

Jackson Park Section 106 Consultation Webinar 2: Closed Captioning Transcript

Wednesday, May 20, 2020 at 9:30 AM Central

Please stand by for real-time captions.

This is Tom Hall. Good morning, thank you for standing by for the Jackson Park Consulting call. At this time, all lines omitted but instructions will be given at a later time. If you should require the assistance, you may press star followed by zero and an AT&T operator will assist you. To ask a question today, submit press star zero it will be an acknowledgment and you can hit 10 again to take yourself out of the queue. At this time, during this conference, I'll turn it over to our host Program Support Specialist Allison Caloggero. Please, go ahead.

Welcome, everyone to the Section 106 webinar, my name is Allison Caloggero, from the Volpe National Transportation System Center and my colleague, Angela and I will be supporting the webinar today. As you know, this is the second of 3 part webinar series and we are excited to continue the conversation today.

I just wanted to share some information on the web room and its functionalities, as well as your webinar participation. On the screen, you will have a presentation being conducted today. At the bottom, you have the closed captioning pod, and will provide real-time captioning, and to the left of the closed captioning pod is the file share pod, where you'll be able to download a PDF version of today's slides. On the left-hand side of the web room, you will see a series of pods, the attendee pod and the chat pod. So in the top left corner, the note pod and will include your call-in information. This line is for participants to use during our group discussions and our Q&A portion of today's meeting. This line is managed by Tom, our operator. Again, to cue your questions, please dial 10. To take yourself off of the queue for questions, keep please dial 10 again. Again, this little line is used for the Q&A session of today's meeting, which all parties will have the opportunity to comment during question and answer. And this will also be used for our group discussion. At this time, a representative from each consulting party will be invited to call in at the appropriate time and we ask you to please limit your remarks during the session to three minutes.

I would also like to mention that if you are using the call line, please make sure that the audio on your computer is turned down to avoid any echo or audio feedback. In the bottom left corner, you have the attendee list and then the bottom pod, you have the chat box. The chat pod will be used to ask questions throughout the presentation. And you can voice your ideas and questions, so if you do leave a comment or question or if you are on the line, please identify which consulting party you are representing. So as a question being provided by the chat pod will be read aloud and those will be responded to after the meeting. Lastly, this meeting is being recorded and the video and audio record of today's meeting will be posted online after today's webinar. So moving along here, I would like to turn it over to Matt Fuller of the Federal Highway Administration to begin it all today. Matt?

Thank you, Allison. Good morning, everybody and thank you for joining today's consulting party meeting. Again, a good response to today's webinar with 75 registered participants. As Allison said, my name is Matt Fuller and I work for Federal Highway Administration in Springfield, Illinois. Federal Highway is the lead federal agency for the Section 106 process and in my role, I work with state and local governments to complete the environment to review process for transportation projects. Today is the second in the series of three section 106 consulting party meetings to resolve adverse effects resulting from the undertaking in

Jackson Park and in Chicago, Illinois. The goal of these meetings is to reach an agreement on measures that will resolve the adverse effects as a result of the undertaking. We are interested to hear consulting party ideas for resolving the adverse aspect on historic properties.

Today, we will summarize the meeting for May 6th and we will discuss potential mitigation measures to resolve the adverse effect, helping the ideas that you submitted during the first consulting meeting and ideas submitted through the electronic survey. We will have an opportunity for every consulting party to provide additional feedback on the mitigation ideas that have been presented and we will describe the next steps in the process. We will wrap up the meeting with another opportunity for you to ask questions or provide additional comments on mitigation ideas. I'll be presenting a few slides related to the process and the federal requirements and I will turn it over to the City of Chicago, Eleanor Gorski for the discussion of mitigation measures. We have agency representatives from the National Park Service and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers available to answer questions on the call today. We also have section 106 experts from the Advisory Council on Historic Presentation and Illinois State Historic Preservation Office.

As you know, we had the first meeting on May 6th, 2020, to discuss the process for resolving adverse respects and begin soliciting ideas from consulting parties to mitigate these adverse effects. Today, we have the idea of developing the first meeting of the ideas collected through the electronic survey. We are asking for you to consider the ideas we have received so far, expand upon them or offer additional ideas and we will accept your ideas to. You can also submit them through next Tuesday, May 26th at noon. The agencies will consider all of these ideas and develop a draft MOA to circulate to the public and consulting parties for review. The third meeting will be held on June 17th from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. and we will discuss the draft MOA and the next steps for completing the 106 process. Next slide, I'm going to turn it over to Eleanor.

Yes, good morning, everyone. Again, I'm Eleanor Gorski with the City of Chicago assisting the state and federal agencies for the 106 process. So the May 6th meeting, we had 90 registered participants and we reviewed in general the 106 process, what has been a popular so far and where we are now in the process. And that is of course with the mitigation stage. We explain what it is, what it should address and the different types of mitigation that we have seen used throughout the country on other projects. Then, we asked the group to present ideas that they have and that we have also presented, along with ideas that we have received throughout the process and that included ideas that have been reviewed as part of reducing the adverse effects throughout the process as well. Transcript and video and response to questions were all posted on the city's website and as Matt noted, we distributed a survey outdoors to consulting parties to ask for further input as well as comments on what was discussed at this meeting. The mitigation process, Matt, did you want to go through this slide?

Sure, Eleanor, I'll get the next two. The next resolve adverse effects step is a consultant process for the federal agency or assistance of other parties to develop measures or to mitigate adverse effects, which are then incorporated into a legally binding memorandum of agreement. The federal agency is ultimately responsible for deciding which mitigation commitments are included in the MOA. That mitigation idea from all consulting parties and the public will be considered in that process, the federal agency collaborates with the applicant to ensure the feasibility of the mitigation measures in the MOA. We ensure that the mitigation measures are related to and commensurate with the impact to the historic resource

and the required signatories must also agree with the mitigation proposed. In this case, the Federal Highway Administration, the Historic Preservation and the federal agency is responsible for ensuring that the mitigation measures that are included in the MOA are implemented; however, the information and mitigation measures are often assigned to the applicant or to their parties. Mitigation ideas from consulting parties, we received feedback from consulting parties throughout the 106 process. We have considered and dismissed ideas that are outside of the federal agency's control, including location and design changes at the OPC sites, location of the USEPA through repression, recreation opportunity and the retention of Cornell Drive. The reasons why these ideas have been dismissed have been explained in writing and verbally and we are not considering these mitigation measures further. The mitigation ideas being carried forward for further discussion are centered on four themes, research, interpretation, restoration and design review. I will turn it back over to Eleanor to discuss those themes.

So the four themes that were developed to lead into this meeting today, the team here arrived at them after the discussion with the consulting parties, in order to further group -- In order for the group to have responses and to organize our thoughts moving forward. So this was incorporated into the survey and the survey was available May 13-18 and we had a good response with 77 folks representing 26 parties responding. We also received and considered additional correspondence from various consulting parties and thank you for that. That provided more detail as to their ideas. So we asked in the survey, evaluate the mitigation ideas identified at the May 6th meeting and in general, the feedback was very positive and in fact, triggered additional ideas to consider in each of the four themes. Again, as Matt noted, comments relating to finance measures that were previously considered and dismissed, we did receive those comments and those were recorded and we are not elaborating on those in today's meeting.

So going through the four different themes, to summarize what we heard and new ideas, the first is the mitigation through research. Again, it was very positive and we heard a lot of great ideas from the last meeting. These, we had heard before and they were added onto, most notably, the research and documentation on the themes in the park. Of course, also design and temp Edward annuities, such as exploring African-American, historic features and features in the park, woman's history and other significant events noted in the park. The research ideas, a document, while wasn't in Jackson Park and a survey that, coming up with a report, a bird, migration study and also, study report on mechanisms and parks to determine the best programming. The mitigation through interpretation feedback again was positive and we went through the various information that was described at the first meeting, notably, in terms of conservation, and the Midway as well as Central Park. There was a lot of discussion on the historic black signage. Again, engaging culture that is just a theme that came up in our previous discussion and was a theme in the survey. Breed an indoor exhibit as well as an outdoor exhibit or interpretive map, showing the history of Jackson Park and how it has changed over time. Again, interpreting Jackson Park's women's history, through multimedia methods and signage.

