

Section 4(f) De Minimis Documentation
FAP 595 (IL 84)
FAU 5861 (IL 84)
FAP 595 (Cleveland Road)



Section: (2, 12MFT)R-3

Henry County

Job No.: P-92-040-13 / D-92-040-13

Contract No.: 64J56

Reconstruction of IL 84 from the Rock River to 0.2 mile north of US 6
and Cleveland Road from IL 84 to 0.2 mile east

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Division of Highways
District 2

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A. MEMO PURPOSE

FHWA concurred with IDOT pursuing de minimis determinations for these resources via email on 8/4/2025 for the following resources impacted by Contract 64J56:

1. Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park
2. City of Colona Memorial Park

This technical memorandum will serve as a request from FHWA for a de minimis impact finding for these resources.

B. DE MINIMIS PROCESS STEPS (BDE 26-2.03(C)5

The following steps have been followed in the process (We are at Step 3 of the process):

- Step 1 – District requests concurrence from FHWA to pursue “de minimis” determination
- Step 2 – District initiates coordination with the Office with Jurisdiction (OWJ).
- Step 3 – Public notice for opportunity to review and comment on the project impacts on the 4(f) properties. This can be conducted via public meeting, or through website, social media or newspaper notice seeking public comment.
- Step 4 – Following the public comment period obtain OWJ written concurrence that there are no adverse effects to the 4(f) property.
- Step 5 – Coordinate with FHWA and formally document the de minimis determination for FHWA review and approval.

This technical memorandum is prepared in accordance with IDOT BDE Manual Section 26-2.03 (c)5 iii.

C. OVERALL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- Project Name: IL 84 Reconstruction
- Route: FAP 595 (IL 84), FAU 5861 (IL 84), FAP 595 (Cleveland Road)
- Section: (2, 12MFT)R-3
- Job Number: P-92-040-13/D-92-040-12
- Contract Number: 64J56
- Location: northwestern portion of Henry County, Illinois, mostly within the city limits of Colona. The termini of the project are along Illinois Route 84 from approximately 0.20 miles north of US Route 6 to the Rock River (2.22 miles), and along Cleveland Road from Illinois Route 84 to approximately 0.20 miles northeast, a total project length of 2.42 miles.
- Project Type: Reconstruction
- Purpose and need of the Project: The proposed improvement’s purpose is to improve operating conditions along the route, improve safety, address roadway mobility, correct existing geometric deficiencies and encourage pedestrian and bicycle usage along IL Route 84.

Increased traffic demands have led to safety and operational concerns, and advanced pavement deterioration have identified a need to reconstruct IL 84 through Colona, IL. With only two through lanes in each direction for most of the project limits, vehicular congestion and collisions have become common along this arterial route. Moreover, a lack of safe access to businesses and a lack of a continuous walkway and bicycle path has created a need for not only reconstructing IL 84 but added improvements to enhance overall safety.

The southern portion of the project, from the southern termini to the BNSF crossing is predominantly rural with agricultural and proposed industrial segments. This portion of the project has been determined to be in adequate condition with no need for additional capacity or additional auxiliary lanes. Improvements to this segment of the project will therefore be limited to pavement resurfacing and shoulder improvements.

North of the BNSF crossing, starting at 10th Avenue, curb and gutter will be constructed and an enclosed storm sewer system will be added for the route eliminating drainage problems throughout the corridor. The storm sewer will outlet to the Green River to the south, and to the Rock River to the north.

Sidewalks will be constructed along the west side of IL 84 starting at 10th Avenue through 9th Avenue, and again from east 5th Avenue through 2nd Avenue. ADA compliant ramps will be constructed at all crossings and through all driveways.

A 10-foot wide multi-use path begins at 9th Avenue/Poppy Garden Road located along the east side of IL 84 and runs toward the north. ADA compliant ramps will be constructed at all crossings and through all driveways. The path continues through the City of Colona past Cleveland Road and ends tying into the existing shoulder of the bridge crossing the Rock River at the city and project limits. This western termini extends through separate projects as a part of a larger regional bicycle path network.

