

# Public Information Meeting Summary Report

September 17, 2018

On September 17, 2018, the National Park Service (NPS), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) jointly hosted a Public Information Meeting on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at the South Shore Cultural Center at 7059 S Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM. The meeting was conducted in an open house format including an ongoing presentation and informational boards for review. The meeting was attended by 132 people. Representatives from NPS, FHWA, DPD, CDOT, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and project consultants were present to answer questions from the public.

The meeting presentation provided a summary of the timeline for the Federal process to date, the roles and responsibilities of each Federal agency, draft purpose and need statements under NEPA, a description of each proposed Federal action, the City's actions, and the next steps in the Federal review process. There were 66 comments collected during the meeting and 25 comments received during the email comment period closing on October 1, 2018. The following is a summary of frequently received comment topics:

## Questions and Comments on Federal Actions / Process

- Concerns for preserving historic resources as related to federal process
- Concerns of proposed tree clearing as related to federal process
- Environmental resource concerns
- Questions or concerns related to using the Midway Plaisance for recreation replacement
- Questions related to the Federal review process
- Questions/comments on recreation uses and/or facilities as related to UPARR agreement / boundary changes
- Suggestions to replace recreation in areas not currently designated as parks as related to UPARR agreement / boundary changes
- Range of full support or opposition for roadway closures
- Support and opposition for changes in transportation (roadway closures, safety, congestion, and access)

## Questions and Comments on City Actions

- Suggestions to construct the OPC elsewhere
- Support or concern for OPC related economic development
- Support or opposition of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) plans

## Other Questions and Comments

- Questions related to golf course improvement status or plans (outside scope of project)
- Comments on the meeting format

The next steps in the NEPA process include the evaluation of alternatives, selection of a preferred alternative, and the assessment of impacts for the preferred alternative. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is targeted for release to the public for a 30-day comment period in early 2019.

Project updates, including distribution of project reports, will be disseminated via email as well as posted online at: [www.tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements](http://www.tinyurl.com/JPIImprovements).