I am sorry, my connection was just lost it I am going to move to another slide here. I apologize for the delay.

Eleanor, which slide do you want to be on, interpretation or the next slide?

Interpretation, I can see it on my screen, would you mind advancing it, Matt?

Not at all.

Okay, so I just wanted to finish interpretation ideas. A master plan for science and plaques, to ensure quality design and programming and we heard this extending outside the parks, links for cultural campus on the south side. Again, the role of African-Americans specifically in the world's fair and then at the Nike mental site was also a noted resource that should be recognized by a plaque. But to go to the next, Matt.

Okay, it is on restoration now.

Yes. The mechanisms for restoration, again, we received a lot of good feedback. This has been discussed throughout the process, many of the monuments and structures throughout the park and that includes the statue of the Republic, the cover station, the landscape features, the island. The new ideas we received were again, landscape features in Jackson Park and wooded Island. Other structures such as the Coast Guard building at beach house, third Street beach house, Iowa building and then we did receive some comments to enhance the wetland in the Midway, various design ideas there and another pedestrian bridges and other areas of the park. Okay, Matt the medications through design, again, generally positive and involved themes that were repeated, used projects with architects and engineers that recognized the secretary of interior's standards and treatment of historic landscapes and work moving through woodwork. Also, the public should have an opportunity to view and comment on the design and proposed improvement. This includes the replacement area in the Midway and other restoration projects. A new design review idea, consult a naturalist and use professional consultants for all restoration plans, getting into a little bit more detail there. So that kind of summarizes the four themes, if we could go to the next slide, Matt?

And in today's meeting, we want to continue to build off those four themes, ask if they have further ideas in terms of what I have just listed, the mitigation ideas, what bread the names, particularly with these groups? Then come open the subject conversation with each consulting party, having an opportunity to give their opinion, their thoughts on this and in order to ensure that everyone is heard, our facilitator, as you mentioned, will call groups of three, going down the list of consulting parties sent out. And you will have three minutes to convey your thoughts on this. And if you prefer to put your thoughts in the chat box or if you would like to decline to take up speaking time, please also convey that in the chat box and we will record that. I'm going to leave the slide up on the screen, the mitigation ideas being carried forward. Again, our research, interpretation, restoration and design review. So if you could indicate if you have an idea from one of those, which group was within that. Okay, I think we are ready to open up the lines, if you would like to go ahead?

Hi, everyone. Tom, our operator, could you open the lines? The first three groups that we would like to call upon to hear questions again, please dial 10 to queue your questions and ideas into the call line. Or, type into the chat, the first three groups will be the 1 Woodlawn and National Association of Colored Women. The second group is Brown Books and Paint Brushes. Group 3 is the Chicago Urban League. Please feel free to queue those questions or provide them in the chat box. Thank you.

I do see a call or something in the chat box with Mary Lou Seidel, please review how we can ask questions. So this section of the presentation is to have a discussion on mitigation ideas. So we will go through each consulting party, again, groups of three, when we are through the list, then we will have a second round if anyone then has further thoughts, they can call in and

that will not be in a controlled manner like going through the list. You can simply call in and again, provide your ideas or questions on mitigation. And at the end of the webinar, there will be a general Q&A session where the agencies will be available to answer questions. I have asked that you hold any general questions until the end of the webinar.

And for participants on the phone lines again, if you have a question, just press 10. Thank you.

One second, would you like to take the first one?

Yes, please.

Okay, I'm going to bring that. Is it Brenda Nelms on the line? Go ahead.

Thank you, can you hear me?

Please list your consulting party or with so we can keep track.

Sure, I'm with Jackson Park Watch. I am initially, thoroughly confused that I'm the first one on since I thought I was 14. I do think the process is confusing, I will say that. I would also like to say that I found it strange that the information about what had been received and everything was going to be put out in advance, I thought that was part of the survey collection thing. I have so that we would have that in advance so that you could have a more rational, appropriate discussion of proposals rather than having to react in time, often have kind of thing. I would like to express concern about that. I do find it and hope that Matt Fuller will address at some point the issue of the mitigation measure, the commensurate with the impact. None of the things I have heard really address, I think. They are the impact on completely undercutting the all-state design and change in the care of the part from a nature area, a wildlife area to a theme park kind of thing. It is quite substantial and I think that I would like to understand how that decision -- With regard to some of the things I have put forward, with research, I have suggested in my comment on the survey that whatever updating of the national register statement was done, should include the complete AOE report to explain what is in there and what has been lost. I think that is important and that only leads me to think what, how are the listings of suggestions and everything edited in ways, I thought we would get the full list with all the text and that would have been perhaps more usable and interesting. Even in groups and things, I approve of groupings, for instance, kind of the editing of thing is a limiting with applicant put. With regard to design review, particularly restoration perhaps, maybe all that, having to put these -- One thing that is suggested and this is not really linked to the U part, this is in general, if you are going to go with this proposal is designed, there should be 20 acres of public parkland come under control and the grooming of the park district. This is added to the neighborhood, I realize, not in one -- But otherwise it is a complete loss of parkland for the community, at a time when, as we have noted through the current pandemic, having access to such outside areas is extremely important. To reduce and have no replacement parkland, to give up 20 acres for 99 years and not have any replacing parkland is just a travesty. This is a travesty of a public response ability.

I'm sorry, that is three minutes.

Okay, thank you.

Thank you. Again, the first three consulting parties who we will hear from will be from 1 Woodlawn National Colored Womens, Chicago Urban League and if you are queued up, you can dial 10 to come off of the queue.

And the next question will come from the line of Ward Miller. Please, go ahead.

Yes, can you hear me?

We can.

Can you hear me?

Yes.

Ward Miller with Preservation Chicago. You know, from the very start, we have felt that the placement of the Obama Presidential Center in Jackson Park was flawed from the very start and we still feel like it could be located elsewhere. It really is politics at its worst. You know, understanding all of that and looking at restoration and research and interpretation and design review, you know, the idea of plaques is wonderful but you know, that is a token for what is being proposed in place of what is being lost and, you know, I think we should really look at some big initiatives. I didn't see reference to our idea of the lakefront, the entire lakefront being a national park with President Obama and the Palmer national Monument, national Park but of course, the recent Indiana dunes, becoming a national park. So we would really like to see the politics of all of this taken out of the parklands and given to the National Park Service with the park district and the city of Chicago, realizing there could be a combined lift. That would, we would have all these decrepit roads and bike paths and things without roads and buildings that are collapsing in Jackson Park. This is really, really awful in so many ways but so we would like to see things like of some type of regulation, plan work destination and national park designation for front parks to protect them from other incursions like this in the future again, this will take the politics out of the parks, these are not for officials and others to give away. And we would also like to encourage friends of the parks proposal, the last four miles, especially realizing the high water levels, the current rainstorms that have flooded the entire city, including the Sears Tower in lower Bracher and what this does is it creates a buffer between the language that we all think is magnificent and built in the environment. We want to encourage the greening of the U.S. steel site as a part and encourage the city and all the officials that are involved in this and the Obama foundation to help with this towards these goals and get behind these ideas .that is a family this form of medication. You know, the idea of restoration is ridiculous in this situation because we should really be restoring the park without the 20 acre Obama campus we very much welcome to the city of Chicago Chicago's South side, but there are a lot of available sites available nearby who have built in land from the Obama foundation that could have built in land included into a park-site or maybe it's on park. We want to encourage some really positive, big ideas, a big vision. You know, the vision Branam had in his 1909 plan and not these small, mitigation issues my really minimize and get the fact that this is all been given away. So we want to encourage those kinds of things. Thank you.

Next, we will go to the line of Kineret Jaffe, please go ahead.

Hi, can you hear me? My audible.

Yes, you are.

