Section 106 Webinar Chat Pod Transcript

Thursday, January 23, 2020 at 11:30AM Eastern

Sharon Hurst - WC Admin: Thank you for joining us today. The web conference is scheduled to begin at 11:30 AM Eastern.

Mary Lu Seidel: WHat is Emily's last name?

Matt Fuller (FHWA-IL): Emily Ferguson, NPS

Mary Lu Seidel: Thanks

Juanita Irizarry: The audio is really sub-par

Sharon Hurst - WC Admin: Please dial in for the best audio quality.

Michael McNamee savethemidway: Please speak a little slower because the audio is poor.

Mary Lu Seidel: I am on the phone, and the audio is rough

Liz Pelloso - EPA: I'm on the phone and I think it's fine?

gilcarson 2: The phone is fine

Kay Brown: Kay Brown, Vista Garage Building Corporation When is national Park service component of the review expected?

Michael McNamee savethemidway: How do we signal that we want to ask a question on the web site?

Angela Berthaume: Please dial *1 and your line will be added to the queue

Angela Berthaume: The operator will open the phone lines for questions in the order they are recieved

Michael McNamee savethemidway: Im on my laptop not the phone.

David Clarke FHWA: Can you please explain how you define "modest increase" in the traffic study

Angela Berthaume: Feel free to type your question here and we can read it aloud

Al DeBonnett: What provisions are being made for those consulting parties that sole purpose is to object and delay the process, regardless of accommodations made to address or mitigate adverse effects? Is there a final deadline/timeline?

Michael McNamee savethemidway: Can I speak my question on laptop audio?

JPW Nelms: please repeat information about to ask a question on telephone

Angela Berthaume: Please dial *1 to enter you line in the queue. The operator will open the phone lines in the order recieved.

Angela Berthaume: Michael - I do not believe so. Please dial in or type your question here.

Mary Lu Seidel: When your line gets opened for a question, you will get an alert that your line is open, and you will get an alert when your line is again muted.

Michael McNamee savethemidway: i was told on the phone to ask my question but someone spoke ahead of me.

David Clarke FHWA: ok great thanks!

Angela Berthaume: Michael - can you try again to have your line added to the queue?

Angela Berthaume: Lines are opened in the order the requests are received

JPW Nelms: we have tried to call in by dialing 1 but last statement indicates this is last in line. How do we call in?

Mary Lu Seidel: *1 doesnt work?

Mary Lu Seidel: Are you on the phone line?

JPW Nelms: yes

JPW Nelms: Is there something after 1?

Angela Berthaume: please dial in "*1" and your line is added to teh queue for the operator to open

Mary Lu Seidel: You should be added to be opened, and you will be called on in the order you were added

JPW Nelms: we have just dialed "1" again

Angela Berthaume: the code is star (*) 1

JPW Nelms: thanks just dialed *1

Angela Berthaume: Great!

Al DeBonnett: Thank you Eleanor Gorski!!!

Kineret Jaffe: speaking as the representative of the Hyde Park Art Center, I'd like to add that the OPC will be a tremendous asset and resource for the cultural landscape in our neighborhood, as well as a tremendous resource for the city and the country.

Erin Adams: We were also present at those multiple meetings where the different opportunities were presented for UPARR resplacement. Its disingenuious to say that there was no public input.

B. Nichols Lodato, MPAC: Given the double-jeopardy now facing the Midway Plaisance with the addition of the finding of adverse effect on The Chicago Park Boulevard System Historic District, can clarification be given regarding how a prospective proposal for the UPARR replacement is tantamount to a resolution derived from a transparent, public process? Furthermore, can FHWA provide insight on how Section 106 has coped with a dual finding of adverse effect on a single site? This is critically important given that previous meetings regarding the eastern portion of the Midway did not include consideration of the adverse effect on the boulevard system. Thank you very much.

cadams: As a resident of the South Shore community, we are excited about all the improvements to the park from both an aesthetic and programmatic point of view will happen in the wake of the OPC. It is ironic that some of the very voices that were raised in objection to the installation of a highway through the middle of the park now speak to maintain it. The restoration of park land not only adds usable park land but is also more friendly to the environment. Some of the spaces in the area that flood constantly and are virtually uninhabitable will be addressed in the current plan and it is anticipated that the park will be rescued from decades of benign neglect to a new era of positive activity and an inspiration to us all. This is an opportunity that we heartily embrace as do tmost of the people who actually live in the impacted neighborhoods.

Lisa DiChiera: How soon will the transcript of this meeting be available? Will it be available before the 30 day comment due date?

Matt Fuller (FHWA-IL): The webinar audio and video will be posted online tomorrow.

Liz Pelloso - EPA: are we keeping to the time limits of the webinar?

Erin Adams: I am disturbed that certain consulting parties are dominating this conversation, taking time away from others that have comments or questions to contribute.

Erin Adams: Some have greatly exceeded their 3 minute time limit

Al DeBonnett: Will objection letters and those consulting parties submitting them be available for public review? Good idea for public to know those who object to park improvements and Jackson Park area investments. Many thanks to Abby, DPD, CPD, FHWA, CDOT, ACOE, OPC and all vested positive stakeholders to this endeavor.

B. Nichols Lodato, MPAC: Thank you for the opportunity to participate.

Jaime Loichinger, ACHP: Thank you to FHWA for hosting this meeting - we appreciated the opportunity to engage with the other consulting parties.