



Section 4(f) De Minimis Documentation

WASHINGTON BOULEVARD OVER DES PLAINES RIVER



**Village of River Forest
Village of Maywood
Cook County, Illinois**

***Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Highways/District 1/Region 1
June 2024***

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1. Project Description

- a. **Project Number:** P-91-033-18 (IDOT)
- b. **Project Name:** Washington Boulevard over Des Plaines River
- c. **Location:** Village of River Forest, Village of Maywood, Cook County
- d. **Project Type:** Bridge Replacement
- e. **Project Length:** 0.45 miles
- f. **NEPA Class of Action:** State CE
- g. **Purpose and Need of the Project:** The purpose of the project is to maintain safety for vehicle travel and to improve the mobility for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the project limits. The project is needed due to the existing bridge carrying Washington Boulevard over the Des Plaines River receiving poor ratings for its deck and superstructure and fair ratings for its substructure. The project is also needed in order to provide new accommodations for non-motorized travelers where none currently exist.
- h. **Project Status:** The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) is nearing completion of the preliminary engineering and environmental study. The anticipated design approval is **Fall 2024**. This improvement is included in the Department's 2023-2028 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the middle years of the multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through future legislative appropriations.

The project scope is anticipated to consist of improved safety and mobility of Washington Boulevard by removing and replacing the structure over the Des Plaines River due to poor condition of the structure. The roadway improvements consist of a road diet to avoid/minimize impacts to the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) Right-of-Way on both side of Washington Boulevard. Bicyclist and pedestrian improvements consist of a 5'6" on street bike lane on both sides of Washington Boulevard and the installation of a 6 foot sidewalk on the south side of the road from IL 171 to Thatcher Avenue.

2. Section 4(f) Resources

- a. **Name of Resource:** G.A.R. Woods, Quercus Woods Family Picnic Area, Thomas Jefferson Woods.
- b. **Type of Resource:** Forest Preserve
- c. **Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ):** Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC)
- d. **Description of role/significance in the community:** Forest Preserve for outdoor recreation activities.

3. Description of Intended Section 4(f) Resource Use

a. Acres to be taken:

1. 0.060 acres of Quercus Woods Family Picnic Area
2. 0.239 acres of Thomas Jefferson Woods
3. 0.070 acres of G.A.R. Woods

Refer to Table 1 and the Section 4(f) Exhibits in Attachment 4.

b. Type of impact:

The types of impact include both temporary and permanent easement.

Refer to Table 1 and the Section 4(f) Exhibits in Attachment 4.

c. Existing function of impacted areas and significance to Section 4(f) resource

The existing function of impacted areas are currently vegetated or grassy areas with no recreational use.

Refer to Table 1 for more information regarding the existing function and purpose of acquisition of the impacted areas.

d. Resulting function of impacted areas:

The impacted areas along the proposed bridge will be used for construction activity, storm sewer installation, and maintenance of the proposed retaining walls at the bridge approaches. The area in the northeast corner of the IL 171 and Washington Boulevard intersection will be impacted by the installation of an ADA accessible sidewalk ramp. There will be no negative impacts to the FPDCC property in either of these cases. Any disturbed areas will be regraded and reseeded so that its final condition will be consistent with the function and significance of the current land use.

Refer to Table 1 below for more information regarding the existing function and purpose of acquisition of the impacted areas.

TABLE 1

PARCEL #	AREA	PROPERTY OWNER	4(F) RESOURCE	TYPE OF ACQUISITION	ACQUISITION AREA (ACRE)	EXISTING FUNCTION	PURPOSE OF ACQUISITION
15-11-400-001	A	The Cook County Forest Preserve District	Quercus Woods Family Picnic Area	Permanent Easement	0.005	Grassy buffer between the roadway and forest.	To allow for the installation of an ADA-compliant sidewalk ramp at the northeast corner of IL 171 and Washington Boulevard.
15-11-400-001	B	The Cook County Forest Preserve District	Quercus Woods Family Picnic Area	Permanent Easement	0.025	Grassy and vegetated area at edge of forest. This area also contains existing guardrail for the northwest bridge approach.	- Permanent access To maintain the proposed retaining wall for the northwest bridge approach. - demolition, reconstruction, and Permanent access To maintain the proposed bridge structure.
15-11-400-001	C	The Cook County Forest Preserve District	Quercus Woods Family Picnic Area	Temporary Easement	0.030	Grassy and vegetated area at edge of forest.	- To allow for construction activity associated with demolition and reconstruction of the bridge.
15-11-400-010	D	Proviso East High School	N/A	Fee Simple ROW	0.004	*Not Section 4(f) Land*	*Not Section 4(f) Land*
15-11-400-010	E	Proviso East High School	N/A	Permanent Easement	0.036	*Not Section 4(f) Land*	*Not Section 4(f) Land*
15-11-400-011	F	The Forest Preserve District of Cook County	Thomas Jefferson Woods	Permanent Easement	0.106	Grassy and vegetated area at edge of forest. This area also contains existing guardrail for the southwest bridge approach, existing storm sewer and an existing outlet structure.	- Permanent access to maintain the proposed retaining wall for the southwest bridge approach. - Demolition, reconstruction, and permanent access to maintain the proposed bridge structure. - Connecting proposed drainage improvements to existing structures and future maintenance of the proposed drainage infrastructure.
15-11-400-004	G	The Forest Preserve District of Cook County	Thomas Jefferson Woods	Permanent Easement	0.133	Grassy and vegetated area at edge of forest. This area also contains existing guardrail for the southeast bridge approach, existing storm sewer and an existing outlet structure.	- Permanent access to maintain the proposed retaining wall for the southeast bridge approach. - Demolition, reconstruction, and permanent access to maintain the proposed bridge structure. - Connecting proposed drainage improvements to existing structures and future maintenance of the proposed drainage infrastructure.
15-11-400-002	H	The Forest Preserve District of Cook County	G.A.R. Woods	Temporary Easement	0.034	Grassy and vegetated area at edge of forest.	- To allow for construction activity associated with demolition and reconstruction of the bridge.
15-11-400-002	I	The Forest Preserve District of Cook County	G.A.R. Woods	Permanent Easement	0.026	Grassy and vegetated area at edge of forest.	- Permanent access To maintain the proposed retaining wall for the northeast bridge approach - demolition, reconstruction, and Permanent access to maintain the proposed bridge structure.
15-11-400-002	J	The Forest Preserve District of Cook County	G.A.R. Woods	Temporary Easement	0.010	Grassy and vegetated area at edge of forest. This area also contains existing guardrail for the northeast bridge approach.	- Removal of existing guardrail terminal on northeast bridge approach.

Section 4(f) Property

Not Section 4(f) Property

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

a. *Avoidance and minimization efforts made:*

Complete avoidance of impacts or acquisition on FPDCC property was not possible for the following reasons:

1. Existing guardrail on bridge approaches currently lies on FPDCC property. Locations of the guardrail on FPDCC property are as follows:
 - i. STA 44+66 to STA 48+54, 35' LT
 - ii. STA 48+16 to STA 49+03, 34' RT
 - iii. STA 51+00 to STA 52+53, 36' LT
 - iv. STA 51+50 to STA 52+40, 36' RT
2. Existing storm sewer system and headwalls on the east and west sides of the river currently lie on FPDCC property. Locations of the storm sewer and headwalls on FPDCC property are as follows:
 - i. STA 48+93, 49' RT
 - ii. STA 51+50, 34' RT
3. The FPDCC property limits on the northeast corner of IL 171 and Washington Boulevard extend to the existing back of curb.

Efforts to minimize impacts are as follows:

1. A "road-diet" and the use of 11-ft wide travel lanes are being proposed so that on-street bike lanes can be provided without widening the road.
2. Sidewalk on the north side of the road has been eliminated as a proposed alternative in order to minimize impacts to FPDCC property.
3. Retaining walls are being proposed at the bridge approaches, reducing the amount of grading at the bridge approaches that would have otherwise extended onto FPDCC property.
4. Storm sewers and headwalls to be replaced will be located within the same locations as the existing storm sewers and headwalls.

b. *Mitigation or enhancement efforts made:*

In order to mitigate impacts, IDOT is proposing to regrade and reseed any disturbed areas behind the new sidewalk ramp to restore the area back to its original state.

In order to enhance the resource, IDOT is adding new pedestrian and bicycle accommodations to the corridor and is reconstructing the bridge over the Des Plaines River to bring it in compliance with all current geometric, hydraulic, and roadside safety standards. These improvements allow for safe passage and additional connectivity for both motorized and non-motorized travelers between the various forest preserves in the area.