Okay, I am with the Hyde Park Art Center, I would like to speak on four specific topics, first, I would like to, the federal agencies and the city for their transparency and for all the consultation they have done. I find that extraordinary the people are still saying that they have not had public influence, we have had many years of public influence and I'm very thankful for that. Secondly, I would like to challenge the notion that we are not being respectful of what we're doing here with the building of the OPC expense of thought has been given to how this has really does have a circle, commencement vision for parks and placements of people. Thirdly, I look to see that we are restoring park building through the OPC, not diminishing it. Fourth, speaking to the fact that the landscape parks are working with the Obama foundation and have paid a lot of attention to restorations of the plant life and the animal life in the park, recognizing the climate change is into effect and is already affecting what can and cannot grow in the park. We also need to be thinking about planting trees and they need to be able to withstand climate change and we need to think about natural disasters. Storms, etc. that we need to be thinking about, water runoff, none of that is happening now. It will happen with the OPC. Finally, in terms of interpretation again, this my fourth point, the fact that we can pay attention to what is said and done, I love the fact of having the virtual model of the world's fair perhaps running in the museum. It would make a puzzle for people to see how much activity there was in Jackson Park during the world's fair and we hope to see that kind of activity in Jackson Park, going forward. Thank you very much.

Thank you. May I ask if we can clear the lines and have the consultant parties from our first three call in, and we can follow through the line? Is that possible?

There is one other person queued up, should I go ahead and clear that one out?

Yeah, go ahead and please clear it out and we will announce the names of the first three consulting parties again. We asked them to speak first. Please, go ahead and clear out the lines so we make sure that we start this in order.

Okay, I will go ahead and clear this one out.

Thanks, Tom.

So the first three consulting parties at the, dial 10. Those are 1 Woodlawn National Association of Colored Women's Club, Brown Books and Paintbrushes, Chicago Urban League. Please dial in now or producer comments with the web user client in the chat box.

Looks like we are having one queue up.

And we are getting a number of participants queued up and we will go to Lupita Rose, please, go ahead.

I have no questions at this time.

Great, thanks. And our next question is from the line of Al DeBonnett.

Hey, everybody, this is Al DeBonnett. Jackson Park Golf of the community.-Appointed by the aldermen district from December 29th, 2015. I have been a part of over 100 plus minutes,

including Jackson Park advisory, Chicago park golf and also wanted to let everyone know on this call that there are two organizations not represented in Jackson Park, the ones we have done have meetings of 1000 participants in support. Every event of the entire foot and has been analyzed and researched and toured by all the leadership it so when I say these things, please the entire community is supportive and ready to go with the current design of the OPC and the South Loop, Southlake front plan that has been fully thought out and participated in with all community members for the last four years. So if we can start that and implemented through mediation of all the lake in a row since taking place. If we continue to delay, the costs will triple as it has now, if we had started before. So I say these things, you know, again, for each one of you, Jackson Park does not represent the community. Preservation, we do not represent the community and what is needed. The year of significant, 1972, you guys were not there and your mediation, the there was only frustration from the element process starting that you participated and we need this a long time ago. Again, if I'm going to speak this in the spirit of love, Eleanor, all these highways, administrations, officials, Matt, you guys are fantastic but we beat this horse until it is dead and be out. At this point in time, any delay will only cause greater cost. As one who is trained in construction, Chicago, a variety of other key resources, the delay has caused some costs that will result in I think in their minds, as everyone on this call knows, even greater cost anticipation loss. That is for future opportunities and with that said, thank you for all that you guys have done. Let's get it done and proceed and everyone, have a wonderful day. Thank you.

Thanks for calling the line, Frederick Bates, please, go ahead.

Yes. I would like to raise two very specific points and then one general one. I represent Friends of the Park.

Excuse me, I'm sorry, you're just going to announce it? You are a consulting party affiliation thank you, sorry to interrupt.

Yeah, sorry. In the kind of how do we deal with this overtime? We know that all institutions are subject to change and can be very vulnerable and that they may cease to exist and if this presidential center were to cease, I think it would be important that they provide secure funding to restore the park to its original condition and to remove the building. So that is kind of dealing with adverse effects and a suggestion. I'm sure they can certainly provide these assurances that can be funded and could be in the agreement with the city secondly, just in the monument arena, the Arena Taft and others had a huge plan for beautifying the midway, pre-and post-World War I, which included the fountain of time, which is probably the most extraordinary sculpture in the city of Chicago. He also had another equally extraordinary design to match it, which has never been implemented. I think that could be a good mitigation opportunity finally, I would like to echo Ward Miller's thought that this is probably a good time to deal with our full lakefront park system. Thanks.

And next and will go to the line of Candace Washington. Please, go ahead.

Hey, Candace, so sorry, before you start it I want to interject, I want to remind everyone that we are focusing on mitigations at this point and those four categories are research, interpretation, restoration and design review. Any other general comments or questions, please hold until the end of the webinar and then we will open up the line for those. Thank you very much. Go ahead, Candace.

Okay. Hey, everybody. I'm Candace, I'm with the Brown Books and Paintbrushes organization and I just want to know, how can I be involved in the process of getting children engaged in the mitigation process? Will you guys be reaching out to schools?

Candace, this is Eleanor, we do have that point that as one of the mitigation comments. It was noted by many folks, so I think I will definitely be part of the discussion going forward for the MOAA so we will have more information, I will see we will tell you what the plan is later on. Thank you.

Next come we will go to Lisa DiChiera's line. Lisa?

Hi, this is Lisa DiChiera with Landmarks Illinois and I wanted to raise to design related issues that we have raised in the past and I am wondering, even though we had raised them in the context of avoidance and minimization, I think that there still may be an opportunity may be to review them from the design review perspective now within mitigations. Those two design issues were, if it was conceivable to evaluate the ability to just shift the northern edge of the OPC campus slightly to the south to avoid the southern twin roadways that is on the south side near Knox, as well as the ultimate design of the woman's garden. And so I am thinking there is an opportunity here within this design review section of mitigation to just, again, look at those things, purely from a design standpoint. From our perspective, it could be it 200 foot shift to the south to avoid that southern roadway and went to the women's garden, again, it could be the opportunity to talk about how the integrity of the garden to be further preserved. Right now, it is been pretty radically changed. Thank you.

Next question, going from the line of Louise McCurry please go ahead.

Hi, can you hear me?

Yes, go ahead, Louise.

Okay. I am saying thank you for this has been a long process. I know we have to get it done but we have been waiting for this park to be signed and to get it done you started but first, interpretation, I'm going to cover the interpretations you have talked about. I really believe and all of the many tours I've given in the park, the interpretation of the park needs plaques for the nation the unit per park for aspiring those things by getting the word out to 27 million people there. We need a plaque for all the workers, it has always amazed me that the world's fair Park doesn't have a plaque for the folks who designed it. In terms of restoration, high imports desired together women's building at the fair, they had a major role in getting women the right to vote and some interpretation is that this is where it all started. I like the idea for the museum but I think you're probably more likely to fall short. Third, handing out, we frequently give tours with pushing wheelchairs around the park. People, elderly folks or folks who don't have access abilities some better signage and accessibility for handicapped would be a really important part of the design idea. Those folks don't have access to the park. Finally, getting people engaged like children. We need to get our future engaged comments about our children, not us. It's about getting them involved and improving design ideas. We need to be near and dear to their heart. There are so many amazing parts of Jackson Park, children don't get involved in because they just don't realize there are any children's activities involved. There are schools but thank you so much for joining us. It is about time we get it done, we have been waiting a long time to get it done and we look for to getting it done. Thank you.

Next, let's go to the line of Karen Freeman Wilson but please, go ahead.

This is Karen Freeman Wilson, the Chicago Urban League, a consulting party. I would like to add my condolences to those who first said to get it done because we are a part of this project. I also wanted to comment specifically on design and restoration. As we look at these faces, I think that this presents in preparing this opportunity for training, both training of those who are in professional architecture and engineering and other aspects. Also, training and respiration. So opportunity for training and as we get more involved in the project and I know that you all have considered this extensively, the work to be engaged in the restoration of the project and the full inflammation is extremely important as you think about mitigation, to engage those residents who are in that area, who will be impacted by the work being done, also who will be uplifted by the work that is being done with this project.

And we will go to the line of Dan Marriott, please, go ahead.

Can you hear me now?

We can.

