police are often present in the vicinity of this site due to the close proximity of the George Washington Carver School and St. Jude School, which contribute a consistent flow of children and parents at these facilities each day, as well as the activities associated with shopping at this retail site.

3.6 ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND CONSERVATION

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: The ASU site is a vacant lot and currently requires no energy.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The former Durr Drug site has an office building with a business operating inside, requiring electricity for heating, cooling, lighting and operating.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site has two vacant structures not consuming energy. The church is closed at this time but electricity may be used occasionally for renovation activities at the site.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza strip mall uses energy to heat, cool, light and operate the seven stores.

3.7 INFRASTRUCTURE

Utilities

Infrastructure for utilities, including electric, gas, water, storm and sewer, are present at each of the proposed alternative sites. Within the city of Montgomery electricity at any of the four sites is provided by Alabama Power Company, Central Alabama Electric Cooperative or Dixie Electric Cooperative. Alabama Gas Corporation provides natural gas and either Montgomery Water Works and Sanitary Sewer Board or Montgomery Sanitation Department provides water and sewage services.

Haul Route

The North Montgomery Sanitary Landfill, located in Montgomery at 115 Division Street, accepts construction and demolition waste, but no hazardous materials (City of Montgomery 2008b). The landfill is located approximately 4.0 miles from the St. Jude Fairview and former Durr Drug sites and six miles from the ASU site. There is currently no direct connection to the interstate from the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site. The majority of the proposed haul route for the demolition sites is on interstate and state highways.

3.8 HAZARDOUS, TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

The buildings or structures proposed for demolition have the potential to contain hazardous materials such as asbestos or lead paint. Common contaminants that may be present include asbestos-containing materials, lead paint, mercury-containing fluorescent light tubes, switches and thermostats, equipment and light ballasts containing PCBs, batteries, or other potentially hazardous debris.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: The concrete slabs, stairways, and sidewalks leading to the former demolished homes may contain hazardous, toxic, or radioactive substances.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The former Durr Drug building was built in the late 1950s. A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed in 2005 (NPS 2008b). The report notes there is a strong possibility that hazardous materials, including asbestos and lead paint are present.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: No hazardous, toxic or radioactive substances are known to occur on the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site. However, the age of the building to be demolished is unknown and asbestos and lead paint may be present on the site.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The St. Jude Fairview Plaza buildings predate bans on asbestos and lead paint (NPS 2008b). Also, a gas station exists on the site, so it is likely that hazardous materials associated with the gas station are present on the site.

3.9 VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

Currently, the visitor use and experience for the Selma to Montgomery NHT involves driving the route of the historic Voting Rights March, stopping to read wayside exhibits along the route, and visiting the Lowndes County Interpretive Center at the midpoint of the trail in Hayneville, Alabama.

The Lowndes County Interpretive Center opened in August, 2006 and is open year round from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. It is closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. No entrance fee is charged for the Interpretive Center. Interpretive programs are offered at the center throughout the year, and Park Rangers make every effort to accommodate all visitors to the center. The center is American Disability Act (ADA) accessible: there are wheelchair accessible bathrooms and wheelchairs are available to visitors free of charge. For the hearing

impaired, the center has films with open captions, amplification systems and an assistive listening system for Ranger-led tours. Restrooms in the center are labeled with tactile images and Braille to assist vision impaired individuals. In 2009, 16,000 visitors came to the Lowndes Interpretive Center. A total of 12,000 visitors watched the park film and 800 students participated in education programs.

In an economic impact study of the trail, the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel and the Auburn University Montgomery Center predicted between 185,000 and 370,000 visitors annually from 2005 to 2010 (NPS 2005a). There are a number of other sites in Montgomery that tourists might visit in addition to the trail, including the Rosa Parks Museum, Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church & parsonage, Alabama State Capitol and the Civil Rights Monument.

Currently, no visitor experience is available at any of the proposed sites.

3.10 PARK OPERATIONS

Existing conditions related to park operations and administration associated with the Selma to Montgomery NHT, is operated out of the Lowndes County Interpretive Center in Hayneville, Alabama, at the trail's midpoint. The center is managed by the NPS in conjunction with the ADOT. The Selma to Montgomery NHT currently has three permanent employees based at the Lowndes County Interpretive Center, consisting of the site manager, one park ranger, one permanent park guide, plus one temporary park guide.

At the Lowndes County Interpretive Center, NPS staff currently provide program oversight, operate the visitor center, and provide interpretive/education programs. Partners can provide additional staff. The park superintendent and administrative staff stationed at Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site provide guidance and support services. At the Lowndes County Interpretive Center, volunteers play a vital role in performing duties such as tour guides, front desk assistant, maintenance, research, including special events.

Current NPS responsibilities at the Lowndes County Interpretive Center include:

- Provide visitor services, including visitor contact information, ranger lead programs, exhibits, audio visual presentations, junior ranger program, and special events in addition to providing a venue for meetings through Special Use Permits.
- Establish regular operating hours for the Visitor Contact/Interpretive area.
- Open the Building and the Exhibit Area to receive visitors and close/secure the Exhibit Area at the end of scheduled operating hours
- Apply for permission or permits for public meetings or special events in accordance with mutual obligations with ADOT.
- Responsible for day-to-day maintenance and repairs of exhibits and exterior wayside exhibits
- Provide alarm system for Exhibit Area
- Provide housekeeping services to the Exhibit Area

- Where appropriate, include the Lowndes Interpretive Center in pertinent Literature and interpretive material produced by NPS or by others acting for or on behalf of the NPS
- Through the services of Eastern National, operate and maintain a bookstore within the building.

Current ADOT responsibilities at the Lowndes County Interpretive Center include:

- Provide the NPS access to the Interpretive Center.
- Provide for public access to all public portions of the Interpretive Center site.
- Provide for day-to-day maintenance of the building, including the Rest Area Space, grounds, parking lot, access roads and all structures within the Lowndes Interpretive Center, to assure clean and safe conditions, including providing a maintenance man to respond to maintenance needs during NPS operating hours.
- Provide for preventive maintenance and repair of all Lowndes Interpretive Center site mechanical systems
- Provide electric, water, and gas utilities associated with the operation of the Lowndes Interpretive Center
- Grant to the NPS the right to review and make suggestions regarding any furnishings of public areas of the Lowndes Interpretive Center
- Have the site identified as a unit of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail as well as cooperate with the NPS in developing appropriate markers, signs, and exhibits.
- Maintain complete and accurate records of the exhibits at the Lowndes Interpretive Center and NPS personal property in its possession
- Construct and maintain improvements to the Lowndes Interpretive Center after prior consultation with NPS
- Provide fire protection systems for the building and security gates for the grounds of the Lowndes Interpretive
- Provide the NPS parking for operational vehicles and employee parking in the location with reasonable access to the Interpretive Center.
- Preserve the Tent City Site and consult NPS before undertaking any activity that will affect the site.

NPS does not currently own or operate any of the four proposed site locations. NPS would be fully responsible for the operations of the Interpretive Center at the Former Durr Drug site and the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site. At the ASU and Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church sites, partnerships would be available to support NPS in the operations of the Interpretive Center.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

4.1 CHAPTER OVERVIEW

NEPA requires the disclosure of environmental impacts associated with the alternatives including the No Action Alternative. This section presents the environmental impacts of the Preferred Alternative, three other action alternatives, and the No Action Alternative on physical resources, natural resources, cultural resources, human environment, visitor use and experience, and park operations. These analyses provide the basis for comparing the effects of the alternatives. NEPA requires consideration of context, intensity and duration of impacts, indirect impacts, cumulative impacts, and measures to mitigate for impacts. NPS policy also requires that “impairment” of resources be evaluated in all environmental documents.

Chapter 4 describes and analyzes potential environmental effects on the physical, natural and human environment associated with the alternatives. In addition, cumulative impacts, as defined in regulations developed by the CEQ (CFR Title 40, Section 1508.7) are discussed throughout this chapter for each resource.

4.1.1 Statutory Requirements

Primary laws and guidance documents that guided the development of this EA are:

- National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1-4, et seq.) – Created by the NPS to promote and regulate the use of national parks, monuments, and reservations, by such means and measures as to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the land in such manner as would leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.
- The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 as amended (16 U.S.C. 470) – To protect and preserve historic districts, sites and structures, and archeological, architectural and cultural resources. Section 106 and Section 110 (36 CFR 800), respectively, require consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and that NPS nominate all eligible resources under its jurisdiction to the NRHP.
- The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 – Public Law 91-190 establishes a broad national policy to improve the relationship between humans and their environment and outlines policies and goals to ensure that environmental considerations are given careful attention and appropriate weight in all decisions of the federal government. This legislation requires and guides the preparation of this EA.
- National Park Service Regulations and Policies – Actions proposed in this document are subject to the NPS *Director’s Order #28 (Cultural Resource Management)*, *DO #2 (Park Planning)*, *DO #12 (Conservation Planning, Environmental Impact Analysis, and Decision-making)*, and *DO #77 (Natural Resource Protection)*. Actions are also subject to the service-wide policy document, *Management Policies* (NPS 2006a).

- The National Trails System Act of 1968 established a network of scenic, historic, and recreation trails that provide for outdoor recreation needs, promote the enjoyment, appreciation, and preservation of open-air, outdoor areas and historic resources, and encourage public access and citizen involvement. Those national trails that are part of the national park system are subject to NPS Management Policies 2006 (NPS 2006a).

4.1.2 Methods for Evaluating Environmental Effects

The method of analysis of potential effects is based on the *DO #12 Handbook* [sec 5.4(f)]. Four categories of effects are considered: direct effects, indirect effects, cumulative effects and impairment. The context, duration, and intensity of the impacts must also be defined. Impacts can be long-term, or short-term. Impacts can also be negligible, beneficial or adverse. Intensity of effects and thresholds of significance are defined only for adverse effects. Intensity can be minor, moderate or major. Terms are further defined in Sections 4.1.2.1 and 4.1.2.2.

Where quantitative data were not available, best professional judgment was used to determine impacts. In general, the thresholds used come from existing literature, consultation with subject experts, and appropriate agencies.

To analyze impacts, methods were selected to predict the potential change in park resources that would occur with the implementation of the alternatives. Evaluation factors were established for each impact topic to assess the changes in resource conditions with each alternative. The study area was defined to include resources on and in the immediate vicinity of the four sites being analyzed for construction of the Selma to Montgomery NHT Montgomery Interpretive Center.

4.1.2.1 Impact Categories

Three impact categories are used in this analysis and defined below.

Direct Effects – Direct effects are impacts that are caused by the alternative at the same time and in the same place as the action.

Indirect Effects – Indirect effects are impacts caused by the alternative that occur later in time or farther in distance than the action.

Impairment – The *NPS Management Policies, 2006* requires an analysis of potential effects to determine whether or not actions would impair park resources. The primary purpose of the NPS, as established by the Organic Act and reaffirmed by the General Authorities Act, as amended, is to conserve park resources and values. Impacts to park resources and values are allowed when necessary and appropriate to fulfill the purposes of a park, as long as the impact does not constitute impairment of the affected resources and values. Impairment is an impact that would harm the integrity of park resources or values, including the opportunities that otherwise would be present for the enjoyment of those resources or values.

NPS Management Policies conducted an analysis to determine whether the magnitude of impacts identified for specific impact topics reached the level of “impairment,” as defined. An impact

would be more likely to constitute impairment to the extent that it affects a resource or value whose conservation is:

- Necessary to fulfill specific purposes identified in the establishing legislation or proclamation of the park; or
- Key to the natural or cultural integrity of the park or to opportunities for enjoyment of the park; or
- Identified as a goal in the park's general management plan or other relevant NPS planning documents.