Enhancements related to drainage include reconstructing the drainage outlet on the southeast side of the bridge. The existing headwall is separated from the upstream pipe and is completely submerged in the Des Plaines River. In addition, the proposed bridge eliminates the use of gutter drains that are present on the existing bridge surface, and instead directs all runoff into the catch basin collection system, providing greater silt capture and water quality benefits.

c. List of Commitments for Mitigation or Enhancement:

- Regrading and reseeding of all areas disturbed by construction activity.

d. Historic property impacts

As part of the environmental analysis for this project, the Illinois Historic Preservation District (IHPD) was contacted and has confirmed that no historic properties will be impacted. This project received Cultural Clearance on January 11, 2024. (See Attachment 7)

5. Evidence of Opportunity for Public Review and Comment:

- a.** A newspaper ad was posted to allow the public an opportunity to review and comment on the Section 4(f) impacts. (See Attachment 6) *PLACEHOLDER*

6. Evidence of Coordination with Official(s) with Jurisdiction (OWJ)

- a.** Copy of IDOT & FPDCC Meeting Minutes dated September 10, 2020 (See Attachment 7)
- b.** Copy of IDOT letter to FPDCC dated April 5, 2022 (See Attachment 7)
- c.** Copy of FPDCC response to IDOT letter dated June 2, 2022 (See Attachment 7)
- d.** Copy of IDOT & FPDCC Meeting Minutes dated June 9, 2022 (See Attachment 7)
- e.** Copy of IDOT & FPDCC Meeting Minutes dated April 26, 2023 (See Attachment 7)
- f.** Copy of Cultural Resources Memo indicating no Historic Properties Affected, dated January 11, 2024.
- g.** Copy of IDOT & FPDCC Meeting Minutes dated March 19, 2024 (See Attachment 7)
- h.** Copy of IDOT & FPDCC Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2024 (See Attachment 7)

7. Supporting Documentation

- a.** Project Location Map (see Attachment 1).
- b.** Existing Aerial (see Attachment 2)
- c.** Forest Preserve Map (see Attachment 3)
- d.** Plans and Exhibits (See Attachment 4)
 - a. Section 4(f) Exhibit
 - b. Roadway Plan and Profile
 - c. Proposed Typical Sections
 - d. General Plan and Elevation

4(f) De Minimis - Washington Boulevard

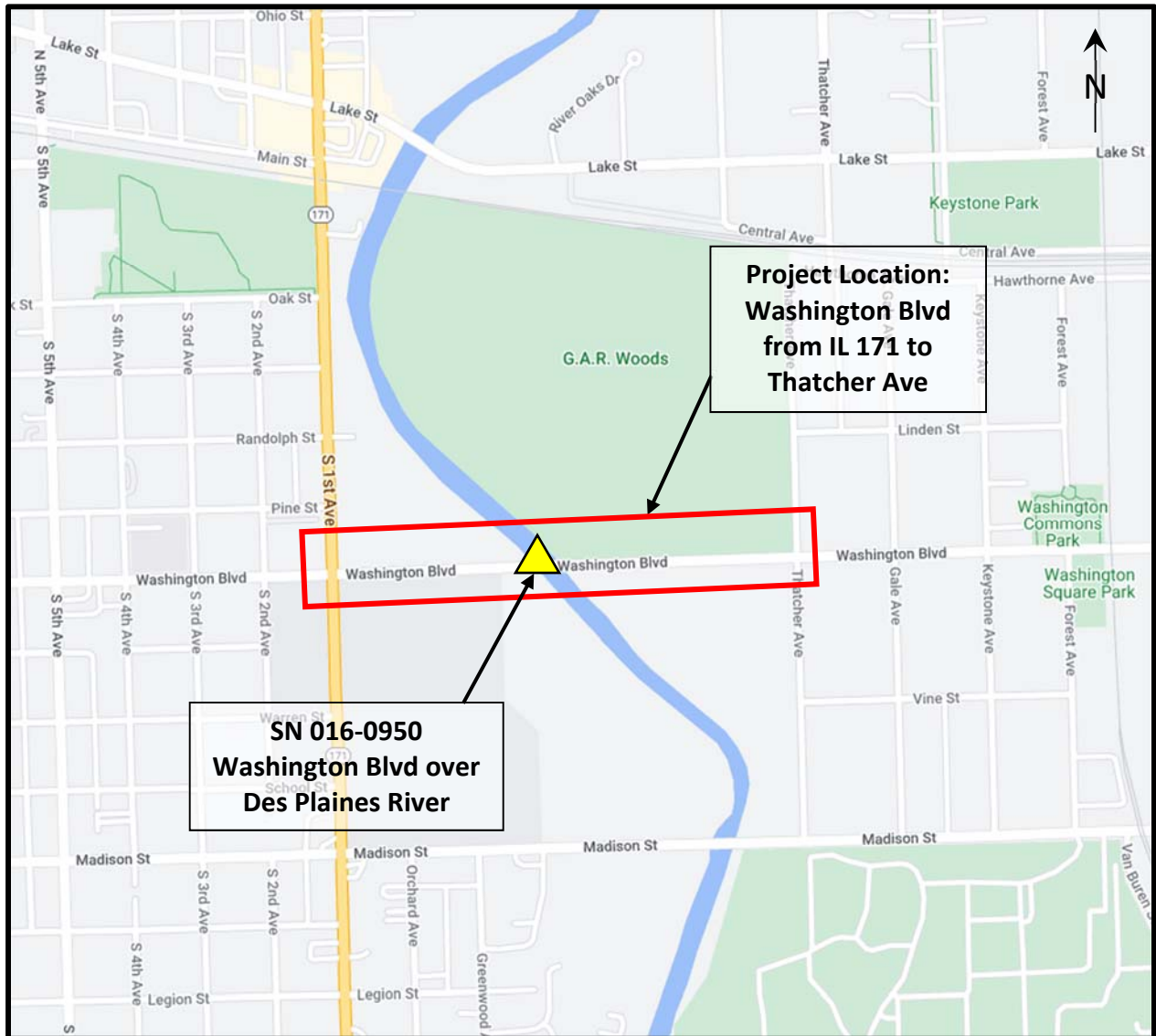
- e. Photo Log of Resource (see Attachment 5)
- f. Newspaper Public Comment Ad (see Attachment 6) *PLACEHOLDER*
- g. Other correspondence (see Attachment 7)

Attachment 1



Project Location Map

Location Map



Washington Boulevard
From IL 171 to Thatcher Avenue
River Forest and Maywood, IL
Cook County



Attachment 2



Existing Aerial Map

Aerial Parcel Map



March 17, 2023

Washington Blvd
from 1st Ave to Thatcher Ave

1:2,147

0 0.025 0.05 0.1 mi
0 0.04 0.08 0.16 km

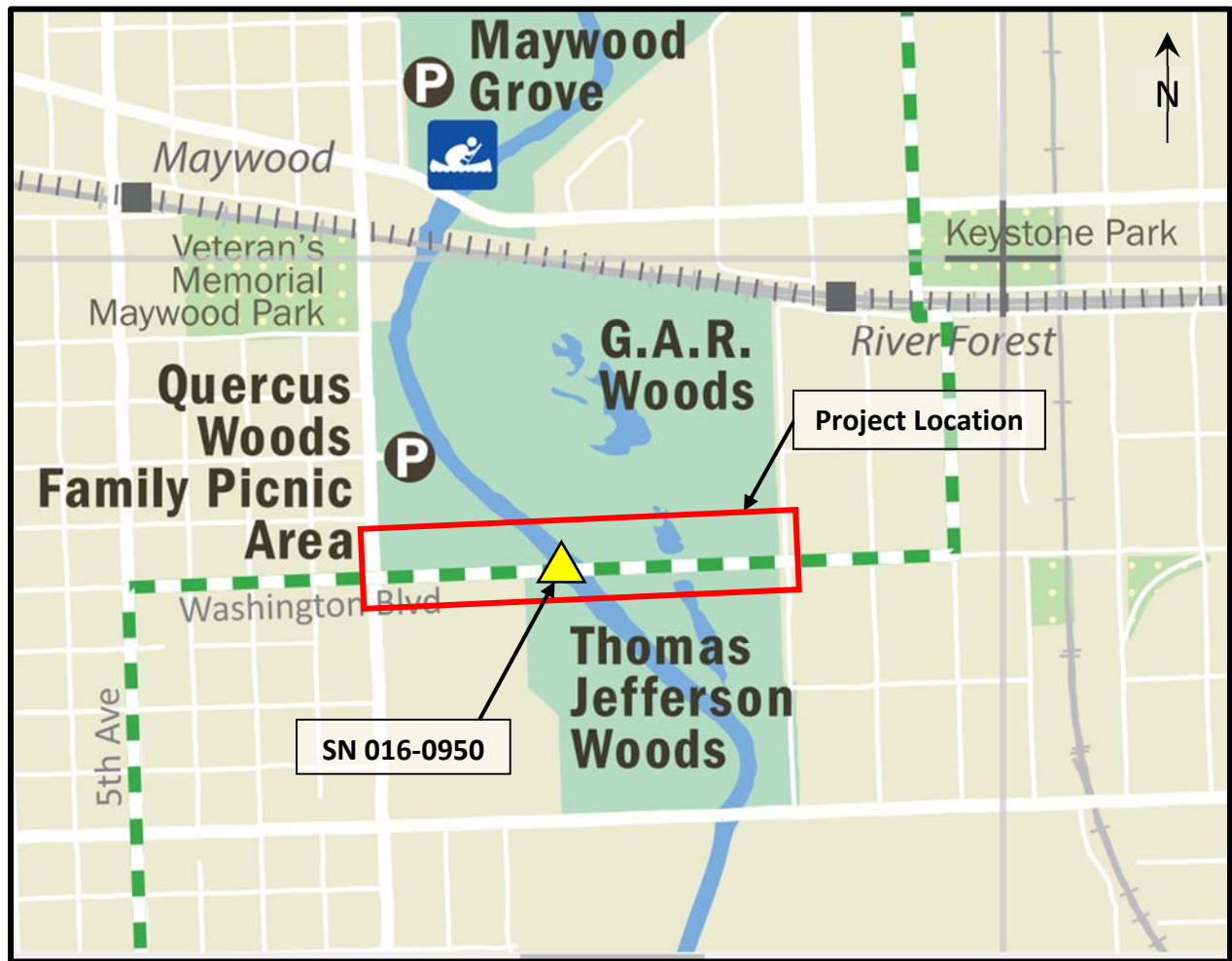
Cook County GIS Dept
Cook County GIS Department