North of the BNSF crossing the roadway pavement will be completely reconstructed. Two through lanes, one in each direction, will be constructed from the BNSF crossing through Cleveland Road with auxiliary turn lanes added at 9th Avenue/Poppy Garden Road, and at 5th Avenue. A third bi-directional center left turn lane will be added from 5th Avenue to 7th Street, and an auxiliary right turn lane is added northbound onto Cleveland Road.

All improvements will be designed in accordance with the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Design and Environment manual and will include the following improvements:

- Reprofile existing grade along the IL 84 promoting positive drainage.
- Constructing ADA compliant ramps.
- Constructing 10-ft multi-use paths and sidewalks as required to enhance walkability
- Stormwater drainage Improvements with the addition of an enclosed drainage network through the City of Colona.
- Construction of mailbox turnouts.

D. RESOURCE #1 – HENNEPIN CANAL PARKWAY STATE PARK

Resource Data

- Type of Resource: Historic Site listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Multi-Use Trail. Recreation.
- Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ): Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Use: Temporary Easement – Temporary occupancy for the construction of a retaining wall along the east side of IL-84, and for the construction of extensions to the pedestrian tunnel under IL-84 and along the north side of the Hennepin Canal.
- Description of role/significance in the community: Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park is a publicly owned park and recreational resource of statewide significance, located in northwestern Illinois. The park encompasses the historic Hennepin Canal, which holds national engineering and historical importance as the first American canal constructed entirely of concrete without stone facings. Its innovative design contributed to advancements in civil engineering and influenced the later construction of the Panama Canal, establishing it as a landmark in American infrastructure development.

In addition to its historical value, the park includes a 155-mile multi-use trail system that parallels the canal, offering a wide range of recreational opportunities such as hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, boating, canoeing, and picnicking. The Hennepin Canal Parkway serves as a vital public amenity that blends historical significance with environmental and recreational benefits. It is a valued resource for both residents and visitors, contributing to public health, heritage tourism, and the overall quality of life. As such, the Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park qualifies as a Section 4(f) property under the U.S. Department of Transportation Act.

Description of Intended Section 4(f) Resource Use

Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park: The proposed scope of work for this project includes the reconstruction of the roadway providing consistent 12-foot wide travel lanes and combination concrete curb and gutter through the area. The project will also include the addition of a multi-use path along the east side of IL 84 through the City of Colona and across the Hennepin Canal site. As such, improvements at this site will include (See Attachment 1 – Draft Plans and Cross Sections at site):

- Temporary access rights of ROW managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be acquired where the improvement abuts and crosses the Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park in order to construct a retaining wall on the east side of the roadway that will ensure construction does not enter the canal.
- Temporary easements will be acquired for the east and west ends of the existing multi-use path underpass to IL 84 in order to extend the existing underpass to accommodate the new embankment and multi-use-path parallel to the roadway at the roadway elevation. The final temporary access will be for minor grading to construct storm sewer outlets that will outlet toward the canal.
- Temporary impacts will close the Hennepin Canal Parkway underpass at IL 84

during construction, however the at-grade street crossing will still be accessible, minimizing impacts.

- No trees are currently present within this work area on the noted Temporary Easements.
- All disturbed areas will be re-vegetated / re-seeded at the completion of the project, and returned to the current green space.
- The widening will not impact the Hennepin Canal or the intended use of the parkway path and natural area.
- There are no expected impacts to any other features or amenities.
- There are no expected negative impacts to the Hennepin Canal.
- The improvements to IL 84 will improve safety accessing, approaching, crossing and departing the Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park site.

Description of Efforts to Avoid, Minimize, and Mitigate or Enhance the Resource

Widening of IL 84 in the proximity of the Hennepin Canal State Park property is considered required to accommodate safety and capacity for the traveling public.

- Avoidance:
 - The IL 84 alignment is centered over an existing embankment created for the roadway. The alignment is not changing, allowing the existing embankment to accommodate the widened roadway and the addition of the multi-use path on the east side of IL 84. Additionally, the use of a retaining wall along the east side of IL 84 will be incorporated to eliminate the need to place fill within the existing waters of the Hennepin Canal's 4(f) resource.
- Minimization measures incorporated:
 - Design of steeper side slopes (1:3) than standard within an urbanized area along the west side of the roadway embankment over the canal.
 - Grading was developed to ensure all "grading" activities to be accomplished entirely within the State's Existing ROW.
 - Narrow pieces of temporary easement are needed to allow for construction activities of Storm Sewer outlets toward the Canal with applicable permanent erosion control measures that include permanent riprap.
- Restoration:
 - All disturbed areas will be re-vegetated / re-seeded at the completion of the project, and returned to the current green space, and maintain the current nature and intended use of the Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park.