An impact would be less likely to constitute impairment if it is an unavoidable result of an action necessary to preserve or restore the integrity of park resources or values and it cannot be further mitigated.

An impact that may, but would not necessarily, lead to impairment may result from visitor activities; NPS administrative activities; or activities undertaken by concessionaires, contractors, and others operating in the park. Impairment may also result from sources or activities outside the park (NPS 2006a). Topics such as socioeconomics, environmental justice, recreation, aesthetics, public health and safety, infrastructure, energy requirements and conservation, hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances, visitor use and experience, and park operations do not constitute park resources and therefore, impairment is not analyzed for these topics.

Cumulative Impacts – A cumulative impact is the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of who undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Some of the actions analyzed under cumulative impacts may be found in Section 1.8 of this EA.

4.1.2.2 Impact Definitions

Each potential impact is described in terms of its context (site-specific, local, or regional), duration (short-term or long-term), and intensity (negligible, beneficial or adverse). If the impact is adverse, the intensity of the impact is further qualified as minor, moderate, or major. For the purposes of analysis, the following definitions, unless stated otherwise, are used for all impact topics:

Duration

Short-term impacts: Impacts that might occur during the demolition and construction phases of the Interpretive Center or in the short-term (1 to 6 months) after construction.

Long-term impacts: Those impacts occurring from the demolition, construction and operation phases of the Interpretive Center through the next 10 years.

Intensity

Negligible: Impacts would have no measurable or perceptible changes to the resource. If the impact is negligible, the impact will not be further qualified.

Beneficial: A positive change in the condition or appearance of the resource or a change that moves the resource toward a desired condition. Impacts would range from perceptible to substantial improvement to the resource and would enhance the viability of the resource, in either the localized area or the surrounding community and beyond.

Adverse: Impacts would move the resource away from a desired condition or detract from its appearance or condition.

Minor Impacts would be measurable or perceptible but would be localized within a relatively small area. The overall viability of the resource would not be affected and, if left alone, would recover.

Moderate Impacts would cause a change in the resource; however, the impact would remain localized.

Major Impacts to the resource would be substantial, highly noticeable, and permanent.

4.2 PHYSICAL RESOURCES

This section discusses the impacts of the alternatives including the No Action Alternative on the physical environment, including soils, air quality, and noise.

4.2.1 Soils

Common to all Action Alternatives: The demolition of buildings and/or construction of the Interpretive Center along with its access road, sidewalk, curbs and parking area would require the use of heavy equipment, which would cause compaction and displacement of soils. The potential for soil migration off site would be minimized through the use of sediment and erosion control measures as required by applicable local regulations. There would be short-term, minor adverse impacts to soils on all the alternative sites due to disturbance of soils during demolition or construction activities.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: At the ASU site, the construction footprint of the Interpretive Center and parking area cover the majority of the 5.1 acre site; therefore, it is anticipated that the entire project area would be disturbed with this alternative and have short-term, minor adverse impacts to soils (Figure 2-2). In addition, the remaining concrete slabs, sidewalks, and stairways to the former homes would be demolished and removed. The Alabama Department of Environmental Management program establishes permitting requirements for construction sites disturbing more than one acre of land. The NPS would be required to develop and implement construction site erosion and sediment control and storm water management plans. The NPS would also be required to obtain a general NPDES permit from the state.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: An existing building planned for renovation covers about one tenth of the 5.8 acre site (Figure 2-3). The building would be renovated for use as the Interpretive Center, so the soils under that building would not be disturbed. Demolition of the warehouse and construction of the parking area is expected to disturb several acres and have short-term, minor adverse impacts to soils at this site. The NPS would be required to develop and implement construction site erosion and sediment control and storm water management plans. The NPS would also be required to obtain a general NPDES permit from the state.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The 2.5 acre site contains a church, which is not included in the proposed action (Figure 2-4). Most of the remainder of the site would be disturbed by demolition of the building next to the church for construction of the Interpretive Center and parking area. Approximately 2.0 acres of soil would be disturbed with this alternative, resulting in short-term, minor adverse impacts to soils at this site. The NPS would be required to develop and implement construction site erosion and sediment control and storm water management plans. The NPS would also be required to obtain a general NPDES permit from the state.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: At the 10.0 acre site, approximately one half of the land is developed, including an existing parking area, strip mall, and other buildings that are proposed for demolition (Figure 2-5). Due to demolition of the existing buildings and parking area, several acres of soil would be disturbed with this alternative, resulting in short-term, minor adverse impacts to soils at this location. The NPS would be required to develop and implement construction site erosion and sediment control and storm water management plans. The NPS would also be required to obtain a general NPDES permit from the state.

No Action Alternative: With the No Action Alternative, the Montgomery Interpretive Center would not be constructed. Construction for the Interpretive Center would not occur; therefore, no soils would be impacted by this alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: Each of the alternative sites is located in an urban area and have previously been developed, consequently causing previous soil disturbance. The proposed construction and demolition, when added to the previous disturbance, would cause direct, short-term, minor adverse impacts to soils.

Conclusion: The proposed project would result in direct, short-term, minor adverse impacts to soils during construction and demolition regardless of the alternative. The potential for erosion

would be minimized through the use of sediment control measures. There would be no long-term impacts to soils due to previous disturbance of soils at the proposed alternative site locations. The No Action alternative would not impact soils. None of the alternatives would cause impairment to park resources.

4.2.2 Air Quality

Common to all Action Alternatives: During the demolition and/or construction phase, the operation of heavy equipment would generate some criteria pollutant emissions, including CO, NO_x, and PM₁₀. However, these emissions would be minimal since the proposed activities are temporary. Short-term fugitive dust emissions would be generated from demolition of buildings and land disturbing activities. The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site has the greatest number of buildings proposed for demolition in addition to a parking lot proposed for removal, so impacts to air quality would be expected to be greater at this site than the other alternative sites. Overall, the impacts to air quality in the City of Montgomery would be short-term, minor and adverse. Even though the impacts to air quality are expected to be greater at the St. Jude Fairview Plaza from the proposed demolition activities these short-term adverse impacts are also anticipated to be minor.

Minor, long-term adverse impacts to air quality would occur during operation of the Interpretive Center from stationary sources, including air conditioning and heating units as well as an increase in car/bus emissions due to visitor use. However, the City of Montgomery is currently in attainment with USEPA air quality standards for all six criteria pollutants (USEPA 2008a).

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the Interpretive Center would not be built, and no construction would occur; therefore, there would be no increase in air quality pollutants and no impact to the air quality of the City of Montgomery.

Cumulative Impacts: Other construction projects may be occurring at the same time as the proposed project, including construction of buildings on the ASU campus, renovation of the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, renovation of the George Washington Carver School and various other projects within the City of Montgomery. When the impacts of other construction projects are added to the impacts of the proposed project, cumulative impact to air quality are expected to be short-term, minor and adverse.

Conclusion: Demolition of the existing buildings and construction of the proposed Interpretive Center would result in direct, short-term, minor adverse impacts to air quality during construction. Operation of the Interpretive Center would have direct, long-term, minor adverse impacts to air quality. Cumulative impacts to air quality from the proposed project and other projects in the area would result from construction activities and would be short-term, minor and adverse. The No Action alternative would not impact air quality. None of the alternatives would cause impairment to park resources.

4.2.3 Noise

Common to all Action Alternatives: The demolition of buildings and/or construction of the Interpretive Center would create short-term, minor adverse impacts on noise regardless of the alternative. Construction and/or demolition activity noise may impact the people living or working in the nearby area. However, noise impacts would last only for the duration of the construction and demolition activities.

Vibration of the ground due to the operation of construction and demolition equipment would also occur. Impacts to people in the surrounding areas due to vibration would be short-term, minor and adverse. In these urban sites, temporary noise and vibration from construction or demolition activities would be expected.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site and Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: Operation of the Interpretive Center would generate some noise associated with visitor traffic and other visitor use of the facility. The increase in car and bus traffic on the local roads would create long-term, minor, impacts to noise in the area.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site and Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: Operation of the Interpretive Center would generate some noise associated with visitor traffic and other visitor use of the facility, but since the sites for Alternative 2 and 4 are located along a busy road and already experience commercial types of use, the proposed action would not be expected to change noise levels at the sites. Therefore, negligible impacts to noise are anticipated.

No Action Alternative: With the No Action Alternative, buildings would not be demolished and the Interpretive Center would not be constructed. Therefore, no construction noise or vibration would be generated, and there would be no noise from operation of the proposed Interpretive Center. No impacts to noise would be expected with this alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: Noise and vibration would be generated from other construction projects in the alternative project areas, such as construction of buildings on the ASU campus, renovation of the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, renovation of the George Washington Carver School and potentially from other projects in the Montgomery area. Noise and vibration generated by construction of the proposed project would contribute to the noise and vibration generated by other construction projects and to the general noises of the urban area, including interstate highway and local traffic noise. Cumulative impacts for noise and vibration are expected to be short-term, minor and adverse.

Conclusion: The proposed project would result in direct, short-term, minor adverse impacts to noise and vibration during demolition of buildings and construction of the Interpretive Center regardless of the alternative. After construction, operation of the Interpretive Center would likely result in noise levels similar to current levels for Alternatives 2 and 4, resulting in negligible impacts. A minor increase in noise levels associated with the increase in traffic is

expected for Alternatives 1 and 3. The No Action Alternative would result in no additional noise or vibration impacts. None of the alternatives would cause impairment to park resources.

4.3 NATURAL RESOURCES

This section discusses the impacts of the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, on natural resources including vegetation and wildlife.

4.3.1 Vegetation

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: Several acres of existing vegetation (mowed lawn and trees) would be removed as a result of the proposed project. The majority of the 5.0-acre site would be covered with impervious surfaces for the Interpretive Center and its associated parking area. There would be direct, long-term, adverse impacts to vegetation at this site from the proposed project. Long-term impacts are expected to be minor considering the vegetation being removed would be mostly low quality lawn grass. Areas with exposed soils after construction would be re-planted with higher quality shrubs and trees.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: Most of the construction footprint currently contains existing buildings, so only a small amount of vegetation (mowed grass and shrubs) would be disturbed with this alternative during construction. Landscaping planned for the Interpretive Center would increase the amount of vegetation that is currently at the site; therefore, there would be a long-term, beneficial impact to vegetation with this alternative due to a net gain of vegetated areas at this site.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: Approximately 2.0 acres of vegetation (mowed grass and trees) would be cleared for the footprint of the 15,000 square foot Interpretive Center and its associated parking area. There would be direct long-term, minor, adverse impacts to vegetation resulting from the proposed action for this alternative. Adverse impacts to vegetation would be minor since the vegetation removed would be low quality lawn grasses. After construction, higher quality shrubs and trees would be planted.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: Approximately one third of the 10-acre site is covered with mowed lawn which would not be impacted by the proposed project. The rest of the site contains buildings or pavement. The demolition and construction activities would be contained within the non-vegetated areas of the site. Landscaping planned for the Interpretive Center would increase the amount of vegetation that is currently at the site, resulting in long-term, beneficial impacts to vegetation due to a net gain of vegetated areas at this site.

No Action Alternative: If the proposed project were not implemented, the Interpretive Center would not be constructed, and no vegetation would be disturbed or impacted. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no impacts on vegetation.

Cumulative Impacts: In combination with other construction projects in the project area, including construction of buildings on the ASU campus, Alternatives 1 (ASU site) and 3 (Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site) would contribute to cumulative long-term, minor, adverse

impacts due to the net loss of vegetation. For Alternatives 2 (former Durr Drug site) and 4 (St. Jude Fairview Plaza site), long-term impacts to vegetation will be beneficial due to net gain in vegetation.