Attachment 3



Forest Preserve Map

Forest Preserve Map



Washington Boulevard
From IL 171 to Thatcher Avenue
River Forest and Maywood, IL
Cook County



Attachment 4

Plans and Exhibits

- a. Section 4(f) Exhibit***
- b. Roadway Plan and Profile***
- c. Typical Sections***
- d. General Plan and Elevation***

PLAN	SURVEYED	BY	DATE
	PLOTTED		
	ALIGNMENT CHECKED		
	STRUCTURE NOTATION CHNG		
	NO.		

PROFILE	SURVEYED	BY	DATE
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LEGEND

- PERMANENT EASEMENT FROM FPDCC
- TEMPORARY EASEMENT FROM FPDCC
- ROW NEEDED FROM OTHERS

QUERCUS WOODS FAMILY PICNIC AREA

G.A.R. WOODS

THE COOK COUNTY
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
15-11-400-001

THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
OF COOK COUNTY
15-11-400-002

AREA J
PR TEMP ESMT
0.010 ACRES

AREA I
PR PERM ESMT
0.026 ACRES

AREA H
PR TEMP EASEMENT
0.034 ACRES

AREA C
PR TEMP EASEMENT
0.030 ACRES

AREA B
PR PERM EASEMENT
0.025 ACRES

AREA A
PR PERM EASEMENT
0.005 ACRES

44+50.00
38.0' RT

AREA E
PR PERM EASEMENT
NEEDED FROM OTHERS
0.036 ACRES

48+75.57
58.0' RT

AREA F
PR PERM EASEMENT
0.106 ACRES

51+87.35
58.0' RT

AREA G
PR PERM EASEMENT
0.133 ACRES

THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
OF COOK COUNTY
15-11-400-011

THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
OF COOK COUNTY
15-11-400-004

THOMAS JEFFERSON WOODS

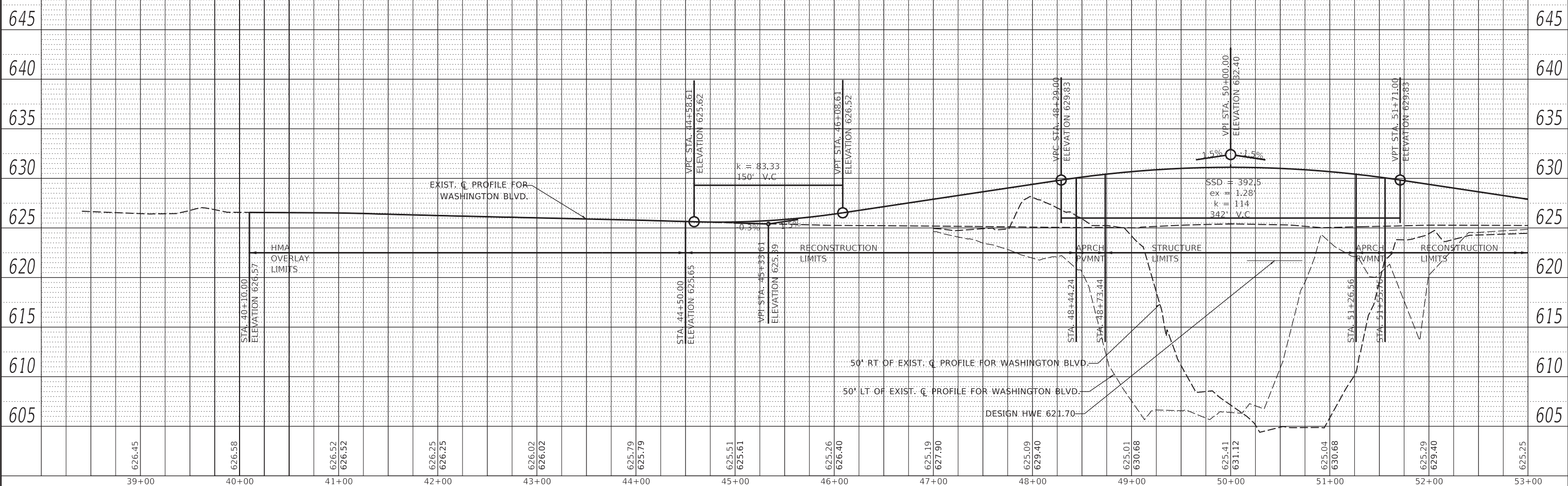
WASHINGTON BLVD

PR ON-STREET
BIKE LANE

PR SIDEWALK

PR ON-STREET
BIKE LANE

AREA D
PR ROW NEEDED FROM OTHERS
0.004 ACRES



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STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

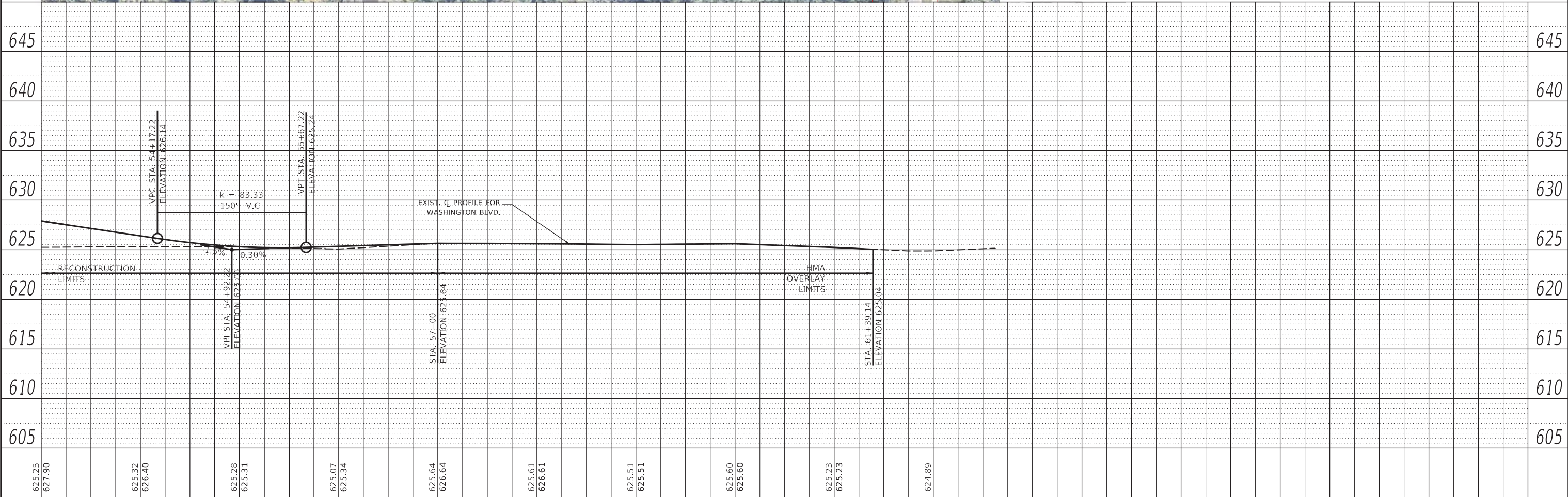
SECTION 4(F) EXHIBIT			
WASHINGTON BLVD. (1st AVE. - THATCHER AVE.)			
SCALE: 1"=50'	SHEET	OF	SHEETS
STA.	TO STA.		