A very good. I am with the National Association for Olmstead Parks, general comments. Thank you for the opportunity. First of all, in terms of interpretation opportunities, I think interpretation should be part of everything. Matter what happens, when it's a commencement telling stories of the park. But interpretation on its own is a very limited response to significant changes to Jackson Park this should be discussed verbally try to think these should be standalone solutions to what's happening with the park right now, not in terms of the full mitigation. Second point, as Lisa DiChiera said earlier from the landmarks, the idea of shifting that we see slightly south to maintain the integrity of the historic section between the midway and Jackson Park I think is very important and doable. Cornell Drive, I'm not quite sure what he meant by having that opened up right now. I believe the Cornell Drive should recognize additional cross-sections if it becomes a pedestrian and bike path and should recognize his store cross-sections as part of the reason does design, not simply as a decorative pathway. Next point, I would like to also have people think of the possibility of medication, applying to Washington Park. Future changes in that area, I believe they are advanced in the idea but what can and cannot happen with the Washington Park. This is a Chicago, South Park system, Washington Park midway and Jackson Park. I would like to suggest as well that all mitigation ideas, I'm hearing a lot about involves local children, job opportunities, education. Again, I think the colors of what happens, water service, transportation service, every one of these has an opportunity to engage children, provide opportunities for engagement from the local community. Again, this shouldn't be standalone but an inherent part of every litigation's development. Lastly, comments about the speed and urgency of this project, it is a national and large project and it does not on public landscape, nonsignificant locally to Chicago but nationally it these are project and nationally bring much conversation and lots of debate because it does affect people's views and values across a wide range of areas. So something like this will involve questions like this, comments and often takes a while for things to happen. So I appreciate the sense of urgency, I appreciate the way this has gone so far. Again, Dan Marriot with the National Association of Olmstead Park, thank you.

No other questions queued up at this time.

Thanks, Tom. This is Matt with the Federal Highway Administration, we have heard from a number of consulting parties and we had a list will try to go in order. We have kind of hopped around a bit so I do want to circle back to the top of our list and give everyone an opportunity that hasn't had a chance to speak yet to speak and I'm going to start at the top of our list, 1 Woodlawn and National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. If you would like to comment, please dial 10. We are going to queue up several groups also Don Nash Advisory Council. If you are interested, please dial 10. The DuSable Museum of African-American history. Emerald South, if any of those consulting parties would like to speak, please dial 10 now you will get into the phone queue. We will just give a few seconds for those folks to dial in. Tom, could you let us know if we have any one of the queue?

We do have a few coming up, one moment, please. Getting names. Thank you.

For everybody else, go ahead and hit one, go ahead and put yourself in the queue for one second here.

I would like to remind everyone, again, we are still trying to get each consulting party to participate in this first round so we would ask that if you have multiple folks representing your consulting party that you hold your questions or comments until we are through this first round, thank you.

Our first question, Mary Lou Seidel, please go ahead

I will go ahead and hold my call until later because somebody from Preservation Chicago to spoke so I will wait until later, thank you.

Good, we'll go to the line of Alisa Starks. Please, go ahead Mrs. Starks, your line is open, are you muted? Alisa, we did open your line, are you muted on your end? She is not responding, we will go she just queued up again here. Mrs. Starks, can you hear me?

Don Nash Park advisory Council, can you hear me?

We hear you now.

Great, I like to echo some comments made previously, just to make sure about those comments. I also want to applaud the federal section 106 review process and all the agencies involved, I do feel this has been a very transparent process. I would also like to reiterate the comments that were made about every area of mitigation that we look at, involving the local communities that are going to be impacted most by this in terms of not only learning experiences with students but also employment opportunities, whether they are training opportunities or even hiring even from within the community to perform some of these areas. I was also glad to see some of my own comments incorporated from the survey today and I would like to highlight some of them as much as possible, we have a large minority population and as much as possible, we look at ways to highlight the historical significance of those. A lot of the Homestead, historical connotations and others related to the historical nature of Jackson Park and are many and well-documented and even though there may be a plaque of Frederick Douglas somewhere in the park that I have never seen, we need to highlight these areas because they are most important to the community that lives here every day. Thank you.

Hello? Tom, do we have anyone else on line?

One is queuing up.

Thank you.

Thank you, one moment it. [Pause] One mama, thank you.

While we wait for the next queue, I will name the next consulting parties. If you like to dial, die one. Next up, Federal Transit Administration, Golden Shore and KLEO Community Center. Thank you.

We have a question, we'll go to the line of Russell Pike go ahead, so.

Thank you, this is Russell Pike, president of Jackson Park Highlands Association. It is a community that is the northbound via 67 Street between streets brigadier and Euclid. I live in the neighborhood, been there for 37 years coming September. The area being proposed by the presidential center has been limited with use since I've been here. I hear all this talk about the land being taken up but yet, I have not seen a lot of activity in the space. A matter of fact, it is a deterring space, they don't even cut the grass properly. I have watched and listened to all the various meetings, I have attended, I think all of the ideas that have been brought up within the last session and some additional ideas are great. I don't think anything should be changed as far as the current design it is appropriate for how it is already been designed to the only thing I haven't seen though is anything as far as the Fieldhouse but I think we need a new Fieldhouse in Jackson Park. It is deteriorating rapidly. I think that the various ideas that have been presented are well within the design of the park and will give credence to the original design of Jackson Park. I don't think it will take anything away. I think this talk about what is going on is with all of that, as well as the discussions for moving the design, that is relevant from my point of the view. The idea is that this is becoming a point of interest that is because it is being placed in South Shore. Where was all this interest? I just don't understand, the comments being made. I do see some support as we move forward with this and I think that the job that has been done has been a great job, everybody has had an opportunity, above and beyond what has been required. So I think that we have done our job and we should be moving forward with this plan. Thank you.

Next, we will go to the line of Perri Irmer.

Good morning, everyone. I am the president of the DuSable Museum of African American History, where the oldest independent black history museum in the nation. Our very, very excited panel about the congestion of the Obama center. I have a couple of things. One, in the nature of comments, comments made to the comments, the idea that someone would refer to the Obama Presidential Center as a theme park, I find highly insulting. The other comments about the center potentially failing as a business or as an institution or organization, I find it equally insulting. I don't think either of these would ever be used, either of these items, there would never be made in relation to a non-African-American organization or honoring a nonblack person. I really want to say that I would love for the folks who are commenting that way to understand how truly insulting and discouraging those types of comments are to members of the black community, not only in Chicago but everywhere. And just a reading of the day musky headlines, getting more, more and more violent and ridiculous and racist and unfair. This should give you a pause to think that we, this community in the park where I was

born, 61 1/2 years ago, I still live there, this is not the place for that type of an Institute or that type of an approach, which is being said by Al and others, seems to be peculiar and suspect in relation to this particular project the timing and sudden just when it never happened before. Those are my comments, we can have comments back to those, you are welcome to comment privately as you wanted to do that. You know how to reach me. Secondly, I have questions relative to Washington Park, the Midway and Jackson Park, which as we all know, are part of the same original South Park system, designed by Olmstead and equally relevant in terms of history, landmarks, etc. and I would love to have Washington Park considered as a mitigation area, particularly, potentially creating a secondary parking area because they won't be enough parking on the OPC site we must capture what is coming from the Dan Ryan Expressway and also from the Midway Airport, the Garfield Boulevard on corridor.

Hello? Yes, I would like to also put the museum on the radar as a mitigation site for internships, for training of volunteers and workers at the Obama center and all of that can go on during the construction period so that the youth and the interested -- Folks interested in working there can utilize what they're dealing with in the training site, fellowship sites or internship sites and we would also be pleased to be a historical research partner, utilizing our extensive historical archives as the basis for these questions that have been raised.

Thank you, Perri.

I would encourage you to come back for the second round. Sounds like you have much more to say.

Thank you.

We will go to Robin Coston's line.