Conclusion: The proposed action would have direct, long-term, minor, adverse impacts to vegetation at Alternative 1 (ASU site) and Alternative 3 (Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site). There would be long-term, beneficial impacts to vegetation at Alternative 2 (former Durr Drug site) and Alternative 4 (St. Jude Fairview Plaza site) due to a net gain in vegetated areas. There would be no impacts to vegetation with the No Action Alternative. Cumulative impacts to vegetation would be long-term, minor and adverse at Alternative 1 (ASU site) and Alternative 3 (Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site), and beneficial at Alternative 2 (former Durr Drug site) and Alternative 4 (St. Jude Fairview Plaza site). None of the alternatives would cause impairment to park resources.

4.3.2 Wildlife

Common to all Action Alternatives: Demolition of buildings and construction of the new Interpretive Center would cause noise and disturbance that would have short-term, minor, adverse impacts on wildlife at the alternative site locations.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: A few acres of limited wildlife habitat (mowed lawn and some trees) would be removed with the proposed project. The majority of the site would be paved for the Interpretive Center and its associated parking area, thereby eliminating available habitat. There would be long-term, minor adverse impacts to wildlife due to the loss of habitat from the proposed project at this site.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: Most of the construction footprint currently contains existing buildings, so only a small amount of wildlife habitat (mowed grass and shrubs) is currently available. After construction of the Interpretive Center, exposed soil would be planted with shrubs and trees which would provide new habitat for wildlife. Once landscaping is complete, there would be long-term, beneficial impacts to wildlife due to a net gain of vegetated wildlife habitat areas at this site.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: Approximately 2.0 acres of wildlife habitat (mowed grass and trees) would be cleared for the footprint of the 15,000 square foot Interpretive Center and its associated parking area. There would be long-term, minor adverse impacts to wildlife due to loss of wildlife habitat resulting from the proposed action for this alternative.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: No wildlife habitat is proposed to be impacted by this alternative. Demolition and construction activities would be contained within the non-vegetated areas of the site. After construction of the Interpretive Center, exposed soil would be planted with shrubs and trees which would provide new habitat for wildlife. Once landscaping is complete, there would be long-term, minor, beneficial impacts to wildlife with this alternative due to a net gain of vegetated wildlife habitat at this site.

No Action Alternative: If the proposed action were not implemented, buildings would not be demolished and the Interpretive Center would not be constructed. No wildlife habitat would be removed and no demolition or construction noise or disturbance would be created on the alternative locations. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no impact on wildlife.

Cumulative Impacts: When combined with other construction and redevelopment projects in the surrounding area, Alternatives 1 (ASU site) and 3 (Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site) would contribute to long-term, adverse, minor impacts on wildlife due to the loss of habitat. There are no cumulative long term adverse impacts to wildlife expected for Alternatives 2 (former Durr Drug site) and 4 (St. Jude Fairview Plaza site). Instead, cumulative benefits to wildlife would occur from these alternatives from the increase of wildlife habitat at these locations.

Conclusion: The proposed action would have direct, short-term, minor adverse impacts to wildlife due to noise and disturbance associated with demolition and construction activities. The proposed action would have indirect, long-term, minor adverse impacts to wildlife at Alternatives 1 (ASU site) and 3 (Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site) due to loss of habitat. There would be long-term, beneficial impacts to wildlife at Alternatives 2 (former Durr Drug site) and 4 (St. Jude Fairview Plaza site) from an increase of available wildlife habitat at these sites. There would be no impacts to wildlife with the No Action Alternative. None of the alternatives would cause impairment to park resources.

4.4 CULTURAL RESOURCES

For the evaluation of cultural resources, the APE is defined as the construction area and all properties located within the viewshed immediately surrounding the project area.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: There would be no short-term or long-term adverse impacts to historic resources under this alternative. The proposed site has received extensive disturbance in the past, including the disturbance from both the initial construction and subsequent demolition of homes. There are no extant structures within the project area. Surrounding the area is primarily modern construction: a parking lot, modern educational facilities, and a vacant lot. Historic resources within the view shed of the project area are the Nat King Cole House and an early-twentieth century bungalow. However, since the surrounding environment is already compromised due to modern construction and neither demolition nor alterations are planned for the houses, no long-term adverse impacts are anticipated. There are no recorded archaeological sites, NRHP listed resources, or Native American sacred or religious sites in the alternative.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: There would be no short-term or long-term adverse impacts to any historic resources under this alternative as there are no historic resources within the project area. Two historic resources are located within the view shed of the project area, George Washington Carver High School and the City of St. Jude National Register Historic District. Montgomery Public Schools plans to demolish the 1948 school building upon the completion of the construction of a new school building; therefore the Interpretive Center would have no impact upon the view shed surrounding the school. The viewshed surrounding the City of St. Jude National Register Historic District, located directly across the street, has already been

compromised due to modern commercial development that has occurred around it. There are no recorded archaeological sites or Native American sacred or religious sites in the alternative. Areas of proposed construction have previously been impacted by construction, and hence have no potential to contain intact archaeological sites. Therefore, no long-term adverse impacts are anticipated.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: This alternative proposes that the Interpretive Center would be constructed upon the same lot as the Mount Zion A.M.E. Church. However, the church building would not be demolished or altered. This alternative does propose that the two other historic structures in the project area -- the two-story concrete block building next to the church and the dilapidated one-story commercial building -- be demolished. Since these structures are not previously documented, they would need to be assessed by the Alabama SHPO to determine the significance of the buildings before construction proceeds in order to avoid potential long-term adverse impacts.

In addition to the historic structures themselves, the character and feeling of the neighborhood also should be taken into consideration. The neighborhood is historically an African-American neighborhood with both residential and small-scale commercial structures. While the view shed of the neighborhood has been impacted by Interstate 85, the overall feeling and association of the neighborhood remains. A large-scale Interpretive Center may not be compatible with the church building nor with the nature of the neighborhood, which would be considered a long-term, moderate, adverse impact to a potential historic district. Therefore, if this alternative is selected, it is recommended that the Alabama SHPO be consulted during the development and planning phases in order to ensure the center will be compatible in scale and design with the church as well as with the character of the surrounding neighborhood.

There are no recorded archaeological sites or Native American sacred or religious sites in the alternative. Areas of proposed construction have previously been impacted by construction, and hence have no potential to contain intact archaeological sites.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: There would be no short-term or long-term adverse impacts to any historic resources at this alternative as there are no historic resources within the project area. There are no recorded archaeological sites or Native American sacred or religious sites in the alternative. Areas of proposed construction have previously been impacted by construction, and hence have no potential to contain intact archaeological sites. The historic resources located within the viewshed of the project area are George Washington Carver High School, the Alexander Street residences, and the City of St. Jude National Register Historic District. Montgomery Public Schools plans to demolish the school building upon the completion of the construction of a new school building; therefore the Interpretive Center would have no impact upon the viewshed surrounding the school. Alexander Street, located directly to the north of the project area, contains several historic residences and a community church. The structures along the street would need to be evaluated by the Alabama SHPO in order to determine significance. The viewshed of Alexander Street has already been comprised by the shopping center and, therefore, the center would not have a long-term adverse impact. The view shed surrounding the City of St. Jude National Register Historic District, located directly across the

street, has already been compromised due to modern commercial development that has already occurred around it. Therefore, no long-term adverse impacts are anticipated.

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would mean the Montgomery Interpretive Center would not be constructed. If the center is not constructed, then there would be no potential impact upon any cultural resources.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts to cultural resources are anticipated at any of the alternative locations.

Conclusions: There would be no long-term adverse impact for Alternatives 1, 2, and 4 since there are no historic resources located within the project area and the setting has already been impacted by modern development. Long-term, moderate, adverse impacts to the potential historic district in Alternative 3 may occur. Alternative 3 requires additional consultation with the Alabama SHPO in order to avoid adverse impacts due to the demolition of historic structures and to ensure compatibility with Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church and the neighborhood. During construction activities at any site, if archaeological resources are identified, construction would immediately cease and the SHPO would be contacted. The No Action Alternative would create no impact upon any historic resources. No cumulative impacts are anticipated. None of the alternatives would cause impairment to park resources.

4.5 HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

This section discusses the impacts of the four Action Alternatives and the No Action Alternative on the human environment including socioeconomics; environmental justice; land use; recreational resources; aesthetics; and public health and safety.

4.5.1 Socioeconomics

Common to All Action Alternatives: The proposed construction of the Montgomery Interpretive Center would create some short-term demolition and/or construction jobs. With roughly 15.7 percent of the population in the city of Montgomery currently working in construction, extraction and maintenance occupations, these workers would be able to offer their expertise to the demolition and construction projects at any of the four sites. Additionally, within the four census tracts, the median age ranges from 21.5 to 38.5 years old, with a low percent of the population currently in the work force. These statistics indicate that there is a young workforce that would benefit from the jobs created from short-term demolition and construction jobs. Therefore, the proposed project would have short-term, beneficial impacts to socioeconomics in terms of employment.

In terms of educational opportunities, the implementation of the Montgomery Interpretive Center would create long-term, beneficial impacts and improve the quality of life in the downtown Montgomery area by providing exhibits and programs to educate visitors and the local community about the history of the 1965 Voting Rights March and the culture of that era.

Opportunities for partnering with local groups and citizens would also occur regardless of the

alternative. It is estimated that the Montgomery Interpretive Center would contribute to local businesses and the economy by attracting more visitors to the area. The Montgomery Interpretive Center potentially being located in the largest city along the trail is expected to have the highest numbers of visitors of the three Interpretive Centers. The location chosen to support the center as an attraction would provide social and economic incentives for further development in the area. It is expected that the infrastructure to support a facility at any of the four proposed locations would be exponential. The location of the Interpretive Center in any of these four proposed locations would be a positive addition for both public and private enterprises. There is the potential for the development of local businesses (i.e. restaurants), if demand warranted such.

Therefore, in terms of potential further development and subsequent employment opportunities, all the proposed Action Alternative locations would result in long-term beneficial impacts to socioeconomics.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: During the demolition and construction phase, construction work zones have the potential to cause inconveniences to local business patrons in the vicinity of ASU. Impacts to these local businesses are expected to be negligible, since the site is within the ASU campus. There are relatively few local businesses that may be affected by the construction work zones.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: During the demolition and construction phase, construction work zones have the potential to cause inconveniences to local business patrons, resulting in short-term, adverse impacts as a result of the proposed project. However, adverse impacts to nearby businesses would be expected to be negligible. This site has some existing businesses and employees, but the purchase price of this site includes lease buy-outs and relocation of the existing businesses. Therefore, no jobs would be lost with this alternative. However, it is undetermined if businesses would thrive in future new locations, therefore there is potential for long-term, minor, adverse impacts.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The demolition and construction phase of the project would have negligible impacts to socioeconomics since there are relatively few businesses located near the construction zone. The City of Montgomery, Department of Planning and Development's proposal for an Interpretive Community Project would be anchored by the development of the proposed Interpretive Center at this location.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: During the demolition and construction phase, construction work zones have the potential to cause inconveniences to local business patrons, resulting in short-term, adverse impacts as a result of the proposed project. This site has seven small businesses with employees. It is unknown whether these businesses would relocate if the buildings were closed and then demolished for construction of the Interpretive Center. If the businesses do not relocate, employees could lose their jobs when the leases are bought. Therefore, this alternative could result in long-term, moderate adverse impacts to employees and local businesses.

No Action Alternative: There would be any impact to the local economy from a short-term increase in employment during construction. In addition there would be no long-term additional

educational opportunities for the local community since the Interpretive Center would not be built. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would result no impacts on the local community.