E. RESOURCE #2 – CITY OF COLONA MEMORIAL PARK

Resource Data

- Type of Resource: Publicly Owned Park open to the Public
- Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ): City of Colona
- Use: Temporary Easement – Temporary occupancy for the construction of a multi-use path along the east and north side of IL 84 retaining wall along the east side of IL 84, and for the construction of a storm sewer that will help with site drainage.
- Description of role/significance in the community: The Colona Memorial Park is located on the north side of IL 84, the east side of Cleveland Road, and the south side of Colona Road in the City of Colona, Illinois. The park has a garden, parking and benches for sitting.

Colona Memorial Park is a publicly owned recreational facility of local significance that serves as an important community resource, offering recreational amenities, open space for public use, and facilities that support organized events and informal gatherings. In addition to its recreational function, the park holds commemorative value as a place of remembrance for local residents, contributing to the community's cultural and historical identity. As such, Colona Memorial Park qualifies as a Section 4(f) resource under the U.S. Department of Transportation Act.

Description of Intended Section 4(f) Resource Use

Colona Memorial Park: The proposed scope of work for this project includes the reconstruction of the roadway providing consistent 12-foot wide travel lanes and combination concrete curb and gutter through the area. The project will also include the addition of a multi-use path along the east and north sides of IL 84 through the City of Colona. Adjacent to the Colona Memorial Park, the roadway improvement will include the addition of northbound right turn lane onto Cleveland Road along with incidental improvements along Cleveland Road and Colona Road. The Multi-Use Path within the improvement will be located along the southern and western sides of the Colona Memorial Park site. (See Attachment 2 – Draft Plans and Cross Sections at site):

- Temporary access rights of ROW managed by the City of Colona will be acquired where the improvement abuts and crosses the Colona Memorial Park property in order to construct a multi-use path on the northeast side of IL 84 and on the east side of Cleveland Road.
- Temporary easements and a drainage easement will be acquired to construct an underground enclosed storm sewer across the site.
- Temporary impacts will close access across the construction of the multi-use path and across the storm sewer construction to Colona Memorial Park in limited durations during their respective construction operations. Additionally, on-street parking along IL 84, Cleveland Road, and Colona Road will be restricted during construction.
- The landscaped fountain, garden area, paved walkway within the park, and

seating area will not be impacted by this project, and will remain open at all times.

- No trees are currently present within this work area on the Temporary Easement.
- All disturbed areas will be re-vegetated / re-seeded at the completion of the project, and returned to the current green space.
- The widening will not negatively impact the intended use of the Colona Memorial Park.
- There are no expected impacts to any other features or amenities.
- There are no expected negative impacts to the Colona Memorial Park.
- The improvements to IL 84 will improve safety and accessibility to the Colona Memorial Park site.

Description of Efforts to Avoid, Minimize, and Mitigate or Enhance the Resource

Widening of IL 84 in the proximity of the Colona Memorial Park property is considered required to accommodate safety and capacity for the traveling public, and to provide a safe pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists.

- Avoidance:
 - The IL 84 alignment is centered on the existing roadway. The alignment is not significantly changing, allowing the improvement to minimize right-of-way impacts along both sides of the alignment. As noted, the improvement is designed to avoid any impacts to the garden, bench, and paved areas of the site, and only grassy areas will be disturbed.
- Minimization measures incorporated:
 - The side slopes adjacent to the multi-use path that will be located on the south and west edges of this park will be constructed with a similar elevation as the existing ground allowing for nominal grading within the site to provide positive gravitational drainage. This will allow for the entire grassy portion of the site to be utilized for community events after construction.
- Restoration:
 - All disturbed areas will be re-vegetated / re-seeded at the completion of the project, and returned to the current green space, and maintain the current nature and intended use of the Colona Memorial Park.