Yes, hi. I'm a member of the Nicholas Park advisory Council, I live at the park, I have been using Jackson Park and Woodlawn for close to 60 years. On the question of interpretation, I would like to see plaque showing Olmstead's initial designs, both the first one in 1872, the second one in 1895, perhaps that would set to rest the question of was Cornell Drive part of the original plan? It was. Because Olmstead believed people deserved a good route to get to work, they benefited from the beauty, he worked hard to construct a road with a delightful view. I think we are going to lose that not only that, but all the folks in the wheelchairs and thousands who don't use wheelchairs, who enjoy the ride through the park, originally designed that way, they will lose that. Okay? You know, it's going to be a great loss for people of all abilities, including the growing numbers of senior citizens in our society. In the summary of the May 6th meeting, it was commented that Cornell Drive needed to be gone, in order to improve access, East to West through the park it that can be done with an underpass or an overpass, in the a lot cheaper, we wouldn't have to spend all of the money, at least \$200 million on the road work, I am sure, money for the roadwork is going to be for had will Highway authority money. On the question the urgency, yes, it is urgent. When we are done with the pandemic, we are all going to need to be cheerful. This thing has gone on too long, I agree. The reason it has gone so long is because there was an outrageous plan, the people who did the plan new the Chicago had a long history of trying to protect the lakefront and that fighting is probably going to go on. I am also a member of Protect Our Parks, lawsuit is going to go forward, it will be appealed. The way to get the Obama center built is to come up with a sensible plan that does not destroy our beautiful, historic Park that does not take away

two basketball fields, three ball courts, tennis courts and another 50 acres of land for other modifications. It is outrageous. Let's get the Obama Center built in an appropriate place.

Okay, thank you for your comments.

In the final reminder, 10 questions, we will go to Brenda Nelms. Please, go ahead.

If I could please add, this is Eleanor Gorski again, if you're numbers of your party have already spoken, please see temperature of the members to speak and two, again, a reminder that this part of the webinar is about mitigation and we are happy to take comments about other issues at the end of the webinar. Thank you.

Brenda, your line is open?

I would like to address the concerns announced both in the chat box.

Brenda, I would ask you to wait and then until the end of this round. Thank you.

Could you clarify, the next round or the end of this round I will be able to speak again?

Brenda, we are going to go through all of the consulting parties and let everybody have a chance to speak and after that round, we will open up the lines again.

Okay, thank you.

Next consulting parties on the list include Metro, Midway Plaisance Advisory Council, Obama Foundation, Office of Alderman Hairston and Openlands. So if any of those consulting parties would like to make a comment on mitigation ideas, please dial 10 now.

And we will go to the line of Mary Anton and please, go ahead.

I want to make a couple of comments, quite briefly, I hope.

Wait, Mary, please, state who you represent.

I'm sorry, Rosalie Villa homeowners association. I am also a member of Jackson Park Advisory Council in the Midway advisor and I called you, I'm speaking on behalf of Rosalie Villa.

Thank you.

Thank you, just a couple of brief comments, I want to focus on research and interpretation, one thing that I would like to say is part of the discussion here has been basically a battle over preserving the Olmstead legacy with the focus on landscape. The point is that Olmstead's ideas about parks come out of his feelings about democratic spaces and open spaces for all people, not just for citydwellers having a place to rest from the daily work at the time. So I think more emphasis really needs to be placed on not only landscapes but the Jackson Park, added and how it has evolved historically, from being a swamp to the site of the world's fair, which based the lived in Chicago and lifted it out of the misery of the years of the Chicago fire. Then, as the south side has evolved, it is becoming the kind of community for African-

Americans over the years. There is a story there that I think parallels the city of Chicago and I think parallels what I think was incredibly important, as important as the trees in the park and that brings me to my next point, parks over the a renewable resource. What we have here is a park that needs to evolve over time. I don't know how many people on this call have a look at the oncology reports done by the landscape design architect, but they are deep and thorough and thoughtful and they basically are focused on building basically landscapes that are good for people but also good for migratory birds, insects, and pollinators and so forth. So that in itself is an important story about extending the life for the next hundred years of Jackson Park. Then finally, I want to build on a couple of comments made about the park system, Jackson Park's Midway and Washington Park areas. I very much support the recommendation of turning the end of Midway Plaisance into a better connection between Jackson Park and Midway Pleasants. I also very much in interested in the idea of recruiting connections among the three parks, specifically by renewing and renovating a bike path between parks. That way, over time, you have the opportunity to bike, not only North and South across the entire lakefront but also, from East to West, across the parks. Thank you, those are my comments.

And we will go to Ted Haffner's line. Please, go ahead.

Yeah, our consultant meeting -- [Indiscernible - low volume] Interpretation section, leaving all cultural systems for the park system, a couple suburban [Indiscernible - low volume] OPC, FI.

Mr. Haffner, I'm sorry, this is Eleanor Gorski, I didn't catch your party affiliation?

Open lands.

Okay, thank you.

[Indiscernible - low volume volume]

You are breaking up.

The cultural Museum campus staff trail, in design review, we would like to see the impacts of the storm water from the site being sent to the lagoon removed and it dealt with differently because of the Clifford project. Then, restoration will echo the theme of the South park system. Looking [Indiscernible - low volume] at those circulations and sidewalks [Indiscernible - low volume] Thank you very much, that's all I have.

Hi this is Matt, this is from the Highway administration. You broke up quite a bit during your comments. Would you mind writing those out and sending them to us in an email, just to make sure that we capture those completely?

Certainly, thank you.

I'm going to go ahead and announce the next batch of calling parties. If you have a question to call in or comment, the next Pullman National Monument Preservation Society, Save the Midway, School of the Art Institute of Chicago and South Shore Works. Please dial 10 if you have a comment on the mitigation themes that are on the screen right now, thank you.

Thank you, we have a follow-up from Brenda Nelms, please go ahead.

I didn't mean to call in, I think I have been told to wait, I am waiting. I thought it push one to remove myself from the list and evidently I'm on it again. I think the hold mechanisms are confusing. Happy to talk now but I believe Mr. Fuller wants me to speak later. Correct?

Yes, please, Brenda hold until the end of the first round.

Okay, had 10 to get out of the queue or not?

I will release you, ma'am. When you are ready at the end, they can meet you.

Thank you very much.

Thank you, have a good day next, to the line of Michael McNamee. Please, go ahead.

Hi, Mike McNamee, Save the Midway. So, can you hear me?

Yes, we can hear you.

So I have a comment on the restoration and design review mitigation categories. So Save the Midway support that and has suggested that the city should not train the wetland on the east end of the Midway. Rather, it should replace it with some small, narrow design water feature that could possibly use natural plant in to restore some habitat for birds and pollinators, some other consulting parties that might have mentioned this. Also, whole remaining consistent with Homestead design intentions and principles for the Midway. So in this way, overall, we would like to see that the Midway be respected as a resource that promotes the richness of the wildlife in the area, while also retaining its historic integrity. Thanks.

And we do have one more participant that is coming up I think, one moment.

And while we wait for that I will name off the next six consulting parties. If you have a comment on a mitigation, themes identified on the screen, please dial 10. South Side Neighbors for Hope, The Cultural Landscape Foundation, The Neighborhood Network Alliance, The Scentuary & South Shore Historical Society, University of Chicago and USEPA Region 5.

[Silence]

One moment and will go to the line of Carol Adams. Please, go ahead.

Good morning, Carol Adams, I just want to say quickly, with regards to the references, Burnham was a visionary who didn't believe the vision began and ended with them. I believe they left us a legacy, not a life sentence. I think the parks or organic living expressions of not just nature but of culture, the people who live and people who surround the parks, desperately wanting to see this project move forward I believe the project itself is a mitigation, a mitigation against neglect, underutilization and all of those things that have left us with a park that is sort of a montage of disarray I believe that there is a selective preservation and it doesn't mind when some historic things are cast aside. This in a selective work, some things to promote and announce promote, there is no consistency in this thing. So I think we need to see this as a mitigation, as an opportunity to move people and I am fine with the current design. I don't think that the original design was for some, a highway moving part it is very

different from the carriage way, the carriages in the beginning. I agreed Ward Miller here, plaques are not mitigation, we should be thinking bigger. We were just told this by the parks designers, this was about the big ideas and the Obama presidential center. It's the epitome of a big idea. The park is not an exhibit. It is a living thing. We never told its star properly and when you think about those who talk at the Midway, what it was like when there was teeming with people, when they had the big Ferris Wheel and all of those things, it was about ringing people to it, it's an actually underutilized asset at this point and we have a chance, I think, to make it safe. I'm a historian and I believe and I know the history that will be made and this is an opportunity for us to make it even better. A true legacy does not oppress, liberates. We need to be free to think differently, think a big, do something that the community wants to see happen and we are tired of being held hostage by these delaying tact next and the mean-spirited that comes along with them.