Cumulative Impacts: Other local construction projects such as new buildings on the ASU campus when combined with the proposed project, would contribute to the short-term, beneficial impacts to socioeconomics due to creation of temporary construction jobs. Long-term beneficial impacts to the local economy would result from the proposed project in combination with the Lowndes County Interpretive Center and the Selma Interpretive Center all of which would attract more visitors to the Selma/Montgomery area and potentially increase economic development associated with tourism in the area. Additionally, learning opportunities from these Interpretive Centers would enhance the education of local residents. Considering all contributing factors, the impact of the proposed project to socioeconomic issues in Montgomery is expected to be long-term and beneficial.

Conclusion: All the Action Alternatives would result in short- and long- term beneficial impacts to socioeconomics. Negligible impacts to local businesses are anticipated during the construction activities for Alternatives 1 and 3. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to local businesses during this period are expected for Alternatives 2 and 4. The potential loss of jobs at the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site and former Durr Drug site would result in long-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts to socioeconomics. There would be no impact to the local economy under the No Action Alternative. Cumulative impacts from this and other projects are expected to be long-term and beneficial.

4.5.2 Environmental Justice

Common to all Action Alternatives: The census tract data shows the proposed alternative sites all have very high percentages of minorities, low median household incomes, and relatively high percentages of individuals living below the poverty level. The Montgomery Interpretive Center is expected to benefit the local community by providing short-term construction jobs, and possibly creating a small number of long-term jobs. The proximity of the Interpretive Center to a number of educational institutions, including County of Montgomery Public Schools would also provide educational benefits for residents and visitors by interpreting the story of the 1965 Voting Rights March and the events associated with the Civil Rights and Voting Rights movements in a community where so much of the history occurred. The proposed project would have short- and long-term beneficial impacts to minority and low-income populations. Additional beneficial impacts at the ASU site and Mt. Zion A.M.E. church are discussed below.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: ASU, a minority college, proposes to supplement NPS staffing at the Interpretive Center by offering internships to students from the History and Political Science Department and the College of Business Administrations (ASU undated). While ASU students, facility and staff would be utilized to fill the majority of employment and volunteer positions supplemental to NPS staff, the impacts at this site would be long-term and beneficial to ASU students due to the additional educational resources and job/internship/volunteer opportunities offered at the Interpretive Center. While these jobs/internships have the potential to reach minority and low-income students on scholarship at the University, the volunteer positions would also be available to the low-income, minority

populations in the surrounding area, therefore creating long-term, beneficial impacts to environmental justice.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The City of Montgomery, Department of Planning and Development's proposal for Interpretive Community Project aims to revitalize the neighborhood, which was previously impacted by the building of Interstate-85. The Interpretive Community Project would be anchored by the development of the proposed Interpretive Center at this location. The project would be supported by a revitalized retail/commercial district and residential (owner-occupied and rental housing) units incorporated throughout the area, using innovative, mixed-use "new urbanism" designs and Smart Code provisions (CMDPD undated). This project would provide an opportunity to mitigate the impacts this thriving community experienced due to the construction of Interstate freeway and would provide long-term benefits to the minority and low income populations in this area.

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would have no impact to environmental justice. The proposed Interpretive Center would not be created and there would be no jobs created, no neighborhood revitalization and no new educational opportunities for low-income or minority populations.

Cumulative Impacts: The proposed project, in conjunction with other construction projects in the area would have short-term, beneficial cumulative impacts based on the creation of construction jobs. Additionally, educational opportunities when combined with other educational opportunities offered at the current Lowndes County Interpretive Center and the proposed Selma Interpretive Center would have a long-term, beneficial impacts.

Conclusion: There would be indirect, long-term beneficial impacts to minority and low-income populations regardless of the alternative due to the creation of jobs, educational opportunities and the potential for community revitalization as a result of the proposed project. The No Action Alternative would have no impact to environmental justice. Cumulative impacts would be direct, and indirect, short- and long-term and beneficial.

4.5.3 Land Use

Common to all Action Alternatives: Development within urban areas is considered good land use planning, as opposed to developing natural or undisturbed areas. All the alternative sites are located in an urban area, and all are located along MATS bus routes except the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site (Alternative 3). However, the City of Montgomery has indicated it would create a bus stop at that location if the Interpretive Center was built there. Access to public transportation is considered a benefit to land use. Construction of a new Interpretive Center would have long-term benefits to the urban revitalization of downtown Montgomery.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: This alternative is consistent with ASU's plans for development of the campus. The proposed project would add development to a currently vacant lot. This site was previously developed, it lies within an urban area, and the Interpretive Center would be designed with features to reduce its impact on the environment. Impacts to land use at this site would be long-term and beneficial.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The renovation of the former Durr Drug building to house the Montgomery Interpretive Center would provide the benefits of a new public facility without requiring that the land be converted for use incompatible with the current building or that new, undeveloped land be disrupted for the proposed project. This alternative would have long-term, beneficial impacts to land use.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The construction of the Montgomery Interpretive Center that would occur adjacent to the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church and the conversion of the open space across the street into a parking lot would be considered infilling, consistent with the City's Land Use Plans. This alternative would result in long-term, beneficial impacts to land use.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: With this alternative, a strip mall shopping center would be torn down to make space for construction of a new Interpretive Center. This reuse of a developed site would make it unnecessary to impact undeveloped land, and would result in long-term, beneficial impacts to land use.

No Action Alternative: If the Interpretive Center was not constructed, the current land use of the sites would remain the same.

Cumulative Impacts: Since the proposed action complies with local land use plans no cumulative impacts to land use are anticipated.

Conclusion: The proposed project would have indirect, long-term, beneficial impacts to land use at the alternative site locations. The No Action Alternative would not impact land use and no cumulative impacts are expected. None of the alternatives would cause impairment to park resources.

4.5.4 Recreation

Common to all Action Alternatives: The proposed Montgomery Interpretive Center would include picnic tables and a landscaped area suitable for limited recreation by visitors. Recreational opportunities in addition to the NPS Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail would help to draw people to the area in hopes that they would pursue the resources provided by the proposed Interpretive Center and Selma to Montgomery NHT. Since there is no recreation currently available in Montgomery for the trail, the proposed action would result in long-term, beneficial impacts to recreation regardless of the alternative.

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the Montgomery Interpretive Center would not be constructed. No additional recreation opportunities would be available to park visitors. The No Action Alternative would have no impact to recreation in the area.

Cumulative Impacts: None of the concurrent activities in the project area are expected to impact recreation; therefore, no cumulative impacts to recreation would be expected with the proposed action.

Conclusion: The proposed action would result in indirect, long-term, beneficial impacts to recreation regardless of the alternative. The No Action Alternative would have no impact on recreation.

4.5.5 Aesthetics

Common to all Action Alternatives: During the demolition and/or construction phase of the proposed project, there would be short-term, minor adverse impacts to aesthetics due to the presence of heavy construction equipment, the demolition of structures, and construction activities that would be present until demolition, construction, and landscaping are complete. The NPS would design the structure similar to the Lowndes County Interpretive Center and it would be a visual improvement to the current structures (i.e., warehouses, strip mall, dilapidated buildings) located at the alternative sites. Once the Interpretive Center is built, there would be long-term, beneficial impacts to aesthetics regardless of the alternative.

No Action Alternative: If the Interpretive Center was not constructed, there would be any change to aesthetics at the alternative sites. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no impact on aesthetics.

Cumulative Impacts: None of the concurrent activities in the project area are expected to impact aesthetics; therefore, no cumulative impacts to aesthetics would be expected as a result of the proposed action.

Conclusion: The proposed action would have short-term, minor adverse impacts during construction and long-term, beneficial impacts on aesthetics once the Interpretive Center is built. The No Action Alternative would have no impact on aesthetics. Cumulative impacts would be indirect, long-term, and beneficial.

4.5.6 Public Health and Safety

Common to all Action Alternatives: The Interpretive Center would be designed to comply with fire safety, mechanical and electrical codes and regulations. The Interpretive Center would be in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Handicapped accessible parking spaces would be available and a ramp would allow the disabled access to the building.

The Capitol police force patrols State or Federal properties and their schedule of patrols would include the Interpretive Center at any of the four locations. The Interpretive Center would contribute long-term beneficial impacts to public health and safety.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: Active demolition and construction areas would be fenced off from public access to protect public safety; therefore impacts to public health and safety would be negligible. ASU would be responsible for dealing with all security issues and would integrate the Interpretive Center into the regular campus security routine. Law enforcement and security would be provided around the clock by the ASU Police Department. Impacts to public health and safety would be long-term and beneficial.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: Active demolition areas would be fenced off from public access to protect public safety during the demolition phase; therefore, impacts to public health and safety during demolition and construction would be negligible. If the Interpretive Center were constructed on this site, the NPS would be responsible for security on the site. Impacts to public health and safety would be long-term and beneficial.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: Active demolition areas would be fenced off from public access to protect public safety during the demolition phase; therefore, impacts to public health and safety during demolition and construction would be negligible. If the Interpretive Center were constructed at this site, the City of Montgomery would be responsible for security on the site. Demolition of the two dilapidated structures at the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site would be removed, thus reducing the possibility for injury or harboring illicit activity. Impacts to public health and safety would be long-term and beneficial.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: Active demolition areas would be fenced off from public access to protect public safety during the demolition phase; therefore, impacts to public health and safety during demolition and construction would be negligible. If the Interpretive Center were constructed on this site, the NPS would be responsible for security on the site. Impacts to public health and safety would be long-term and beneficial.

No Action Alternative: If the Interpretive Center were not constructed, there would be no need for new security services. There would be no impacts to public health and safety.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts to public health and safety would be expected from any of the proposed alternatives.

Conclusion: The proposed Interpretive Center would have indirect, long-term beneficial impacts to public health and safety. The No Action Alternative would have no impact to public health and safety. No cumulative impacts are anticipated.

4.6 ENERGY REQUIREMENTS AND CONSERVATION

Common to all Action Alternatives: During the demolition and/or construction phase, energy requirements would cause short-term, minor adverse impacts. Operation of the Interpretive Center would require long-term, minor, adverse impacts to energy requirements. As feasible, NPS would manage, operate, and maintain the Interpretive Center to minimize energy consumption. In addition, new energy-efficient technologies would be implemented where appropriate and cost-effective.

Demolition of buildings and structures would create opportunities to recycle building materials (i.e., vinyl siding, concrete) when feasible. In addition there may be items present in the buildings that could be recycled, such as metals or carpet. Alternative 2 proposes to renovate the former Durr Drug building for use as an Interpretive Center which would result in conservation of building materials. Opportunities for conservation at the alternative site locations would result in short-term, beneficial impacts.

No Action Alternative: If the Interpretive Center were not built, there would be no energy needed for construction or operation of a new building. Therefore, there would be no impacts to energy requirements and conservation from the No Action Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: Cumulative impacts to energy use in the area would be considered long-term, minor, and adverse for the proposed project when added to other past, present and foreseeable future actions including construction of the Selma Interpretive Center, construction of buildings at the ASU campus, and renovation of the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church and the George Washington Carver School.

Conclusion: Direct, short-term, minor, adverse impacts to energy requirements would occur due to the need for energy for demolition and construction activities regardless of the alternative. In addition, direct, long-term, minor adverse impacts to energy requirements would occur due to operation of the Interpretive Center. Opportunities for conservation at each of the site locations would result in short-term, beneficial impacts. The No Action Alternative would have no impacts on energy requirements and conservation. Cumulative impacts would be long-term, minor and adverse when the proposed project is added to other projects requiring energy in the project area.

4.7 INFRASTRUCTURE

Utilities

Common to all Action Alternatives: Infrastructure for utilities, including electric, gas, water, storm and sewer, are currently present at each of the proposed alternative sites; therefore there would be no need to construct new utility infrastructure regardless of the alternative. This would result in no impact to the infrastructure of Montgomery.

