



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Highway
Administration**

Illinois Division

April 23, 2020

3250 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62703

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-IL

Gia Biagi, Commissioner
Chicago Department of Transportation
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 1100
Chicago, Illinois 60602

Subject: Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation – Mobility Improvements to Support the
South Lakefront Framework Plan, City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois

Dear Ms. Biagi:

Pursuant to 23 CFR 774.5(a), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) hereby requests the Chicago Department of Transportation's comments on the Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation – Mobility Improvements to Support the South Lakefront Framework Plan, City of Chicago, Cook County, Illinois. The Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation is available at the following web address:

https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/jackson-park-improvements.html

The proposed transportation improvements will require a temporary occupancy of the Midway Plaisance. The Midway Plaisance is owned and administered by the Chicago Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Chicago Park District, and both agencies are considered a “officials with jurisdiction” over Midway Plaisance. FHWA is coordinating with you to seek your comments on the draft Section 4(f) evaluation.

The temporary occupancy described in the Section 4(f) evaluation for the Midway Plaisance and are locations where construction activity will occur temporarily to build bicycle and pedestrian underpasses, trails, and connections; and locations for construction staging and roadway grading occur within the park. For the temporary occupancy exception to apply, we are requesting your written concurrence that the following conditions are satisfied for the temporary occupancies that are described in the Section 4(f) evaluation:

- 1) The duration of the construction activity is temporary. The construction activity in the temporary occupancy areas are less than the time needed for construction of the project, and there will be no change in ownership of the land;
- 2) The scope of the work is minor, i.e., both the nature and the magnitude of the changes to the Section 4(f) property are minimal;
- 3) There are no anticipated permanent adverse physical impacts, nor will there be interference with the protected activities, features, or attributes of the property, on either a temporary or permanent basis;
- 4) The land being used will be fully restored, i.e., the property will be returned to a condition which is at least as good as that which existed prior to the project.

Comments should be sent to Matt Fuller at FHWA (Matt.Fuller@dot.gov) and to the project manager for the applicant, Nathan Roseberry at the City of Chicago (Nathan.Roseberry@cityofchicago.org). Please provide your comments on the document no later than June 8, 2020. If comments are not received within 15-days after the comment deadline, the FHWA will assume a lack of objection and proceed with the action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Fuller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "F".

Matt Fuller
Environmental Programs Engineer