F.A. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
		COOK		
CONTRACT NO.				
ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SECTION 4(F) EXHIBIT	
WASHINGTON BLVD. (1st AVE. – THATCHER AVE.)	
SCALE: 1"=50'	SHEET OF SHEETS STA. TO STA.

F.A. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
		COOK		
CONTRACT NO.				
	ILLINOIS	FED. AID PROJECT		

MATCHLINE STA. 53+00

G.A.R. WOODS

THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
OF COOK COUNTY
15-11-400-004

CL WASHINGTON BLVD

PR ON-STREET
BIKE LANE

G

AREA G
PR PERM EASEMENT
0.133 ACRES

56+00.00
38.0' RT

PR ON-STREET
BIKE LANE

PR SIDEWALK

THOMAS JEFFERSON WOODS

LEGEND



PERMANENT EASEMENT FROM FPDCC



TEMPORARY EASEMENT FROM FPDCC



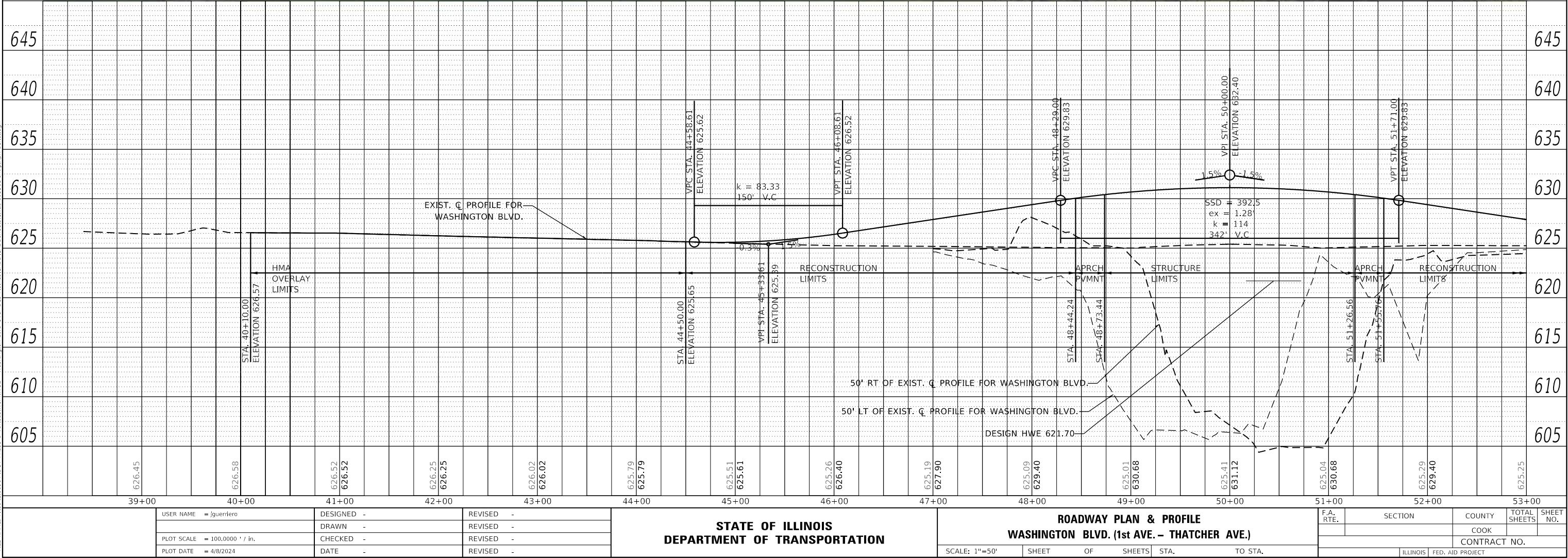
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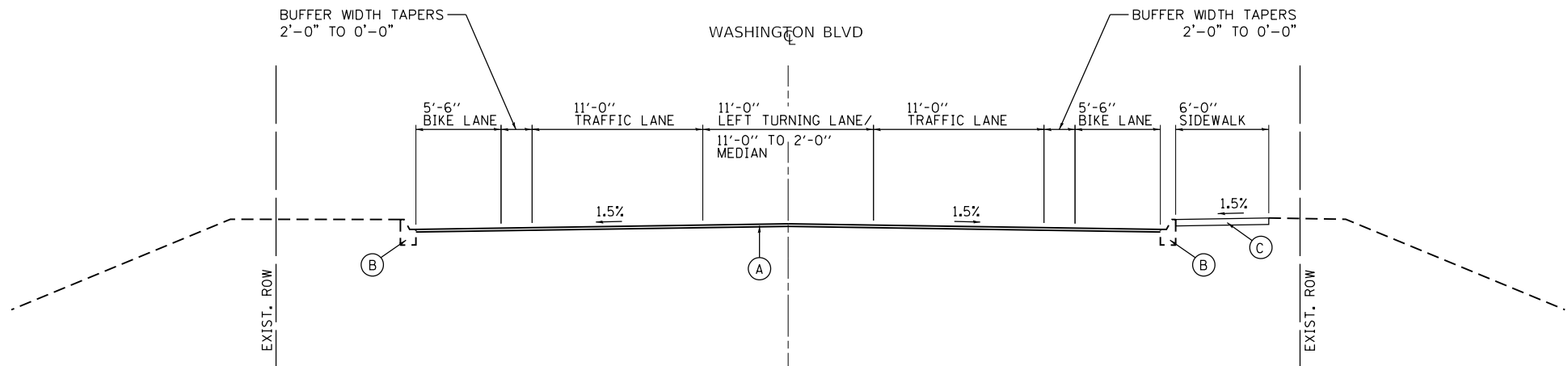
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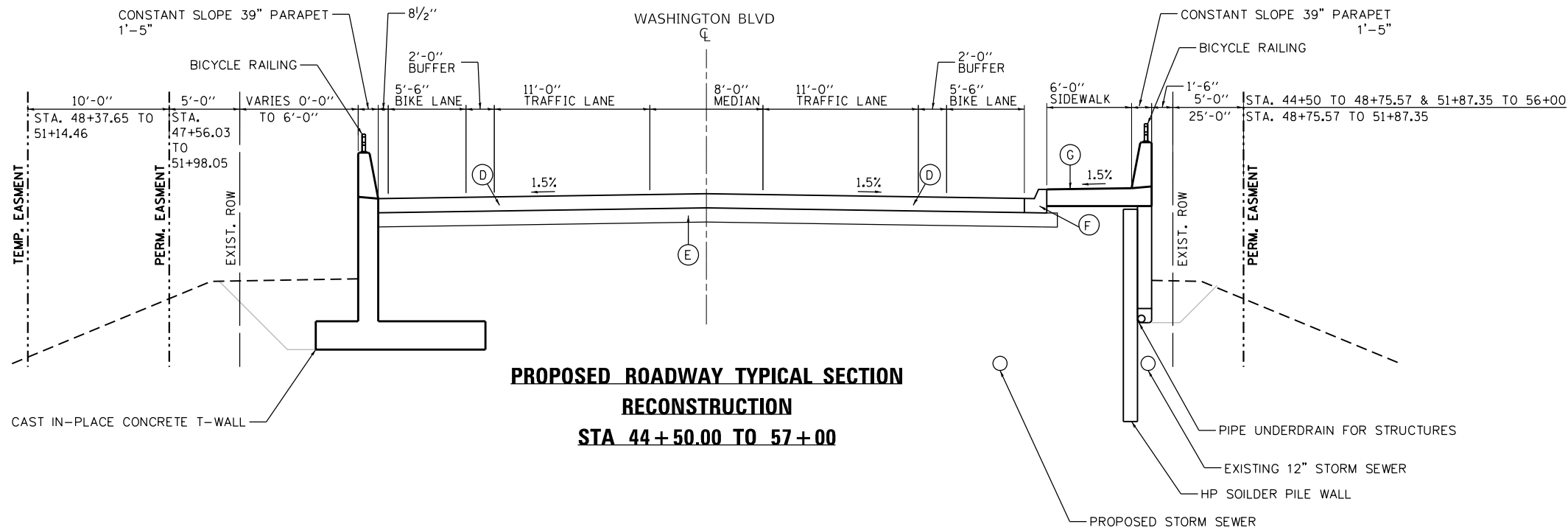
**PROPOSED ROADWAY TYPICAL SECTION
HMA OVERLAY
STA 40+10.00 TO 44+50.00 AND 57+00 TO 61+40**