Haul Route

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: Although the ASU site is furthest from the landfill, the distance traveled through residential areas is very short. Short-term, minor adverse impacts to infrastructure are expected with the preferred alternative.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to residents and patrons of businesses along the proposed haul route would occur during removal of demolition waste. The proposed haul route from the former Durr Drug site passes through commercial areas; however, most of the distance traveled would be on the interstate and state highways. The total distance to the waste disposal facility is less than 6.0 miles. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to patrons of businesses in the commercial area along the haul route are expected for this Alternative.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to residents and patrons of businesses along the proposed haul route would occur during removal of demolition waste. The proposed haul route from the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site passes through commercial areas; however, most of the distance traveled would be on the interstate and

state highways. The total distance to the waste disposal facility is less than 4.0 miles. There would be short-term, minor, adverse impacts to patrons of businesses in the commercial area along the existing haul route are expected for Alternative 3.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to residents and patrons of businesses along the proposed haul route would occur during removal of demolition waste. The proposed haul route from the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site passes through commercial areas; however, most of the distance traveled would be on the interstate and state highways. The total distance to the waste disposal facility is less than 6.0 miles. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to patrons of businesses in the commercial area along the haul route are expected for Alternative 4.

No Action Alternative: If the Interpretative Center were not built, then buildings would not need to be demolished and there would be no need to haul demolition waste to the landfill. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would have no impacts to residents or patrons of businesses located along a haul route.

Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts would be expected to utilities or to residents and patrons of businesses located along the proposed construction/demolition haul route.

Conclusion: The proposed project would have direct, short-term, minor, adverse impacts to residents and patrons of businesses located along proposed haul routes due to hauling of demolition waste for all action alternatives. The No Action Alternative would not impact residents or patrons of businesses located along the proposed haul route.

4.7 HAZARDOUS, TOXIC AND RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: Long-term, beneficial impacts to hazardous, toxic, and radioactive substances would result from the demolition and removal of concrete slabs, stairways, and sidewalks at the ASU site.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: The Phase I Environmental Site Assessment for the former Durr Drug building reported a high likelihood of hazardous materials at the site (NPS 2008b). Before demolition of the warehouse and renovation of the office space, appropriate surveys would be conducted to determine the presence of hazardous materials. If these materials were found, the contractor would be responsible for removing and disposing of the material in accordance with the most current state and federal hazardous waste regulations. No hazardous materials are accepted at the North Montgomery Sanitary Landfill, so the contractor would be responsible for all permits for hauling and would be responsible for taking the material to a permitted disposal facility. Workers would wear protective gear and would contain the hazardous materials on the site to avoid impacts to public health. Impacts due to hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances at this site would be a long-term and beneficial due to the removal of these substances.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The buildings proposed for demolition at this site are of unknown age, therefore NPS would assume there may be asbestos and lead paint

present and appropriate precautions should be taken. If hazardous materials are found, they would be removed as described in Alternative 2. Impacts due to hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances at this site would be long-term and beneficial due to the removal of these substances.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The Value Analysis determined the buildings at St. Jude Fairview Plaza predated the bans on asbestos and lead paint (NPS 2008a). Therefore surveys would be conducted by a certified asbestos building inspector and a certified lead inspector. If hazardous materials are found, they would be removed as described in Alternative 2. Impacts due to hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances at this site would be a long-term and beneficial due to the removal of these substances.

No Action Alternative: If the buildings were not demolished, any hazardous substances contained within the buildings would remain confined within the buildings. There would be long-term, minor adverse impacts to resources if these hazardous, toxic or radioactive substances were not removed in the No Action Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: If other buildings were being demolished as part of the construction at ASU, there could be hazardous materials present. The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church and the George Washington Carver School may have hazardous materials present. The proposed action, when combined with other actions in the area and in the near future, may have cumulative impacts on resources due to hazardous, toxic and radioactive substances; cumulative impacts would be expected to be long-term and beneficial due to the removal of these substances from these sites.

Conclusion: The demolition and removal of buildings and associated structures located on the proposed sites would have direct, long-term, beneficial impacts to hazardous, toxic or radioactive substances located on the sites. Cumulative impacts would be long-term and beneficial. The No Action Alternative would result in a long-term, minor adverse impact to resources due to the presence of hazardous, toxic or radioactive substances.

4.8 VISITOR USE AND EXPERIENCE

Common to all Action Alternatives: Since there are currently no visitors at any of the proposed sites, the construction phase would not be expected to impact visitor use and experience.

Once the Interpretive Center is in operation, there would be long-term, beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience. The proposed Montgomery Interpretive Center would operate in a manner similar to that of the Lowndes County Interpretive Center with similar hours and ADA accessibility. The Montgomery Interpretive Center would include an information desk, exhibit space, theater, research area, office and storage space, cooperating association bookstore, and a common area (NPS 2005a). Visitor access at each of the locations is adequate and would cause no impact to visitor use. Additionally, each of the proposed sites intend on providing adequate parking capacity for the Interpretive Center. Each of the proposed sites is also located within close proximity to necessary amenities. The following additional opportunities are unique to each of the alternative sites and would provide long-term, beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience.

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: In an effort to enhance visitor experience, ASU proposes to offer an ongoing transportation service to visitors at the center to enable them to tour other area historic locations within close proximity to this proposed Interpretive Center site.

The proposed site is within a few blocks of twenty other civil rights related locations and ASU, in partnership with the NPS, proposes to offer scheduled tours, preferably twice a day that would shuttle visitors through historic sites in the city. ASU students and staff would be made available as tour guides to enhance the transportation service. In addition, the ASU Library and Archives would serve as a resource center and a repository, providing visitors with research and teaching materials. The new wing of the library would increase the archival space, thereby serving as an anchor to the Interpretive Center and housing special collections of national prominence.

The ASU site would also attract visitors due to the built-in site visitation advantage of the many different events and activities that would draw large crowds to this location. Additionally, parking would be easily accessible at the Interpretive Center's proposed adjacent parking lot, while the future development of a new ASU stadium would provide a generous amount of additional parking. The proposed additions to the Interpretive Center would have direct, long-term, beneficial impacts to visitor use.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site , Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site, and Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: The City of Montgomery, in partnership with the Mt. Zion Center Foundation, Inc. and Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, would collaborate with organizations such as Alabama Bureau of Tourism, the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, the Montgomery Visitors Center and the Alabama Department of Transportation to assist visitors in accessing the Interpretive Center. There will be no partnership opportunities available through the former Durr Drug site or St. Jude Fairview Plaza site.

With the location of each of these three alternative sites along the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, visitors would have the option of following in the footsteps of the Freedom Marchers by walking along the last portion of the National Historic Trail. Starting at the proposed site of the Interpretive Center, the route to the Alabama State Capitol is being developed as a two mile, self-guided, "walk-able" part of the trail. Upon the completion of this proposed development, it would be possible for events such as 5-K runs, walk-a-thons, bicycling, etc. to begin at the Alabama State Capitol and end at the proposed Interpretive Center. Educational opportunities, such as footprints, markers, etc. would also be available along the trail. Additionally, the City of Montgomery's Transportation Office would reconfigure existing bus/bus trolley routes and create new MATS bus stops to allow visitors to board the Trolley at any point along the route from the proposed Interpretive Center to the State Capitol or to connect to other designated historic points within close proximity to the proposed Interpretive Center. Other tourist destinations include The Southern Poverty Law Center (1.5 miles from proposed site), The Alabama Department of Archives and History (1.6 miles), the State Capitol of Alabama (1.6 miles), Court Square Fountain (1.0 mile), Davis Theater at Troy University (1.0 mile), Hank Williams Museum (1.0 mile) Dexter King Memorial Baptist church (1.4 miles), First Whitehouse of Confederacy (1.5 miles), Rosa L. Park Museum at Troy University (1.0 mile), Dr. Martin Luther King Home (2.0 miles) and Old Town Alabama (1.4 miles). Additionally, the Greyhound Bus Station and Union Station are only one mile from these proposed sites, thus allowing for the Interpretive Center site to be easily accessed using public transportation.

No Action Alternative: If a Montgomery Interpretive Center were not constructed, there would be no impact to visitor experience due to the lack of appropriate interpretive and educational opportunities at the Montgomery end of the Selma to Montgomery NHT.

Cumulative Impacts: The Montgomery Interpretive Center would complement the Interpretive Center at Lowndes County and the center proposed for Selma. The proposed project in conjunction with the other Selma to Montgomery NHT Interpretive Centers would have long-term beneficial cumulative impacts to visitor use and experience.

Conclusion: Construction and operation of the proposed Montgomery Interpretive Center would have indirect, long-term, beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience. Cumulative impacts would also be long-term and beneficial. There would be long-term, moderate adverse impacts to visitor use and experience with the No Action Alternative.

4.9 PARK OPERATIONS

Common to all Action Alternatives: The Montgomery Interpretive Center would house the administrative office for NPS staff, providing good proximity to federal and state government offices and many of the NHT partnering agencies (NPS 2005b).

Alternative 1 (Preferred Alternative) ASU site: ASU is expanding its role as a center of cultural and historical knowledge regarding the American Civil Rights movement and African American culture, and the Montgomery Interpretive Center would compliment current facilities and those planned for the future. The Library and the National Center for the Study of Civil Rights and African American Culture at ASU would act in close cooperation with the NPS to assist in historic interpretations, program development, curriculum and teaching opportunities. Personnel are experienced in conducting hundreds of tours and symposia, workshops and retreats. They have also hosted art shows, major lectures, book signings, and numerous lectures for both national and international groups. Since 1996, the professionals at the National Center have managed both the National Center's Administrative Office and an interpretive museum. Experienced staff also includes notable individuals who were participants in the Selma to Montgomery March and would be able to lend their expertise in support of the Interpretive Center.

ASU would also cooperate with the NPS in the day to day operations of the Interpretive Center. ASU would cover the costs of maintenance, grounds upkeep, security and monthly utility costs for the Interpretive Center (NPS 2008a). ASU has a history of being able to raise funds for programs and projects. This would benefit park operations since the NPS would not be required to provide funding for all the cultural and historical programs that would be conducted at the Interpretive Center. Since the NPS would have assistance from ASU to cover the expenses associated with operating and maintaining the Montgomery Interpretive Center, there would be long-term, beneficial impacts to park operations with this alternative.

Alternative 2, former Durr Drug site: There are no partnerships opportunities associated with this alternative. The NPS would be responsible for all maintenance, grounds upkeep, security

and monthly utility costs for the new Interpretive Center on the former Durr Drug site. There would be long-term, minor adverse impacts to park operations with this alternative.

Alternative 3, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site: The proposed facility for the Interpretive Center would be maintained by the City of Montgomery Parks and Recreation Department, the Mt. Zion Center Foundation, Inc., and the NPS. High standards for maintaining and operating the facility would be adopted to ensure that the facility is operated in a manner representative of the NPS, the City of Montgomery, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church (Alabama-Florida Episcopal District). The City of Montgomery Parks and Recreation Department offers extensive experience in facilities management through the current management of 90 park facilities, 5 special needs facilities and 31 ball field locations. This site is located within an area of development noted in the City of Montgomery's Downtown Montgomery Plan (City of Montgomery). With this alternative, the City of Montgomery would cover the ongoing costs of facility maintenance, grounds upkeep, security and monthly utility costs. In addition, the Mt. Zion Foundation, which was founded to preserve the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, has put forth a strong fundraising plan as part of a partnership with the NPS. Since the NPS would have assistance from the City and the Foundation to cover the expenses of operating and maintaining the Interpretive Center, there would be long-term, beneficial impacts to park operations with this alternative.

Alternative 4, St. Jude Fairview Plaza site: There are no opportunities for partnerships associated with this alternative. The NPS would become responsible for all maintenance, grounds upkeep, and security for the new Interpretive Center on the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site. There would be long-term, minor adverse impacts to park operations with this alternative.