And will go to the line of Scott Craver. Please, go ahead, sir.

Yes, hi, this is Scott Craver with Cultural Landscape Foundation, am I audible?

Yes, Scott, we can hear you.

Thank you. First, a brief comment to say that it does bear reminding that the Jackson Park and the entire South Park system, our sites have managed this review and the way federal agencies have handled this review, those things have implications for historic and cultural sites across the country, not just in Chicago. This is both now and in the future. So it is important that the process be done correctly. With regard to that, we will refer to the city of Chicago and federal agencies to many core responses to date, including our letter of May 19, 2020. We continue to feel the need because of the one mitigation and minimization that was essentially taken off the table with the section 106 review as sufficient. We continue to believe the federal agencies do indeed have obligations to consider and avoid minimization in discussions with applicant's obligations have not been met in this case, at least not yet. Finally, in a prior webinar, we discussed the idea of what the city had done with regard to avoidance to avoid adverse effects and so far, be unmoving this, we have noted that the height of the tower has only increased since the section 106 review began. That a CHP was especially interested in the question of what the city had done to avoid adverse effects to date. It is unclear to us whether that question has been answered to their satisfaction. I hope that that is discussed later in this meeting. Thank you.

And will go to the line of Erin Adams. Please, go ahead.

Hi, can you hear me?

Yes, we can hear you.

Okay, great. So thank you. First, I want to thank the various people involved in the administration of this process. Like others have said the sum of all, I think it has very transfer and transparent and having others involved in the call as they present. I think it has been very thorough. I wanted to comment, first of all, I'm kind of a global sentiment and it was actually, I think Mr. Coffey from the school of the Art Institute in the chat, some that really sums up my feelings that we value what has come to us but we also remember that we are making history. We are making history in this process, President Obama made history in being elected the first African-American president and I can say from my heart that I miss him

being in office. This I think this site is honoring that legacy and honoring everything that came before him. That's hopefully what is going to come after him as well. So I want to emphasize that and I do think that this waiting of Frederick Wilson who I believe it was, you know, a genius in his architecture, but that should not outweigh the significance of President Obama and there are so many of us here on the south side and I think across the country and world that are so grateful that this is actually going to be held in Jackson Park. One thought that came off of the previous sessions, very specific suggestions that of course, the intent is to involve a lot of the Southside community members in the actual building of the presidential center. And so being able to document that process of where these people came from, how this has helped them transform their lives, I think that would be really important part of this process. I don't know if the foundation is planning on doing that and I don't know if that would really feature into a mitigation type of approach but I do think, from the historical perspective, we will look back on this and see, this is one of the many ways that the presidential center has transformed the Southside in positive ways. So I would like to maybe throw that in, just for thought and comment. This process, maybe from the foundation leaders. Thank you.

No further questions and queue at this time.

Okay, Tom, have two more consulting parties on the list as well as the Illinois State historic preservation office and advisory Council and historic preservation. First, we will see if the Vista garage building Corporation or Vista homes building corporations would like to dial 10 and offer comments of the mitigation themes on the screen. And we do have a question. We'll go to the line of Robin Boyd. Everyone else, go ahead and hit 10 to put yourself in queue. Boyd, your call is open.

Okay, great. Great day everyone, great day. I just thought I would call in, we did mention the consulting party. I am really participating with the Don Nash Advisory Council. Also, representing my business, sanctuary on 71st Street. Also, the South Shore system historical society. And so one thing that I have been listening to, the call. I just need to say that presidential centers are historic but [No audio].

I think we lost Robin.

Robin, could you please go ahead and hit 10 at this time? We did lose you, ma'am. I am sorry. We will reopen that line for Miss Boyd. Ms. Boyd, your line is reopen, thank you.

Okay, thank you. I don't know where you lost me at but so I would just say that presidential centers are historic and they are an international draw and I think that they should be both monumental and extraordinary. And I have to say, long time ago, in the very beginning of this thing, I actually felt like south of where it is was a good site .but we are past that now and I am with the site that has been selected. And so I just want to say, I love historic preservation, I love parks, trees and birds. But I love people, okay? I love black people, okay? I try to, anyway. And I just think it is critically important that, you know, we do remember that original plans really didn't include black folks. And we have to be included and we have to decide the ways that we would like to be included. And so I just want to say that the building, where my store is, President Obama first campaign office and legislative office. That is historic but no matter what 71st Street looks like now, it is historic. And the South Shore historical Society, we have been concerned about history and the telling of it and our version and our inclusion in it. And I just hope that people will be respectful and excited

about our involvement as much as they are about birds, trees and, you know, and parks, okay? So that is my take on it, from what I have been hearing. I think we need to stay at a high level of conversation. People can have other kinds of conversation off-line but when we are online, we need to keep it at a high level so we can move through the process. Okay. Thank you very much. I am done.

As a reminder, everybody, go ahead and hit one to put yourself in queue. And we will go ahead to Kay Brown on the line, please, go ahead.

Hello, can you hear me?

Yes.

I represent Vista Garage Building Corporation, I am a below grade facility, near the midway. My organization's perspective, I am concerned about the groundwater and the natural wetlands that accumulates on the east end of the midway. I encourage the planners to think about some kind of a wetland retention pond, water garden or some other facility that allows for that water to continue to be present. The gentleman from the same midway foundation express that very well, it is currently a refuge for trees and could be planted -- Excuse me, a refuge for birds. They could be easily planted in a way that would make it very attractive and an educational water feature, connecting back to the original landscape of the area that Olmstead chose to incorporate into the original design. Secondly, I would like to comment on the long-term maintenance of all of these plaques and plans and recognitions for all the parking used and have used in Jackson Park in the past. This is all somewhat involved in museums and historic preservation, you make a plaque and then it sits there, stays in the sun and in five years, you can't read it. So I would encourage the planners to consider some kind of a maintenance plan and perhaps an interpretation plan for the park and for its various historic features. Perhaps the Museum and Museum for scientific industry, already a vast team of young people trained as interpreters. They can expand their outreach into the park so that there are park tours along with the other events that will be orchestrated by the Obama foundation. I would also like to point out, the only national park in the state of Illinois is Lincoln's home. This would be a reasonable place to make a second national Park or at least a national historic monument. If you look at the resurrection of Pullman, before national Monument recognition and today, it is astounding. Pullman sat unrecognized for 100 years until the National Park Service became involved and provided some interpretation. The park in this history, while I agree with Ms. Adams and her statement, we are creating more history. Let's not forget the past. Thank you.

Will go to Dave White's line. Go ahead.

Good afternoon, everybody, I like to thank the participants and those at home for this today. I agree that there has been a lot of meeting. I am somewhat hesitant about the fact that there are certain points coming up again and again and to get it ignored. One is the air we found adverse effects from what is currently proposed. The mitigation steps many of these are dependent or are going to be reversed for the inverse of fax and this is not considered at all in drafting up these medications or approaches.

Excuse me, what was your consulting party group again?

Yes, Nichols Park Advisory Council, thank you.

We have already heard from someone from Nichols Park.

I thought we had two, I'm sorry.

Yeah, let's hold your comments and we will go for the general round, thank you.

Thank you.

We will go to Stephanie Franklin, please go ahead.

Good afternoon, you probably want to hear from you later then because I also represent Nichols Park advisory Council.

Yes, please.

I have two questions and I cast them later if you prefer.

Yes, please, thank you.

Okay.

No other questions get up and this time.

Thank you, Tom. We have made it through the lesson we have given all the consulting parties the opportunity to comment. This is Historic Preservation Officer and Advisory Historic Counsel, I saved them until the end of the conversation because they have a unique role in the section 106 process. I wanted to give them the benefit of hearing from all the consulting parties before giving them the opportunity to speak. So I will open it up to those, the State Historic Preservation Office and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. I will let you decide which agency wishes to go first.