LEGEND:

- (A) PROPOSED HMA OVERLAY, 2"
- (B) EXSTING CURB (VARIES)
- (C) PROPOSED CONCRETE SIDEWALK, 5"
- (D) PROPOSED PAVEMENT, 12"
- (E) PROPOSED AGGREGATE SUBGRADE IMPROVEMENT, 12"
- (F) PROPOSED TYPE B-6.18 CONCRETE CURB AND GUTTER
- (G) PROPOSED MOMENT SLAB

NOTES:

- RETAINING WALL EXTENDS FROM STA 46+00.00 THROUGH 54+50.00 (MINUS BRIDGE LIMITS)
- TRAFFIC LANE LOCATIONS VARY



**PROPOSED ROADWAY TYPICAL SECTION
RECONSTRUCTION
STA 44+50.00 TO 57+00**

**COLLINS
ENGINEERS**

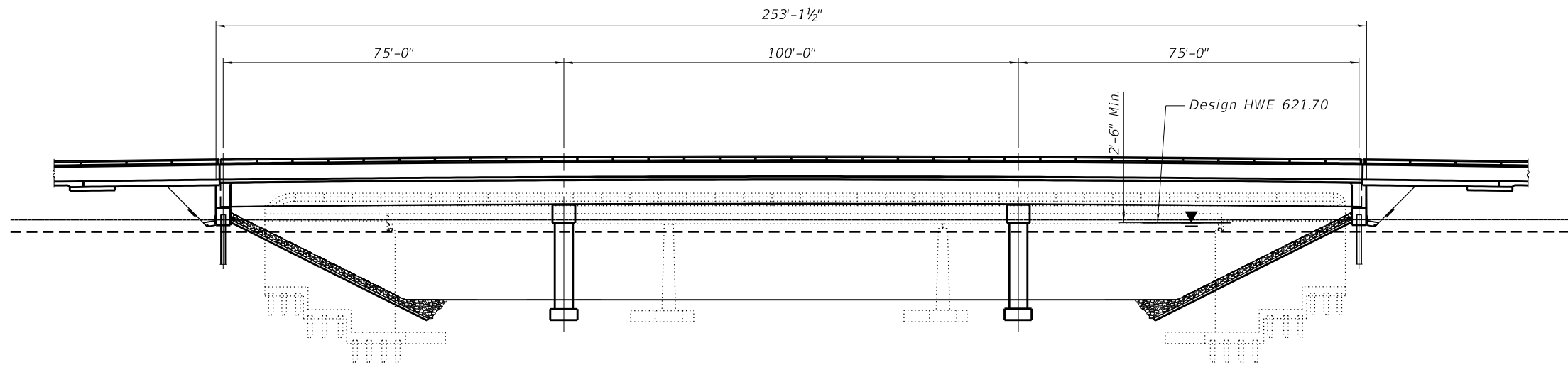
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**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

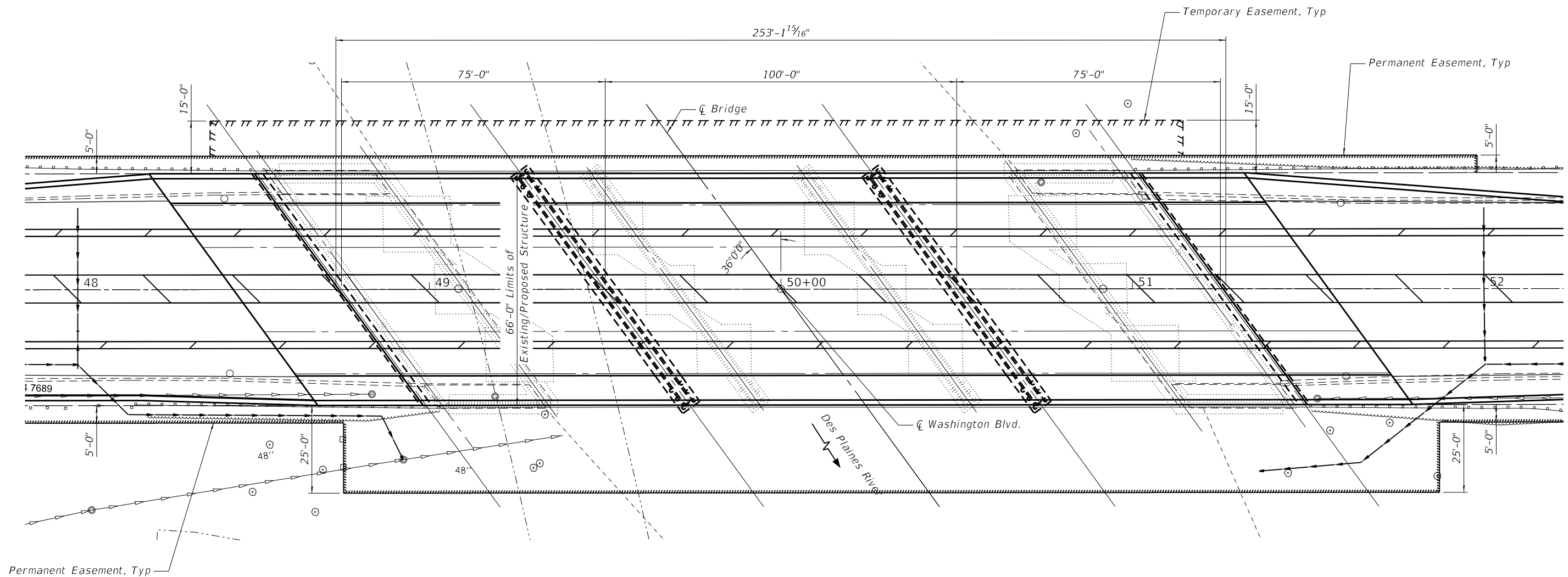
**WASHINGTON BLVD OVER DES PLAINES RIVER
PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTIONS**

SCALE: SHEET OF SHEETS STA. TO STA.

F.A.U. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
1411		COOK		
CONTRACT NO.				
ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				



ELEVATION



PLAN

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COLLINS
ENGINEERS
INC.

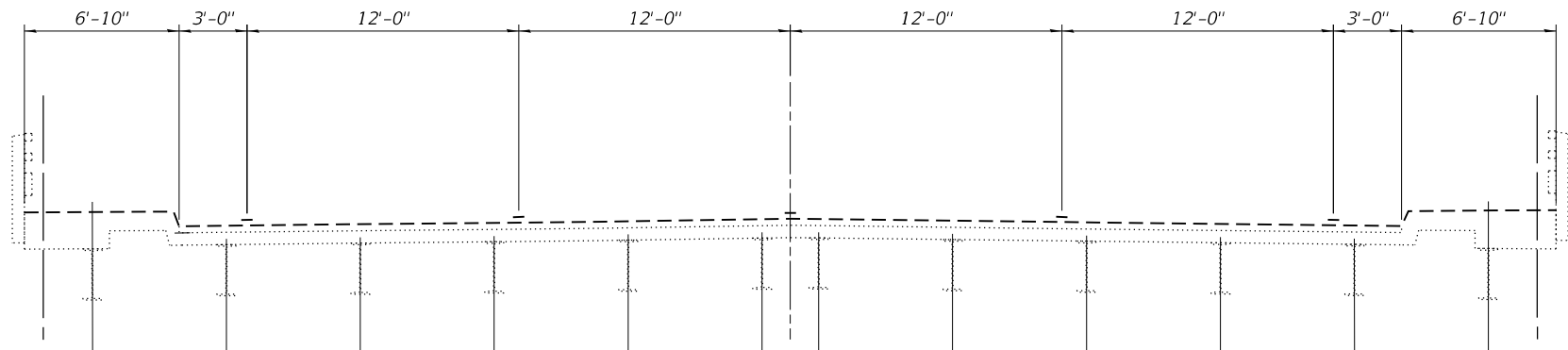
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STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