No Action Alternative: The No Action Alternative would mean the Montgomery Interpretive Center would not be constructed. There would be no interpretive or educational resources available in the Montgomery area. There would be no impacts to park operations with the No Action Alternative.

Cumulative Impacts: With the proposed opening of the Montgomery Interpretive Center, and the future planned opening of the Selma Interpretive Center, park operations would increase over current levels. Cumulative impacts to park operations due to an increase in the need to provide services would be long-term, minor and adverse. However, the Montgomery Interpretive Center would fulfill objectives of the Selma to Montgomery NHT, and would be considered a benefit to the park.

Conclusion: Alternatives 1 and 3, the ASU site and Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site, would result in indirect, long-term, beneficial impacts to park operations. Alternatives 2 and 4, the former Durr Drug site and the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site, would result in indirect, long-term, minor adverse impacts to park operations. Cumulative impacts would be long-term, minor and adverse. The No Action Alternative would not impact park operations.

4.10 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

The proposed Montgomery Interpretive Center would complement the existing Lowndes County Interpretive Center and the future Selma Interpretive Center by providing interpretive educational opportunities at the end of the Selma to Montgomery NHT. Benefits to park operations, visitor use and experience, aesthetics, vegetation, environmental justice, land use, and public health and safety are anticipated with the proposed project. Impacts may be divided into impacts of demolition and construction, and impacts of operation of the Interpretive Center.

Impacts of Demolition and Construction

During demolition and construction, there would be short-term, minor adverse impacts to air quality, noise and vibration, wildlife, aesthetics, and energy requirements and conservation. Short-term, minor, adverse impacts to infrastructure would result from implementing Alternatives 1, 2, 3, or 4. There would be short-term, minor and adverse impacts to soils at all the proposed sites. Impacts to public health and safety during demolition and construction would be negligible since public access would be restricted from construction areas. Alternatives 1, 2, 3, and 4 would have long-term, beneficial impacts due to the removal of hazardous, toxic or radioactive substances on the sites.

At the ASU and Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church sites, there would be long-term, minor, adverse impacts to vegetation and wildlife due to clearing of the sites for construction of the proposed Interpretive Center and parking area. There would be long-term, minor beneficial impacts to vegetation and wildlife at the former Durr Drug site and St. Jude Fairview Plaza site due to a net gain of vegetated areas and there would be long-term, beneficial impacts to aesthetics.

There would be short-term, beneficial impacts to socioeconomics and environmental justice during this phase with creation of temporary demolition and construction jobs in an area with a high percentage of minorities. However, demolishing the buildings at the former Durr Drug site and St. Jude Fairview Plaza site would potentially result in job loss, and therefore long-term, adverse impacts to socioeconomics would occur. In addition, short-term, minor, adverse impacts to local businesses would be impacted during the construction and demolition activities at these sites.

Impacts of Operation of the Interpretive Center

The operation of the proposed Interpretive Center would result in long-term, minor adverse impacts to air quality and energy requirements and conservation. Alternative 3 (MT. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church) would have long-term, moderate, adverse impacts to cultural resources due to the introduction of the Interpretive Center into the residential setting. Alternative 1 (ASU) would require a Phase I Archeological Survey pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA.

The proposed project would have long-term, beneficial impacts to visitor use and experience, socioeconomics, environmental justice, land use, recreation, and public health and safety.

At the ASU and Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church sites, partners would provide maintenance and operations costs; therefore impacts to park operations would be long-term, and beneficial at those alternative sites. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts to noise and vibration are also expected at these two sites due to the increase in car and bus traffic during operation. At the former Durr Drug and St. Jude Fairview Plaza sites, the NPS would provide those costs, and impacts to park operations would be long-term, minor and adverse.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be long-term, minor, adverse impacts to hazardous wastes and materials, since they would continue to be present at the proposed sites. There would be no impact to other resources.

Impairment

Overall, none of the alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, would cause impairment to park resources.

5.0 MITIGATION MEASURES

This chapter provides a summary of the mitigation measures for the Preferred Alternative by each applicable resource category. General categories of mitigation measures include:

- Avoiding certain impacts altogether by not taking a certain action or parts of an action;
- Minimizing impacts by limiting the degree or magnitude of the action and its implementation;
- Rectifying impacts by repairing, rehabilitating, or restoring the affected environment;
- Reducing or eliminating impacts over time by preservation and maintenance operations during the life of the action; and/or
- Compensating for impacts by replacing or providing substitute resources or environments.

To the extent possible, potential impacts associated with the proposed project were avoided and the park has determined that the proposed project has been mitigated to the best attempt possible to offer the least amount of impact to the human and natural environment. The following mitigation measures by resource category have been developed to minimize the degree and/or severity of adverse effects, and would be implemented during construction and demolition of the Preferred Alternative, as needed.

5.1 Soils

Disturbed soils are susceptible to erosion until revegetation takes place, therefore, best management practices and sediment and erosion control measures would be used during the implementation of the proposed project. The potential for soil migration off site would be minimized through the use of sediment and erosion control measures as required by applicable state regulations.

5.2 Noise

Demolition and construction activities would produce noise at the project area. Impacts of noise to the surrounding neighborhoods would be mitigated by restricting construction and demolition to daylight hours.

5.3 Vegetation and Wildlife

Demolition and construction would require the use of heavy equipment, which would disturb vegetation and cause loss of wildlife habitat. These impacts would be mitigated by re-vegetation once the construction phase is complete.

5.4 Public Health and Safety

During demolition and construction, members of the public could be impacted by equipment or debris if they enter the construction site. The demolition and construction areas would be fenced during these activities to mitigate impacts on public health and safety.

5.5 Hazardous Toxic, and Radioactive Substances

The buildings proposed for demolition may contain hazardous substances such as asbestos or lead paint. Prior to demolition, the buildings would be inspected for hazardous waste. If these substances are found during the survey, the appropriate measures would be taken to contain, remove and dispose of them according to hazardous material regulations. Workers would wear the proper protective equipment to minimize risk from hazardous substances.

Common contaminants that may be present include asbestos-containing materials, lead paint, mercury-containing fluorescent light tubes, switches and thermostats, equipment and light ballasts containing PCBs, pesticides, batteries, or other potentially hazardous debris. Demolition of other structures such as sheds, fences or storage tanks may also produce hazardous wastes such as creosote-treated posts.

Asbestos abatement activities are regulated by the ADEM, USEPA, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. If hazardous wastes such as those mentioned above are discovered during inspection of the buildings proposed for demolition, the contractor would be responsible for removing the asbestos waste in accordance with the most recent state and federal regulations prior to transporting the hazardous waste to a permitted disposal facility.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

6.1 UNAVOIDABLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Unavoidable adverse effects are impacts that cannot be fully mitigated or avoided. The following unavoidable adverse effects would occur from the implementation of the proposed project:

- Minor, short-term impacts to soils, noise, vegetation and wildlife during demolition and construction
- Minor, short-term impacts to infrastructure during hauling of demolition waste, and to aesthetics during demolition and construction
- Minor, short- and long-term impacts to air quality and energy requirements and conservation with demolition/construction and operation of the Interpretive Center

6.2 IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES

This section discusses irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources. A resource commitment is considered irreversible when primary or secondary impacts from its use limit future option. Irreversible commitment applies primarily to nonrenewable resources, such as minerals or cultural resources, and to those resources that are only renewable over long time spans, such as soil productivity. A resource commitment is considered irretrievable when the use or consumption of the resource is neither renewable nor recoverable for use by future generations.

Irreversible: Irreversible commitments are those that cannot be reversed, except perhaps in the extreme long term. Irreversible environmental changes to natural resources associated with the implementation of the proposed project would include the commitment of energy as a result of construction, operation and maintenance of the Montgomery Interpretive Center.

Irretrievable: An irretrievable commitment of resources refers to the effects to resources that, once gone, cannot be replaced. The proposed project is not expected to cause irretrievable commitments of resources at the park.

6.3 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Several unavoidable adverse effects would occur to soils, noise, vegetation, wildlife, infrastructure, aesthetics, air quality, and energy requirements and conservation from the implementation of the proposed project; however, these effects would be minor and mitigation measures are expected to reduce impacts. Additionally, an irreversible commitment of energy associated with the construction and operation of the Interpretive Center is expected; however, wherever possible, energy conservation would be applied and sustainable resources would be used.

7.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND AGENCY COORDINATION

7.1 PUBLIC SCOPING

Scoping is an effort to involve agencies and the general public in determining the scope of issues to be addressed in the environmental document. Scoping includes consultation with any interested agency, or any agency with jurisdiction by law or expertise to obtain early input. Among other tasks, scoping determines important issues and eliminates issues determined to be not important; allocates assignments among the interdisciplinary team members and/or participating agents; identifies related projects and associated documents, identifies other permits, surveys, consultations, etc. required by other agencies, and creates a schedule that allows adequate time to prepare and distribute the environmental document for public review and comment before a final decision is made.

External scoping is a process used to gather public input for the EA. For this project, scoping began with a public meeting to discuss future development plans for the proposed Montgomery Interpretive Center. A public meeting notice was circulated to inform interested stakeholders of the public meeting held Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 9:00 am at the Lowndes Interpretive Center. Participation at the meeting assisted the NPS in developing plans for the project and helped to define potential locations for the Interpretive Center. Comments of those unable to attend the meeting were also accepted as part of the scoping process.

A press release informed the public of the posting of a scoping newsletter on the NPS website on March 10, 2009. The newsletter was also made available at the Lowndes County Interpretive Center. The newsletter notified the public of the proposed construction of the Montgomery Interpretive Center and described the four alternative sites. The newsletter provided information on the planning process and how it would affect the future of the park. The newsletter also notified the public of a 30 day comment period and procedures for making comments.

A copy of the press release and newsletter are included in Appendix A-1.

7.2 AGENCY AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

A consultation letter was mailed to approximately eight local and federal agencies and stakeholders on April 30, 2009 requesting consultation and comments regarding the proposed project at Selma to Montgomery NHT. A sample copy of an agency and tribal government consultation letter can be found in Appendix B.

The following lists the agencies and tribal governments that received the consultation letter.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services
- Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division
- Alabama Federal Highway Administration
- Alabama Department of Transportation
- Alabaman State Historic Preservation Office

- Alabama Natural Heritage Program
- Poarch Band of Creek Indians

Responses were received from the USFWS, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division, and Alabama Natural Heritage Program stating that no special status species are located within the proposed project sites. A response was also received from the Alabama Federal Highways Administration stating that no direct impacts would be anticipated (Appendix B).

7.3 SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT CONSULTATION

Agency consultation was initiated (agency consultation letter, see Appendix B) with the State Historic Preservation Office to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA. Section 106 of the NHPA (36 CFR, Part 800) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment. The Alabama SHPO will have the opportunity to comment on this EA during the public review period. In addition to the EA, a second letter requesting the concurrence of No Adverse Effect will be sent to the SHPO to complete the consultation process.

7.4 PUBLIC REVIEW OF THE EA

This EA will be distributed to agencies, tribal governments, and the public for review and comment for a period of at least 30 days; comments received will be addressed in an errata sheet to be attached to the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), assuming there are no issues that may lead to significant impacts from the Preferred Alternative. Following the completion of the EA and response to comments, the FONSI will be signed and dated by the NPS Regional Director.