We did get one other person queue up right when I said that. So I will open this line, not sure if it's for the new one. Mary Lou Seidel, please go ahead.

Actually, can we hold that, Tom?

Yeah.

Thank you.

Mary Lu just reported at the appropriate time.

It is open to the Advisory Council and State Historic Preservation Officer right now?

Hi, can you hear me, this is CJ Wallace with SHPO.

Yes, we can, CJ.

Hi, thank you for the opportunity to speak. We really do appreciate everyone's input. We are discussing medications and right now, we are considering this spectrum of medication ideas from all parties and we should just implemented the appropriate, proportional and feasible

levels of mitigation within the themes that you have up on the screen, being researched for interpretation, restoration and site review, we appreciate all of this input from all of the parties and would like to take all of those ideas into consideration as we work to mitigate this project in Jackson Park. Basically, for right now, that is what we will be doing, taking all of these ideas into consideration. I appreciate all of the input, thank you.

Thank you, CJ. Anyone from the Advisory Council?

Hi, this is Jamie Loichinger or, can you hear me, Matt?

Yes, we can integrate, thank you.

Great. First, I will touch on a few points that have been made by other consulting parties. The question of whether FHWA has adequately avoided minimization measures throughout the process. We understood that those questions have been addressed by FHWA in the final assessment of effects but in any event, our regulations are clear, that information developed to comply with other applicable regulations, including local laws can be incorporated into an agency section 106 review. So right now, based on the conversations that we have all had with FHWA, avoided minimization measures are explored under those applied areas were no applicable, therefore not taking any further or allied with any further. Another point we heard is at the agency first had to consider avoidance or minimization before moving onto any sort of conversation about medication, while the regularization kind of has that prior to saturation of course, that avoidance moving all the way through to mitigation, there isn't a requirement that the agency exhaustively explore every single avoided option before moving it to mitigation organization discussions and that exhaustively explores every alternative there or being able to move into mitigation discussions, rather, the regulation will talk about the agency incorporating ideas that would avoid or minimize adverse or potential effects to indoor properties throughout the entire process, not just at the end with adverse effects identified. So this point, it is consulting parties with other minimization's or avoidance ideas that have not yet been explored and we would encourage them to be shared with FHWA for their consideration.

The mitigation discussion that has been had today has been really beneficial. I think we have really appreciated hearing that these ideas are comprehensive, they are in the interest of the public and in particular, for the people who live there, who describe the significant amount of value to these areas. Really, when it comes to mitigation and the end of section 106, the most important goal is to identify an outcome for the best interest. So to that end, FHWA should really consider that public interest and what are the benefits to the consulting parties and the value to these properties, and how well any interpretive material then be provided to the public, schools and others who have an interest in the undertaking of the background of historic properties. Thank you, Matt.

Thank you, Jamie for those comments. I'll turn it back over to Eleanor.

Yeah, thanks. We really appreciate everyone's, so we have heard so far. We are checking right now on the time of the webinar and to try to extend the time, if we are able to, in order to hear some more conversation about many of these topics. It looks like we have about 15 minutes left. What I'm going to suggest is that we finish up with this webinar itself and then have a round of general comments and questions. We only have a few more slides. Let me move on here.

So then the next step, after this particular meeting, this is just some housekeeping issues and Matt can certainly go over this as well but I think the important thing that I would like to stress is that this is not the end of the conversation today, I am actually helping that this is provoking on the process, more details that folks have some more ideas and we would like to solicit those comments from you all by May 26th and if you could email any additional comments or thoughts to Todd Wyatt at the email address on the screen above, Todd is compiling all these comments. Will convey those to the federal agency for the review. Again, as everything is done for these meetings, we will post everything on the website, the 106 process and will be distributing addressed and a way to start the conversation for the next meeting and we would like to distribute that ahead of time so if you have the chance to take that back to your respective group, really look at the thorough and come to the next consulting party on June 17th, preparing to discuss. So with that, Matt, you have anything else you would like to do to conclude this part before we open it up to more general comments and questions?

I don't have anything specific to add, just appreciate everyone's time today and thoughtful comments on potential mitigation measures. In the process, as Eleanor said, we will be taking those back and taking a hard look at them preparing a draft document that will be shown with all the consulting parties and the public, prior to our next meeting. So let's go ahead and open up the phone lines for the next round of the discussion.

And again, go ahead and hit 10 to let yourself think you and will go to Mary Lou Siedel on the line, please, go ahead.

Hi, thank you, can you hear me?

Weekend, Mary Lou.

Okay, great. Sorry, I got to get this year. I met Mary Lou Siedel, director of community engagement preservation, Chicago, summary of the comments on the themes of research, interpretation, restoration, this review, I feel like I am being asked to dig a headset for my dearly beloved is, do we want the lilies are done, do we include their anniversary date and should go in between two rings are being captained by heart? Black granite or gray? A plaque is they had some of that has taken interpretation, storytelling that lacks a place from which it is told, the store, we love this place so much, we destroyed it and now, we are erecting a beautiful headstone to honor it. In the spirit of community engagement, we will seek public input on the color, design and placement of these wonderful headstones and joy but it is exactly this destroying and building mentality that is threatening the Washington Park National Bank and 63rd and Cottage Grove, demolition planner is preservation Chicago also opposes and I understand no one wants to hear about the idea of moving the OPC out of it Jackson Park but I will continue to say, as we continued to seek density and redevelopment of associate the powers that be decided to build new, improved historic sites, so much vacant land is improved throughout the site for better access to public transportation on land already owned by the University of Chicago city of Chicago and the Chicago Transit Authority, how would moving the OPC to Washington Park diminish President Obama's extraordinary legacy? It would rebuild the southside and build what President Obama fought for as years as an organizer here, a senator and then as a great president.

I would not contribute my ideas for the design of headstones to honor will be lost Jackson Park my one focus on the design reviews of the Federal Highway Authorities which doesn't

have the power to tell the city of Chicago and the Obama foundation to move the proposal out of Jackson Park, a position I disagree with and Sibley choose to deny funding for the project. It does seem to think it has the power to dictate design. Here are our design ideas, move the OPC further south of the park keep the center said below three stories, make all the land around the center open and accessible, just like the rest of the park, regardless of special events. Improve accessibility to the women's garden without destroying it. Reduce lanes of traffic on Cornell and a bike and walking path beside it. For some, having automobile axis limits their access to the park. Do not limit items on the island, 20 acres opened for a part for replacement. Creative math and interpretation for the plant is about the only transparent thing in this process and it should be stopped. I fully knowledge systemic racism and inequity have pervaded in our country since the beginning of the time of white censors choosing to make this place their home. These asked systemic racism and inequity has led to decades of distress and parks in communities of color. The southside has long adored the city of Chicago Park District, Cement City telling the southside that this is all good finally, the positive survey summary at the beginning of this woman are skipped over a number of comments that I know were submitted that to not reflect that cheery perspective. Standing for the park does not make me racist, and making a responsible urban planner, community organizer and community builder. The vision of President Obama inspired me with hope and progress. I am certain his team and city officials can come up with a creative way to honor his legacy, build a presidential center and keep intact an internationally significant park. Thank you.

We will go to the line of Brenda Nelms. Please, go ahead.

I would like first to address the issue about the reference to a theme park that set off lots of comments and it was not meant to do that, it was not in any way meant to be a slight against President Obama. I would wager my administering savings at 99.9% of us are great admirers and supporters of President Obama. The reference was to the contrast between the kind of program, structure, landscape and controlled landscape that will be the OPC and the open landscape that was there before. When President Obama announced, unveiled plans for the OPC in May of 2017, too much unchanged since then except the building has gotten higher. He made reference that he wanted to create something like a Millennium Park on the south side. That is a very different kind of Park and Jackson Park. Chicago needs both kinds of parks. By diminishing and removing the natural, open space, much of Jackson Park, through the core, center, at the time, the Museum of science and engineering, bottom is the top. In between, and other section, something that is unusual, something that should be open to all. That is what is worth preserving and that is the contrast. I would advocate to support what Mary Lu Seidel just talks about, in terms of re-situating the Obama center to isolate it in that section and try to preserve this as much as possible. That is the contrast that is trying to be made. I hope that perhaps this resonates with some of you, maybe doesn't. That was the intent. Again, I advocate beyond what the issue of moving the Obama Center a little south and westward. Also, replacing the Parkland throughout the South Shore and Woodlawn is a necessary and appropriate mitigation for giving up the 20 acres of parkland for the OPC. Thank you.