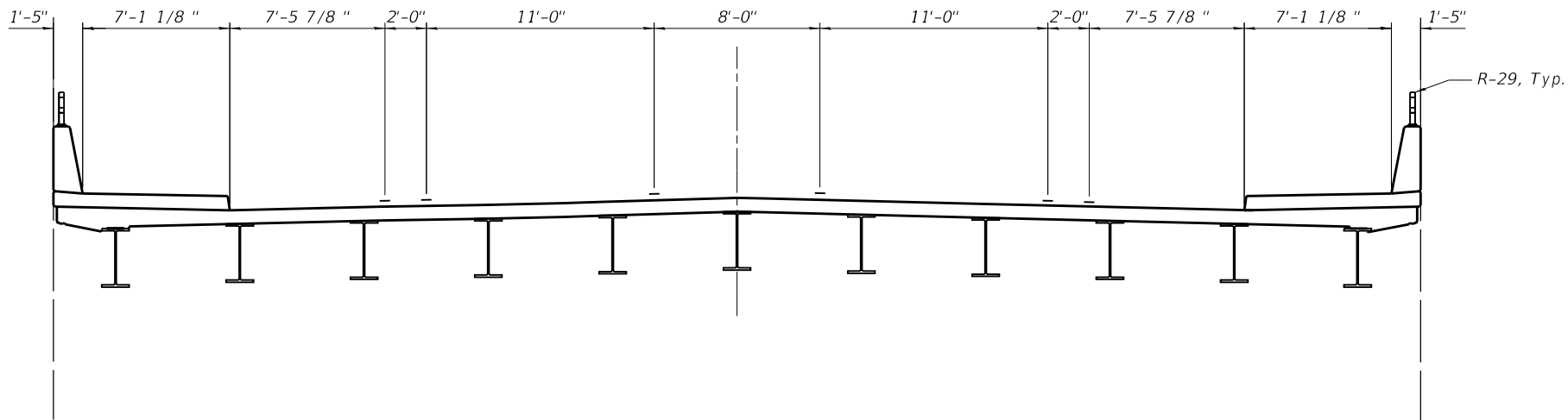
GENERAL PLAN AND ELEVATION

SCALE: SHEET OF SHEETS STA. TO STA.

F.A.U. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
1411	0404Z-BR	COOK		
CONTRACT NO.				
ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				



Existing Bridge Section



Proposed Bridge Section

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TYPICAL SECTIONS

SCALE: SHEET OF SHEETS STA. TO STA.

F.A.U RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
1411	0404Z-BR	COOK		
CONTRACT NO.				
ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				

Attachment 5



Photo Log of Resource

Washington Blvd over Des Plaines River
Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Photo Log



Washington Blvd at 1st Ave NE Corner 01 - Facing North



Washington Blvd NE Bridge Approach 01 - Facing West

Washington Blvd over Des Plaines River
Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Photo Log



Washington Blvd NE Bridge Approach 02 - Facing West



Washington Blvd NE Bridge Approach 03 - Facing West

Washington Blvd over Des Plaines River
Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Photo Log



Washington Blvd NE Bridge Approach 04 - Facing West



Washington Blvd NW Bridge Approach 01 - Facing East

Washington Blvd over Des Plaines River
Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Photo Log



Washington Blvd NW Bridge Approach 02 - Facing East



Washington Blvd NW Bridge Approach 03 - Facing East

Washington Blvd over Des Plaines River
Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Photo Log



Washington Blvd NW Bridge Approach 04 - Facing East

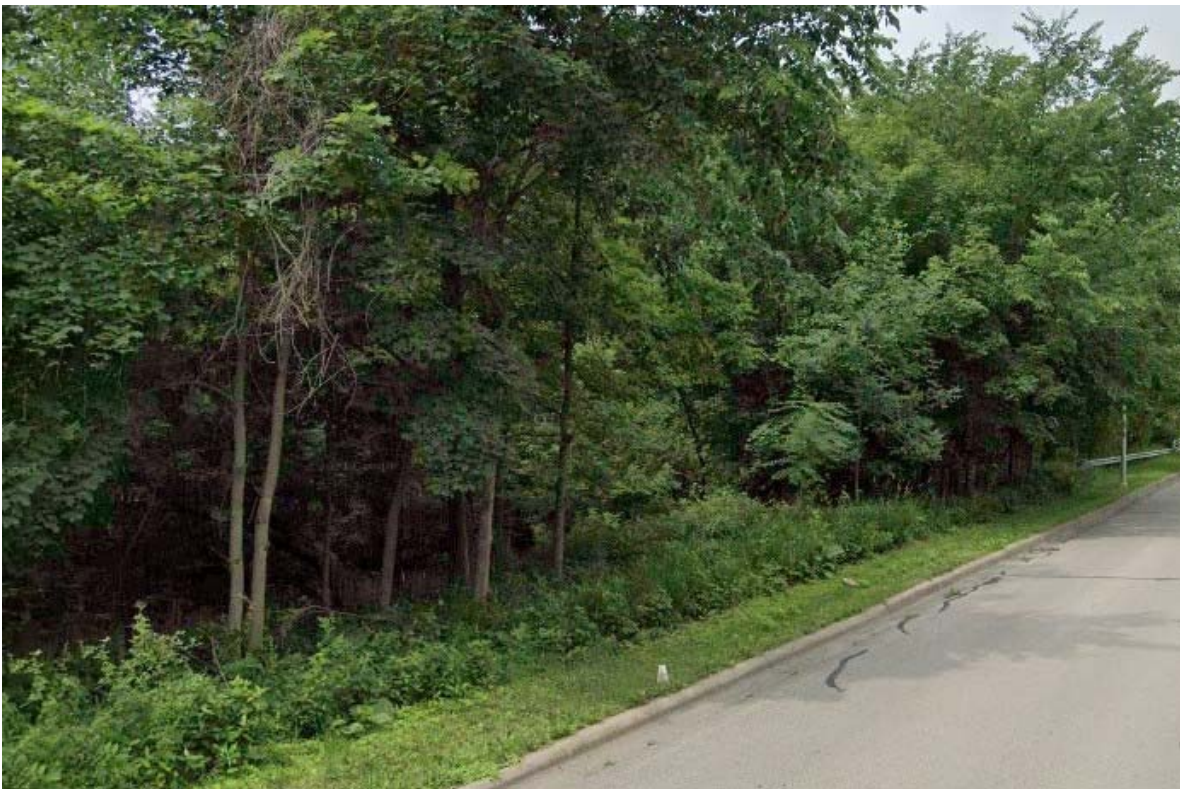


Washington Blvd SE Bridge Approach 01 - Facing West

Washington Blvd over Des Plaines River
Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Photo Log



Washington Blvd SE Bridge Approach 02 - Facing West



Washington Blvd SE Bridge Approach 03 - Facing West

Washington Blvd over Des Plaines River
Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Photo Log



Washington Blvd SE Bridge Approach 04 - Facing West



Washington Blvd SE Bridge Approach 05 - Facing West

Washington Blvd over Des Plaines River
Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Photo Log



Washington Blvd SW Bridge Approach 01 - Facing East



Washington Blvd SW Bridge Approach 02 - Facing East

Attachment 6



Newspaper Public Comment Ad

Placeholder for Newspaper Advertisement

Attachment 7

Other Correspondence

FPDCC/IDOT QUATERLY MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 10th, 2020

SUBJECT: Agenda # 9 (Washington Blvd Over Des Plaines River
Cook County, Region One, District One
IDOT Central Office 9:00 am (WebEx)

ATTENDEES: See Attendance Sheet

PURPOSE: Review and discuss with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) the bridge/path options along Washington Blvd from 1st Ave to Thatcher Ave.

Project Overview: The Washington Boulevard over the Des Plaines River structure (SN 016-0950) is 1.3 miles west of the intersection of IL 43 (Harlem Avenue) in Cook County in the Village of River Forest. This three-span steel continuous girder with concrete deck bridge was built in 1956 and last repaired in 1986. The latest bridge inspection rated the deck in fair condition (5), the superstructure in poor condition (4), and the substructure in fair condition (4). The purpose of this project is to improve safety and mobility of Washington Boulevard by removing and replacing this structure due to the poor condition of the structure. Four options that are described below are being considered for the proposed work of the structure.

- Option 1: Bridge Rehabilitation Including Deck Replacement with Superstructure and Substructure Repairs
- Option 2: Bridge Rehabilitation Including Superstructure Replacement with Substructure Repairs
- Option 3: Bridge Replacement in-kind
- Option 4: Bridge Replacement with Increased Structure Length, approximately 10ft Profile Grade Raise, and Retaining Walls to Avoid R.O.W. Impacts for a Shared Use Path Underpass

Discussion:

- Explained 4 Options (ZT)
 - Option 1-3: These options would not allow a North/South (N/S) trail along the river. Further investigation would be required but these options could possibly allow an East/West (E/W) path connecting 1st Ave to Thatcher Ave.
 - Option 4: This option would allow a N/S Trail along the river and could possibly allow an E/W path connecting 1st Ave to Thatcher Ave.
- Bike/Trial Path
 - FPDCC indicated future trail improvements in this area indicates that the path is along the road and not under the bridge (N/S).