8.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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Summer Ciomet, Architectural Historian

9.0 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

APPENDIX A-1
NEWS RELEASE
AND
ALTERNATIVES NEWSLETTER
FOR PROPOSED PROJECT



Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

**Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail
News Release**

**Scoping Newsletter
Environmental Assessment for Construction of the
Montgomery Interpretive Center**

The Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail was established by Congress in 1996 to commemorate the events, people, and route of the 1965 Voting Rights March in Alabama. The route is also designated as a National Scenic Byway/All-American Road. The National Park Service is proposing construction of an interpretive center for the Trail in Montgomery. An environmental assessment is being prepared to analyze the potential for impacts of the proposed project on the human, physical, and natural environment. Four alternative locations are being considered for the center: Alabama State University, the former Durr Drug site, Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, and St. Jude Fairview Plaza. A newsletter has been prepared to solicit public comments on the proposed sites.

Copies of the scoping newsletter are available at the Lowndes County Interpretive Center located in Hayneville, AL. Directions to the center are available online (www.nps.gov/semo) or by phone (334-877-1984). The newsletter will also be available on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov>. Under "Choose a Park" click on "Selma to Montgomery NHT" and follow the link to Montgomery Interpretive Center. The scoping newsletter will be available for review until April 8, 2009.



Study of Alternatives Newsletter

Proposed Interpretive Center in Montgomery, Alabama, Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

History and Background

The Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (NHT) was established by Congress in 1996, to commemorate the events, people, and route of the 1965 Voting Rights March that was held in Alabama. This 54-mile trail winds its way from the streets of Selma, Alabama, through the gentle rolling hills of Lowndes County, and into the state's capitol city of Montgomery.

The first march began on March 7, 1965 at the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church in Selma, however the march came to an end as marchers crossed the Edmund Pettus Bridge and were attacked by law enforcement officers. This event became known as "Bloody Sunday" due to the use of tear gas and billy clubs on the marchers. A second march went to the foot of the bridge where marchers prayed for the victims. The third march was held on March 21, 1965. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr led marchers, along with protestors from across the country, and state and federal law enforcement officials who provided protection for the marchers, on a five-day march from the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church to the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery.

The marchers traveled along Highway 80 in Dallas County, continued through Lowndes County and Montgomery County, and ended the five day trek at the Alabama State Capitol in Montgomery. During the five day march, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee provided food, water, sanitation, and other services for marchers who camped out along the way.

A total of 25,000 marchers concluded the historic march to Montgomery on March 25, 1965. Many notable speakers addressed the crowd at a concluding rally near the capitol. As a result of this historic event, Congress passed the Voting Rights Act on May 26, 1965. This Act established the legal right to vote for all Americans and forever altered the regional and national political landscape. The Selma to Montgomery Voting Rights March remains one of the most significant civil rights protests in American History.



The Selma to Montgomery March of 1965 remains one of the most significant civil rights protest in American History. The march helped establish the right to vote for all Americans.

Purpose and Mission of the Trail

The purpose of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail includes the:

- Commemoration of the events, people, and route of the march, as a reminder of the right and responsibility of all Americans to participate fully in the election process and the maintenance of vigilance in protecting the right to vote;
- The identification, preservation, and protection of the historic route, and resources that inform the public about the Voting Rights March of 1965;
- The interpretation and documentation of the story of the march; and
- The enhancement and development of partnerships between the NPS, state and local governments, as well as various citizen groups, to achieve the Trail's purpose.

It is the mission of the National Park Service to preserve and interpret the history of the sites associated with the 1965 voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama which resulted in the signing of the Voting Rights Act in August 6, 1965. The National Park Service works with the community to preserve America's treasures so that future generations may enjoy our heritage.



Alabama State Troopers gas protestors as they attempt to march to the state capitol.

Experiencing the Trail

Visitors are encouraged to drive the historic route from Selma to Montgomery. In Selma, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Street Walking Tour includes visits to the Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church, the First Baptist Church, Carver Homes, and wayside exhibits. The Edmund Pettus Bridge over the Alabama River is the gateway of the Selma city limits. This bridge became symbolic of the first attempt to march to Montgomery and became the site of "Bloody Sunday." The Lowndes County Interpretive Center, located midway between Selma and Montgomery, opened in August 2006. The interpretive center was built on the site of Tent City; a temporary encampment that provided food, tents, cots, heaters, and water for many families that were thrown off their land for engaging in voting rights activities. The historic route continues past many of the original campsites where marchers stopped to rest, eat, and receive first aid. The trail ends in the city of Montgomery, where marchers continued from the City of St. Jude to the Alabama State Capitol. The City of St. Jude is a non-discriminatory, religious, health, and educational complex that offered 36 acres for the last encampment of the march.

Proposed Project

The National Park Service is working with the community to construct and develop a new interpretive center in the city of Montgomery. The center will provide education and appreciation of the story and associated resources of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail.

On December 6, 2007, the National Park Service held a public meeting to discuss the future development plans of the Montgomery Interpretive Center. The National Park Service is considering four sites for the proposed center. The center would be similar in design to the Lowndes County Interpretive Center.



Marchers crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge.



The four sites/alternatives being considered for the Montgomery Interpretive Center.

Project Alternatives

The following are descriptions of the four sites/alternatives being considered for the Montgomery Interpretive Center to be analyzed in the Environmental Assessment:

Alabama State University (ASU) Site:

The ASU site is a 5-acre site that ASU will provide at no cost to the National Park Service. The site is located on the eastern side of the campus approximately one mile from Interstate 85. The site is not directly on the Selma to Montgomery NHT; however, many historical events took place on or near the ASU campus in the period leading up to and after the march.

Former Durr Drug Site:

The former Durr Drug site is a 5.8-acre site which includes several interconnected warehouse buildings. This site is located on the south side of West Fairview Avenue directly across the street from the City of St. Jude. The former Durr Drug is located on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and is near the historic Camp Site 4. The Durr Drug Building was built in the late 1950's and thus existed on the site during the march. Due to this historic connection, the Durr Drug building would be renovated and reused.

Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Zion Church:

The Mount Zion Site is located on a 1.8-acre site that the City of Montgomery will provide at no cost to the National Park Service. In addition the City of Montgomery will provide adjacent sites for the required parking areas. The site is bordered by South Holt Street to the west, Grady Street to the north, and Stone Street to the south. The site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and contains the Mount Zion Church, a building that was on the site during the march, and was the setting for several historic meetings related to the Civil Rights and Voting Rights history. The Mount Zion Church has been recently stabilized and is in the process of further improvements.

St. Jude Fairview Plaza:

The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site is a 10-acre site which includes a strip mall, vacant fast food restaurant, and a shed. The site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and was intricately associated with historic Camp Site 4. None of the existing buildings on the site were present during the march. Fairview Plaza is located on the north side of West Fairview Avenue and is bordered by Oak Street to the west and by Interstate I-65 to the east.

NEPA Process and Public Scoping Period



Library of Congress, 2005

The third and final march lasted five days. Marchers walked for 54 miles from the Edmund Pettus Bridge to the state capitol in Montgomery. The march concluded with a rally with many notable speakers including Dr. Martin Luther King.

NEPA Process

The National Park Service must follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 to assure consideration of important environmental issues. The construction of an Interpretive Center in Montgomery will be analyzed during the NEPA process.

The environmental effects resulting from the proposed Interpretive Center will be evaluated in an Environmental Assessment. The analysis will consider impacts to topics such as wildlife habitat, vegetation, rare/threatened/ endangered species, water resources, air quality, socioeconomics, cultural resources, soils, park visitor use and experience, and public health and safety.

The document will analyze both short-term, long-term, and cumulative effects of the proposed action alternatives, along with the “no action alternative.” By comparing the proposed action alternatives with the no action alternative, and identifying mitigation measures that would minimize adverse effects, this Environmental Assessment will assist stakeholders in the decision-making process.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

The mission of the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail is to preserve and interpret the history of the sites associated with the 1965 Voting Rights March.

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

7002 US Highway 80
Haynesville, AL 36040

Phone
334-877-1984

Email
semoinformation@nps.gov

Website
www.nps.gov/semo

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Public Scoping Period

As part of the NEPA process, the proposed project will be evaluated in an Environmental Assessment, which will analyze the potential environmental effects of the proposed alternatives. At this time, the Superintendent is announcing a 30-day public scoping period to solicit public comments on the proposed alternatives. During this period, the public is invited to identify any issues or concerns they might have with the proposed site locations so that the National Park Service can appropriately consider them in the Environmental Assessment. You may submit your comments electronically at the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>). If you are unable to access this website, please submit written comments to :

Superintendent
Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail
7002 US Highway 80
Haynesville, Alabama 36040

Please submit comments by April 8, 2009. Once the Environmental Assessment is developed, it will be made available for public review for a 30-day period. If you wish to be added to the park's mailing list, please be sure to indicate that in your response.

It is National Park Service practice to make all comments, including names and addresses of respondents who provide that information, available for public review. Individuals may request that the National Park Service withhold their name and/or address from public disclosure. If you wish to do this, correspondents using the website can make such a request by checking the box “keep my contact information private”. If submitting written comments please state this request at the beginning of your comment. The National Park Service will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail
7002 US Highway 80
Haynesville, AL 36040
334-877-1984
www.nps.gov/semo

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Postage and Fees
PAID
City, State
Permit Number



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

APPENDIX B
AGENCY CONSULTATION

APPENDIX B-1
EXAMPLE AGENCY SCOPING LETTER



United States Department of the Interior



National Park Service
Selma to Montgomery
National Historic Trail
1212 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama 36088

H36 (SEMO)

April 30, 2009

Lynn Urquhart
Trails Division
Alabama Federal Highway Administration
500 Eastern Boulevard, Suite 200
Montgomery, AL 36117

Dear Ms. Urquhart:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500 to 1508), and the National Park Service (NPS) NEPA compliance guidelines (Director's Order-12), the NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of a Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (NHT) Interpretive Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

The Selma to Montgomery NHT is a 54 mile trail that begins at the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Selma, Alabama. The Trail follows the historic 1965 Voting Rights March along Interstate 80 through Dallas County and Lowndes County. The Trail continues into the City of Montgomery and ends at the Alabama State Capitol (Figure 1).

The NPS is proposing to construct a new Interpretive Center in the City of Montgomery. The Center will provide education and appreciation of the story and associated resources of the Selma to Montgomery NHT. The 15,000 square foot Center would be similar in design to the Lowndes County Interpretive Center, located at the Trail's midpoint in Hayneville. Four alternative sites for the Center are being analyzed in the EA: the Alabama State University (ASU) site, the former Durr Drug site, the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site, and the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site (Figure 1). All four alternative locations for the Montgomery Interpretive Center are located within the urban district of Montgomery on previously developed land.

ASU Site:

The ASU site is a 5-acre site located on the eastern side of the campus, and is bordered by Hall Street to the west, Carrie Street to the east, Tuttle Avenue to the north, and Marguerite Street to the south. The site is not directly on the Selma to Montgomery NHT; however, many historical events took place on or near the ASU campus in the period leading up to and after the Voting Rights March. The site is a grass field, with one small building. The building would be demolished prior to construction of the Interpretive Center.

Former Durr Drug Site:

The former Durr Drug site is a 5.8-acre site which includes several interconnected warehouse buildings. This site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and is located on the south side of West Fairview Avenue directly across the street from the historic Campsite 4. The original Durr Drug Building, built in the late 1950s, has been removed and





IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Selma to Montgomery
National Historic Trail
1212 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama 36088



replaced by a newer structure, which would be renovated and used for the Interpretive Center. The warehouse portions of the site would be demolished to provide space for parking.

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church Site:

The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site is located on a 2.56-acre site that includes the Church and some vacant buildings and an adjacent site for parking. The site is bordered by South Holt Street to the west, Grady Street to the north, and Stone Street to the south. The site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and contains the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, a building that was on the site during the March and was the setting for several historic meetings related to Civil Rights and Voting Rights history. The Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Vacant buildings located next to the Church and across the street would be demolished to provide space for the new Interpretive Center and associated parking.