One question for you, Tom. It looks at were going to go a little bit into the comments and questions, may be over a little over 11:30. I was wondering if are able to keep the discussion going for about 15 minutes longer?

Of course.

Okay, thank you so much.

Yep, thank you. And again, please press 10 for question, Stephanie Franklin, please go ahead.

Thank you very much. I'm representing the Nichols Park Advisory Council, I am also a member of the Midway Park Advisory Council and Jackson Park Advisory Council and members of those also. I have two questions, one is the discussion of avoidance, which is not, not what we're talking about here but again, what is or not different. If there was a discussion of avoidance measures and if there were not considered because of what you are saying in your synopsis here, that those measures were discussed or determined to be not feasible or not feasible early on and I'm wondering by home this was considered and when was this avoidance process -- When was the early ones measure suggested that discussed and where they discussed publicly? I don't find anywhere in my notes that they have been part of the review by the parking consultants or that they were involved in the avoidance measures. So I think that is part of the federal regulations, the 106 process, the avoidance should also be publicly discussed and perhaps I missed that part but there must be somewhere where the discussion is in writing and available to everybody. I would like to have a copy of those discussions. That was my question number one. Question number two, about the roadway changes and I will not see the improvements there definitely changes. My understanding is that the widening of the Lakeshore Drive, which I believe is the Federal Highway, had to be done before Cornell Drive to be closed but I want to know what the Federal Highway's plan B is for Paul at work, if that work gets done on Lakeshore Drive, what is the plan for diverting the traffic off of that stretch and wear with that traffic be diverted to? Especially because of the rebuilding of the bridge, I am not sure how you close half a bridge and whether you close the North half and then the South half. How do you do that with a bridge? So that is my second question, if you could stress that. When does that happen, where does the traffic go and who pays for it? Thank you. Hello?

Hi, this is Matt from Federal Highway Administration. North Lake Shore Drive is certainly eligible for federal aid funding for projects on it. It is not owned or maintained by Federal Highway Administration's so that question would be more appropriately directed towards the city of Chicago. In terms of mitigation measures that have been considered and dismissed, I would refer you to the assessment of effects on the city's website and there was also a number of documents related to comments we received on the assessment of effects that talk about the avoidance measurements of what has been considered and dismissed. I don't know if you are on the line, if you're online and want to address the state in question, Lakeshore Drive?

I would be happy to, Matt. I'm South Lakeshore Drive for this location. Yeah, Lakeshore Drive, the construction on Lakeshore Drive would maintain all three northbound lanes during construction and a minimum, one in the southbound lanes, currently, two southbound lanes from 57 to 63rd and with this construction, we maintain one of those, we would never detour all traffic off Lakeshore Drive, during construction. The proposed plan also has a maintenance of traffic plan that considers the staging of different work. So we would maintain Cornell Drive open to traffic work was occurring on Lakeshore Drive, to fulfill in a diverted traffic and also maintain Stony Island, open the traffic for diverted traffic's.

Okay, I am hearing that but I'm not hearing what happens to when the traffic load becomes more than those existing roads and what they can handle.

So the proposed models have taken into account this visual aspect to have the growth and mild taking into account the transportation roads. So the proposed improvements have been designed based on that model, to determine what our projected traffic volumes are, how we have done it during this process for both the is 2040 and 2050, to ensure both estimates can accommodate a regional traffic growth, based on analysis it can.

Okay and on the first part of my question on avoidance, when that discussion took place and where those public documents are, that discussed avoidance and what were the reasons for deciding that the things were either reasonable or not reasonable or feasible or not feasible, I would like to know where that public document is and how I can read it. I wasn't talking about mitigation, I am talking about specifically, avoidance. Because as I say, those are not synonyms.

Right, the city is maintaining documents, public documents on the website .that is where you can find this information, the assessment of effects. That was prepared earlier this year in response to comments it contains all the rationale for why we dismissed all of those I would just refer you to that website.

Okay, I do have a design mitigation review idea that is that instead of clearcutting the location, you leave the treaties and that would help a great detail to alleviate the shock to the system of having 500 to 1000 trees removed from that location. I am agreeing completely with everything that Mary Lou Seidel said and also, Brenda Nelson.

Okay, thank you, very much. I think we need to allow time for other folks to ask the questions. Could we have the next caller?

Yes, will go on to the line of Michael McNamee, please, go ahead. Mr. McNamee, can you hear?

Can you hear me?

Yes

Okay. So this is Mike McNamee from Save the Midway, again. So this is regarding the landmark Illinois' comment earlier on the design review of maintaining realignment of both east and westbound Midway's that's in Jackson Park. And adjusting the OPC footprint to allow that and we support that idea and this would mitigate any adverse effect to the women's perennial garden, as it could be preserved as it is. And with I have reminders for adjustments and what we would need to do to bring it into the ADA compliance. Thank you.

And we will go to the line of Louise McCurry and a final reminder, please press 10 for comments. And Miss McCurry, your line is open.

You hear me?

We hear you.

Okay. First of all, just wanted to say thank you again for doing this. I know this is a long and arduous process but really appreciate it. Quick answer to the person who said that the OPC should develop a way to design as well, this is in Jackson Park and it is a really wonderful

plan put together by someone who has been there for hundreds and hundreds of meetings, which have been really proud to be a part of. Secondly, I want to second the need accessibility of culture mitigation. In terms of that, one of the things the world's fair, all we hear about is handicaps, one leg run over by a ragged and one leg, eight inches shorter than the other. Getting around was difficult for him. Further, a severe lung disease [Indiscernible - papers rustling] and a smoke-filled engine into the air. Most of them was a gas with the Cornell Drive running to their parks. Conceptually, they put together what was called wheelchair carriers and those were young men who took handicaps along very carefree pathways. They took this all of the parks and understood many handicap people visited parks and having a wheelchair path included there and were safe and imported and in terms of the midway, we have a really wonderful opportunity now to restore and literally restore those featured parks and this will be a wonderful source of mitigation I think for Jackson Park. That's all I have, thank you so much.

Thank you. We will go to Louise McCurry, please go ahead, Louise McCurry.

You just had me.

You are in there twice, I'm sorry. One moment. We have one more coming up. Should be with us momentarily.

And we will go to Gary Ossewaard, please go ahead, sir.

I want to say this discussion has been quite thorough. Glad we have different ideas and thinking out ideas and flushing them out is helpful, too. I encourage further comments. One thing said by people though, it's easy to save and move something to the south. Then, you have to consider what gets bumped out there and in this case, it would be the track, athletic, major athletic track used by the schools. So if there is to be a change in that area, by the women's garden, you would have to figure out what to do elsewhere. Already, complaints because part of it is too high, you fill the whole space with buildings? You know, if you don't move it to the South in the sense of eliminating the track. So then I think that is one of the reasons why some of the solutions with adjusting with design were eliminated, was probably because, as a matter of push and shove, same would be true with the roadway changes. So if it is possible, it could be changes in the design but they may not be very easy and I want to thank everybody who contributed and also, the staff, I think they have given a good deal of thought to it,, many diverse voices, among the highway commission and the Park service and to have come to consensus on this, I think it is an honest consensus. This is no conspiracy or anything, considering what is going on in Washington. I think that they really wanted to do the best for the park and see that we do the best for the park. I think we will go ahead with a project, maybe change some. Certain to celebrate all of the people. We have a whole long history of the park as well, thank you.

And that does conclude our questions. No other participants queued up.

Alright, thank you. I think we'll go ahead and close the webinar for today. Just another reminder, again, we are accepting additional comments and we would like those focused on the mitigation themes that we presented earlier in the webinar. Those can be sent to the city or the Federal Highway by 12 noon, May 26th and thank you again, for everyone's participation.

Ladies and gentlemen, this will conclude our conference for today. Thank you for your participation in using the AT&T federal teleconference service. You may now disconnect.

###End###