- FPDCC completed a study of a N/S trail under the bridge. The study concluded that 50-80% of the time the trail would be under water. These results were deemed unacceptable by FPDCC.
- The Village of River Forest has a bike path planned along Thatcher Ave. from North Ave to Madison St.
- The FPDCC is not interested in an E/W path along Washington due to land sensitivity and prefers the future trail improvement for a N/S bike accommodation along Thatcher Ave. If the local agency wants a path, it would be a local benefit and the FPDCC would need to evaluate allowing for the ROW. The FPDCC does not believe the locals have asked for a path.
- It was suggested to evaluate an on-road shoulder accommodation along Washington (E/W).

Action Items:

- N/S Trail along river is not wanted by FPDCC. Therefore Option 4 will be removed.
- Coordination with locals will be required to determine the desire for the E/W path connection.
- Review ROW impacts to this area for allowing an E/W path connection. Any impacts would require FPDCC to evaluate.
- IDOT to request a bike path exhibit from the Village of River Forest.

Respectfully submitted,

Zach Tanner
Collins Engineers



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Highways Project Implementation / Region 1 / District 1
201 West Center Court / Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

Project and Environmental Studies
Washington Blvd. over Des Plaines River
S. 1st Avenue to Thatcher Avenue
Cook County

April 5, 2022

Ms. Chris Slattery
Director of Planning & Development
Forest Preserve District of Cook County
536 North Harlem Avenue
River Forest, IL 60305

Dear Ms. Slattery:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) has recently initiated preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the improvement of Washington Boulevard from S. 1st Avenue to Thatcher Avenue in Cook County. A location map is enclosed for your reference.

This improvement is included in the Department's FY 2022-2027 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the middle years of the multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through future annual legislative appropriations. The proposed project is anticipated to consist of improved safety and mobility of Washington Boulevard by removing and replacing the structure over the Des Plaines River due to the poor condition of the structure.

The subject improvement is in the vicinity of the G.A.R. Woods of the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. At this early stage in project development, the Department requests that you provide some background information concerning these holdings. The following information would be of particular interest to the Department:

1. Is this property publicly owned?
2. Is it publicly used as a park, recreational area, wildlife and/or waterfowl refuge?
3. Is it on, or eligible for, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)?
4. Size in acres, as well as a right-of-way plat and/or site plan
5. Common name and type of facility (recreational, historic, etc.)
6. Available recreational activities (fishing, swimming, bike trails, etc.)
7. Facilities, existing and planned (description and location)
8. Usage (approximate number of users for each activity)
9. Relationship to other similarly used lands in the vicinity
10. Access (pedestrian, bicyclist, equestrian, and vehicular)

Ms. Chris Slattery

April 5, 2022

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11. Ownership and applicable clauses affecting title, such as covenants, restrictions, or conditions including forfeiture or federal encumbrances (i.e., LAWCON funds)
12. Unusual characteristics of the property (flooding, vegetation, terrain conditions, or any other future plans)
13. A map identifying the extent of your holdings in the area of the proposed improvement

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Corey Smith, P.E., Project Manager, via email Corey.Smith@illinois.gov or at (847) 705-4103.

Very truly yours,

Jose Rios, P.E.
Region One Engineer



By:
Steven E. Schilke, P.E.
Project and Environmental Studies Section Chief

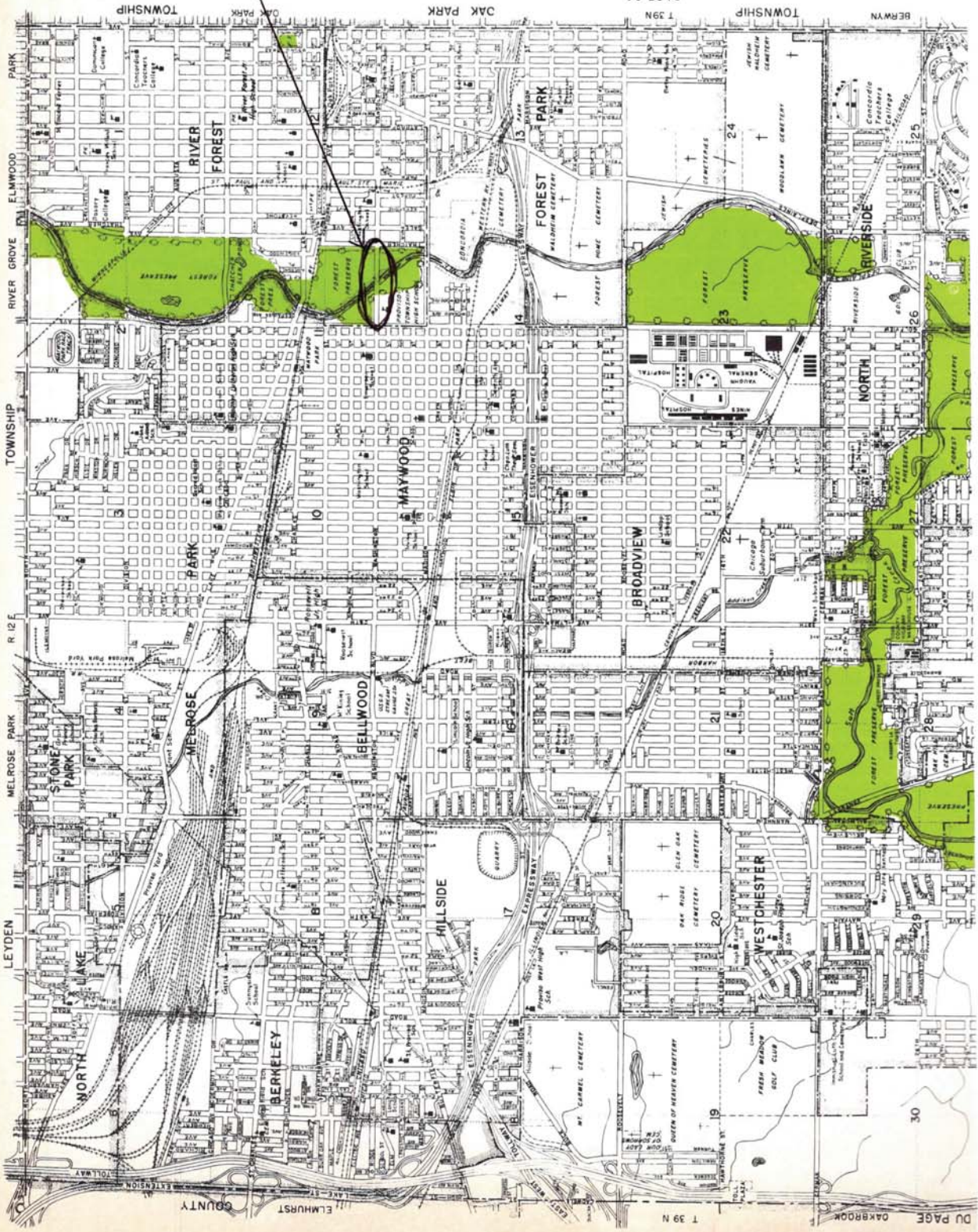
Enclosures

cc: Brandon Johnson, Commissioner – 1st District
Peter N. Silvestri, Commissioner – 9th District

FPDCC Response to IDOT's 4/5/2022 Initial Letter

Washington Blvd. 1st Ave. to Thatcher Ave., G.A.R. Woods , Thomas Jefferson Woods , FPDCC
nearby property information

1. Yes
2. Recreational area
3. Please inquire with SHPO as that information is not readily available in this office
4. Approx. 120 acres with more acreage in adjacent areas to the north
5. G.A.R. Woods , Thomas Jefferson Woods
6. Undeveloped , hiking only
7. No current future plans, existing monument to GAR union army soldiers
8. No Records
9. Contiguous with other Woods to the north
10. Access on foot only
11. Ownership covers the area north and south of Washington including the roadway from 1st ave to a point approx. 1320 feet east along the centerline of Washington Blvd. Going further east to Thatcher Ave., ownership is north and south of Washington Blvd. but no records indicating ownership of road itself may be municipal . License to Village of Maywood for 60 inch storm sewer along N. side of Madison St., east of 1st St., License to ComEd for electric cable line S. side of Washington Blvd. west of Des Plaines river, License to ComEd for electric cable under 1st Ave. approx. 30-50' north of Washington St. intersection, License to ComEd for electric cable west side Thatcher Ave. from Madison St to Vine St., then east across Thatcher running along N side of Vine St.
12. Portions within 100 year flood plain
13. See attached



PROJECT
LOCATION



Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)

PTB 185-007

Washington Blvd. over Des Plaines River

Job No. P-91-033-18

District One

Cook County

Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) Coordination Meeting

Date: Thursday June 9, 2022 at 9AM

Attendees: IDOT: Carlos Feliciano, Kyle Bochte, Corey Smith, Sarah Wilson, Brenda Alicea, Steve Schilke
FPDCC: Chris Slattery, John McCabe and Mike Shannon
Collins Engineers: Joseph Guerriero, Amber Seiber, and Olivia Rush
Thomas Engineering: Curtis Cornwell

Agenda and Discussion:

1. Project Introduction and Description

- Existing Structure SN 016-0950 carries Washington Boulevard over the Des Plaines River between Maywood and River Forest from 1st Avenue to Thatcher Avenue. Due to the existing structure condition and inadequate hydraulic clearance full replacement is recommended. The project involves full reconstruction of the structure and approaches and resurfacing and sidewalk construction outside of the structure from 1st Avenue to Thatcher Avenue. The proposed improvements include a road diet, reducing from two lanes in each direction, to one lane in each direction with on road bike accommodations in each direction, and sidewalks on both sides. The one lane in each direction is consistent with the roadway section to the east and the west of the project limits. This project was first presented to the Forest Preserve in September 2020.