St. Jude Fairview Plaza:

The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site is a 10-acre site which includes a strip mall, vacant fast food restaurant, and a shed. The site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and was intricately associated with historic Campsite 4. Fairview Plaza is located on the north side of West Fairview Avenue and is bordered by Oak Street to the west and by Interstate 65 to the east. None of the existing buildings on the site were present during the March. All the existing structures, including the strip mall, vacant restaurant, and shed, would be demolished prior to construction of the Interpretive Center.

Please identify any resources within your purview that may experience potential impacts from the proposed project. Please provide any comments or information within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Send responses to:

Acting Superintendent
Selma to Montgomery NHT
1212 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

Sincerely,

Michael W. Burns
Acting Superintendent
Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail

TAKE PRIDE
IN AMERICA

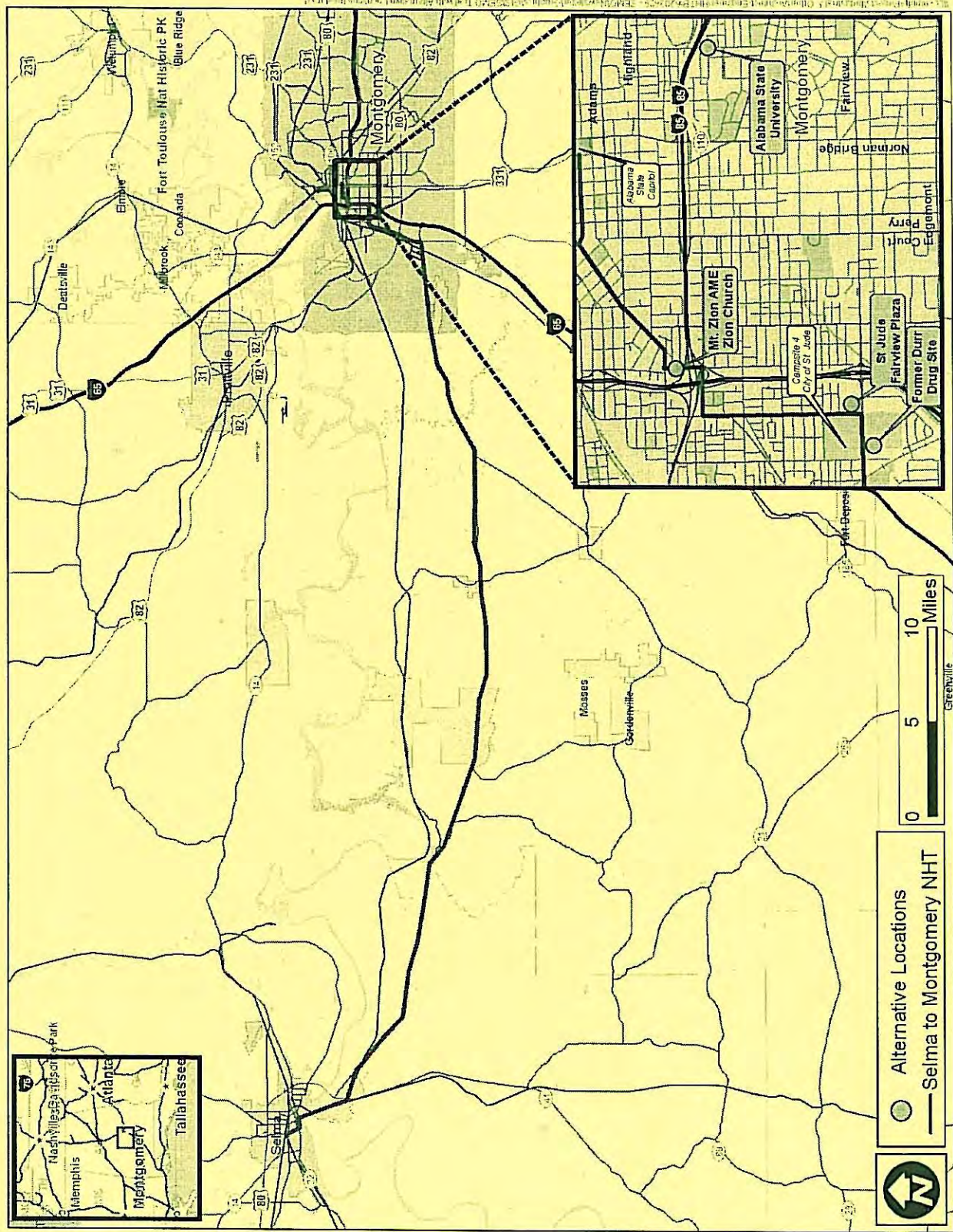


Figure 1. Alternative locations for the Selma to Montgomery NHT Montgomery Interpretive Center.

APPENDIX B-2
AGENCY RESPONSE LETTERS



STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
WILDLIFE AND FRESHWATER FISHERIES DIVISION

64 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 567
POST OFFICE BOX 301456
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-1456
(334) 242-3465
FAX (334) 242-3032
www.outdooralabama.com



BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

M. BARNETT LAWLEY
COMMISSIONER

*The mission of the Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries Division is to
manage, protect, conserve, and enhance the wildlife and aquatic resources
of Alabama for the sustainable benefit of the people of Alabama.*

M. N. "CORKY" PUGH
DIRECTOR

FRED R. HARDERS
ASST. DIRECTOR

April 28, 2009

Acting Superintendent
Selma to Montgomery NHT
1212 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

RE: Selma to Montgomery NHT
Montgomery Interpretive Center

Dear Sir:

The Division of Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources has reviewed the above-referenced project and provides the following comments:

1. This project is unlikely to impact any state-protected species at any of the four proposed locations. Federally-protected species are under the jurisdiction of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Please contact that agency regarding potential impacts to federally-protected species (251-441-5181).
2. No net loss of stream functions or habitat should occur as a result of the project. If flowing streams, ditches, or wetlands will be impacted by the proposed activity, the Army Corps of Engineers - Mobile District (251-690-3188), should be contacted to determine if the activity falls under a Corps regulation requiring mitigation for adverse ecological, morphological, or hydrological impacts. Adverse stream impacts requiring mitigation include (but are not limited to) accelerated siltation resulting from improper construction or erosion control practices, stream realignment, flow diversion or interruption, the placement of riprap or other fill in the streambed in such a way that habitat functions are impaired or fish movement is impeded under low flow conditions, and other modifications of habitat or hydrology which reduce the density or diversity of aquatic species.
3. State water quality standards (particularly those related to erosion control, water turbidity, and dissolved oxygen) should be strictly adhered to.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely yours,

James J. McHugh
Wildlife Diversity Coordinator

We anticipate no direct impacts to FHWA resources from this project.

Lynne A. Urquhart

FHWA, Alabama Division
9500 Wynlake Place
Montgomery , AL 36117
(334) 274-6371



BE GREEN Please consider not printing this e-mail unless necessary.

ALABAMA NATURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

1090 South Donahue Drive, Auburn University, AL 36849

Phone: (334) 844-5017, Fax: (334) 844-44632

22 May 2009

Michael W. Burns
Acting Superintendent
Selma to Montgomery NHT
1212 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

Dear Mr. Burns,

I have completed a review of the four alternative locations for the proposed Interpretive Center in the City of Montgomery. The only rare, threatened, or endangered species documented in our database within 5 km of the proposed sites was a historic occurrence of the federal endangered Alabama sturgeon (*Scaphirhynchus suttkusi*) from the Alabama River in Montgomery. This species has not been documented in the Alabama River above Millers Ferry in Wilcox County since 1985. Therefore, the proposed project will likely have no impact to rare, threatened, or endangered species.

I hope this information is useful in your assessment. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Barbour", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael S. Barbour



log TA/DE

WPP 8

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Selma to Montgomery
National Historic Trail
1212 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama 36088



H36 (SEMO)

April 30, 2009

William J. Pearson
Field Supervisor, Alabama Field Office
US Fish & Wildlife Service
1208 B Main St.
Daphne, AL 36526

Dear Mr. Pearson:

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500 to 1508), and the National Park Service (NPS) NEPA compliance guidelines (Director's Order-12), the NPS is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of a Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail (NHT) Interpretive Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

The Selma to Montgomery NHT is a 54 mile trail that begins at the Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Selma, Alabama. The Trail follows the historic 1965 Voting Rights March along Interstate 80 through Dallas County and Lowndes County. The Trail continues into the City of Montgomery and ends at the Alabama State Capitol (Figure 1).

The NPS is proposing to construct a new Interpretive Center in the City of Montgomery. The Center will provide education and appreciation of the story and associated resources of the Selma to Montgomery NHT. The 15,000 square foot Center would be similar in design to the Lowndes County Interpretive Center, located at the Trail's midpoint in Hayneville. Four alternative sites for the Center are being analyzed in the EA: the Alabama State University (ASU) site, the former Durr Drug site, the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site, and the St. Jude Fairview Plaza site (Figure 1). All four alternative locations for the Montgomery Interpretive Center are located within the urban district of Montgomery on previously developed land.

ASU Site:

The ASU site is a 5-acre site located on the eastern side of the campus, and is bordered by Hall Street to the west, Carrie Street to the east, Tuttle Avenue to the north, and Marguerite Street to the south. The site is not directly on the Selma to Montgomery NHT; however, many historical events took place on or near the ASU campus in the period leading up to and after the Voting Rights March. The site is a grass field, with one small building. The building would be demolished prior to construction of the Interpretive Center.

Former Durr Drug Site:

The former Durr Drug site is a 5.8-acre site which includes several interconnected warehouse buildings. This site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and is located on the south side of West Fairview Avenue directly across the street from the historic Campsite 4. The original Durr Drug Building, built in the late 1950s, has been removed and





IN REPLY REFER TO:

2009-TA-0494

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service
Selma to Montgomery
National Historic Trail
1212 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, Alabama 36088



replaced by a newer structure, which would be renovated and used for the Interpretive Center. The warehouse portions of the site would be demolished to provide space for parking.

Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church Site:

The Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church site is located on a 2.56-acre site that includes the Church and some vacant buildings and an adjacent site for parking. The site is bordered by South Holt Street to the west, Grady Street to the north, and Stone Street to the south. The site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and contains the Mt. Zion A.M.E. Zion Church, a building that was on the site during the March and was the setting for several historic meetings related to Civil Rights and Voting Rights history. The Church is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Vacant buildings located next to the Church and across the street would be demolished to provide space for the new Interpretive Center and associated parking.

St. Jude Fairview Plaza:

The St. Jude Fairview Plaza site is a 10-acre site which includes a strip mall, vacant fast food restaurant, and a shed. The site is on the Selma to Montgomery NHT and was intricately associated with historic Campsite 4. Fairview Plaza is located on the north side of West Fairview Avenue and is bordered by Oak Street to the west and by Interstate 65 to the east. None of the existing buildings on the site were present during the March. All the existing structures, including the strip mall, vacant restaurant, and shed, would be demolished prior to construction of the Interpretive Center.

Please identify any resources within your purview that may experience potential impacts from the proposed project. Please provide any comments or information within 30 days of receipt of this letter. Send responses to:

Acting Superintendent
Selma to Montgomery NHT
1212 West Montgomery Road
Tuskegee Institute, AL 36088

Sincerely,

Michael W. Burns
Acting Superintendent
Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1208-B Main Street - Daphne, Alabama 36526
Phone: 251-441-5181 Fax: 251-441-6222

No federally listed species/critical habitat are known to occur in the project area. As described, the project will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT NEW PLANS FOR REVIEW. We recommend use of best management practices specific to your project (See <http://www.fws.gov/daphne/section7/bmp.html>).

William J. Pearson, Field Supervisor

5/22/09
Date

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