



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

Michael P. Kelly  
Superintendent and CEO  
Chicago Park District  
541 N. Fairbanks, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60611

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

Dear Mr. Kelly:

Pursuant to 23 CFR 774.5(a), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) hereby requests the Chicago Park District'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](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/dcd/supp_info/jackson-park-improvements.html)

The proposed transportation improvements will require converting land from Jackson Park to a transportation use. Jackson Park is owned and administered by the Chicago Park District, who is empowered to represent the agency on matters related to the property. Therefore, the Chicago Park District is considered an “official with jurisdiction” over Jackson Park and FHWA is coordinating with you to seek your comments on the draft Section 4(f) evaluation.

In addition to permanent use of Section 4(f) land in Jackson Park, there are temporary occupancies of Section 4(f) land in Jackson Park and in the Midway Plaisance. The temporary occupancies are described in the Section 4(f) evaluation 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](mailto:Matt.Fuller@dot.gov)) and to the project manager for the applicant, Nathan Roseberry at the City of Chicago ([Nathan.Roseberry@cityofchicago.org](mailto: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 initial "M" and a distinct "F".

Matt Fuller  
Environmental Programs Engineer