2. Right Of Way (ROW) and Easements

- In order to meet the hydraulic free board requirements a vertical profile raise is required. To decrease the ROW impacts, retaining walls are being proposed adjacent to the proposed structure. Due to the profile raise and the existing drainage system being in conflict with the proposed improvements a section of the drainage system is proposed to be reconstructed. The proposed permanent easements are required for the demolition of the existing structure and construction and maintenance of the new structure, retaining walls, and drainage improvements. A five foot (5') wide permanent easement is proposed adjacent to the retaining walls for construction and maintenance. At the structure's abutments a fifteen foot (15') wide permanent

easement is proposed on the north side and twenty-five foot (25') wide permanent easement on the south side to facilitate structure demolition, abutment, and drainage improvement construction and maintenance.

- The existing guardrail and drainage items are outside of the existing ROW according to our records. IDOT to verify if the existing ROW is correct. (Post Meeting Note: ROW verification and title were requested on 6/13/2022)
- After existing ROW is verified IDOT to submit a Section 4(f).

3. Schedule

- Current Letting: 09CY24

4. Agency Coordination

- FPDCC asked if this has been coordinated with Cook County. IDOT indicated that the County has reviewed the geometrics and provided comments dated May 9, 2022. Comments will be addressed with dispositions on the next geometrics submittal. The County is in agreement with the road diet and has coordinated with River Forest and Maywood who also agree with the road diet.
- Initial coordination with the Des Plaines River Trail (DPRT) shows the DPRT trail on the west side of Thatcher. Additional coordination required.
- Coordination with River Forest to be initiated in the future. Christopher Burke is leading the River Forest study of the Des Plaines River Trail. (Post Meeting Note: IDOT coordinated with the DPRT project)
- FPDCC confirmed that they do not want the trail to go under the future bridge noting that the area would be flooded 70% to 80% of the time.

5. Geometrics

- IDOT ADA Coordinator asked about the mid-block crossing just west of Thatcher. The mid-block crossing was shown based on Cook County's comments to provide a crossing at the un-marked foot path. FPDCC indicated that this path is not part of the current official FPDCC trail map and not sure they would want to promote it by having mid-block crossing there. Also, IDOT noted that it is close to Thatcher where people can cross. Additional coordination required with FPDCC and IDOT geometrics to verify if the crossing is warranted.
- No additional ROW is proposed other than the permanent easements mentioned above. The proposed road diet fits within existing face of curbs and ROW.

Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: PTB 185-007 Work Order 6: Washington Blvd

DATE: 4/26/2023

SUBJECT: Forest Preserve District of Cook County

TIME: 9:00 am

BY: Kyle Vander Zee

PLACE: Webex

ATTENDEES:

Steve Schilke
Brenda Alicea
Corey Smith
Kyle Bochte
Aren Kriks
Mike Schechtman
Chris Slattery
Adnan Nammari
Chris Adas
John McCabe
Kyle Vander Zee
Joe Guerriero
Matt Kuehl

COMPANY:

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FPDCC
Thomas Engineering Group
Collins Engineers, Inc.
APS

MINUTES:

The purpose of this meeting was to update the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) with the impacts that this project will have on their adjacent property as outlined in the draft Section 4(f) report. Meeting minutes are as follows:

The project team introduced the project and provided a brief summary of the two previous FPDCC coordination meetings that were held on 9/10/2020 and 6/9/2022.

The project is located on Washington Boulevard from 1st Avenue to Thatcher Avenue in River Forest and Maywood. The proposed scope of work includes reconstruction of the existing structure (SN 016-0950) that carries Washington Boulevard over the Des Plaines River. In addition, the project involves full reconstruction and installation of retaining walls at the bridge approaches. A road diet is proposed, reducing Washington Boulevard from two lanes in each direction, to one lane in each direction with on-street bike lanes in each direction, and sidewalks on both sides.

The project team shared exhibits of the proposed improvements, showing the areas where IDOT will be requesting Permanent Easements and Proposed ROW from FPDCC. The easements requested are to accommodate the following:

- Demolition, reconstruction and maintenance of the structure over the Des Plaines River
- Removal of existing guardrail on FPDCC property
- Construction and maintenance of retaining walls at the bridge approaches.
- Connecting the proposed drainage improvements to existing structures on FPDCC property and future maintenance of the proposed drainage facilities.
- Installation of a new ADA-accessible sidewalk ramp on the northeast corner of the Washington Blvd and 1st Avenue intersection.



The project team has prepared a draft Section 4(f) document that will be issued to FPDCC for review following this meeting.

FPDCC responded to the presentation with questions that are summarized as follows:

1. Can the easement on the north side of the road be changed from permanent easement to temporary easement?
 - a. The team has shown this as permanent easement in order to allow for ongoing maintenance of retaining walls and the bridge structure. FPDCC will review this area further in the Section 4(f) report.
2. What Ped/bike improvements are proposed?
 - a. On-street bike lanes as well as separate off-street sidewalk are proposed on both sides of Washington Blvd. The existing corridor does not have any ped/bike improvements.
3. Will the project have any impacts to trees?
 - a. Tree impacts are currently not anticipated.

FPDCC will have a chance to make additional comments upon receipt of the draft Section 4(f) report.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 am.



Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: PTB 185-007 Work Order 6: Washington Blvd

DATE: 3/19/2024

SUBJECT: Forest Preserve District of Cook County

TIME: 1:00 pm

BY: Kyle Vander Zee

PLACE: Webex

ATTENDEES:

Steve Schilke
Brenda Alicea
Carlos Feliciano
Jason Salley
Jonathan Lloyd
Corey Smith
Kyle Bochte
Aren Kriks
Mike Schechtman
Chris Slattery
John McCabe
John Watson
Kyle Vander Zee
Joe Guerriero

COMPANY:

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FPDCC
Thomas Engineering Group
Collins Engineers, Inc.

MINUTES:

The purpose of this meeting was to solicit feedback from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) staff regarding the Draft Section 4(f) de minimis report that had been provided for their review in May 2023.

IDOT staff introduced the project and provided a brief description and background of the project.

Project Description:

The proposed project includes reconstruction of the Washington Boulevard bridge over the Des Plaines river. The proposed bridge includes a profile raise, which requires reconstruction of the bridge approaches. In addition, a road diet is proposed on Washington Boulevard from IL 171 to Thatcher Avenue which includes one lane in each direction as well as on-street bike lanes on each side of the road. Sidewalk is also proposed on both sides of the road throughout the project limits.

Background:

The proposed work requires acquisition of property from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) in the form of fee simple ROW and permanent easements. The Section 4(f) report provided to FPDCC in May 2023 provided the locations and reasons for the ROW acquisition as well as IDOT's efforts of avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of FPDCC land. To date, FPDCC has expressed concern about the easements on the north side of the bridge, particularly in Area G of the Section 4(f) exhibit. The reason for concern is related to a rare species that they told IDOT is present.

Discussion:

FPDCC staff stated that they remain hesitant about the permanent easements on the north side of the bridge. FPDCC wants IDOT to investigate alternatives that reduce the size of the easements. In addition, FPDCC would prefer switching areas to temporary easement instead of permanent easement anywhere where it is possible.



IDOT explained that the permanent easements on both sides of the bridge are needed in order to remove and reconstruct the bridge as well as to allow for ongoing maintenance and inspection of the bridge structure and retaining walls. The easements on the south side are wider in order to encompass the existing storm sewer outfall locations that will also be utilized in the proposed condition. IDOT also explained that minimization efforts have been made with the reduction of a lane in each direction and keeping the roadway improvements within the existing footprint. Additional minimization efforts include reduced lane width and reduced sidewalk and buffer widths.

FPDCC inquired about the need for sidewalk on both sides of the road and bridge. IDOT stated that sidewalk on both sides of the bridge structure is critical in order for the safety of bridge inspectors. IDOT will consider the option of removing the sidewalk on the north side of the road east and west of the bridge to the intersections.

Preliminarily, IDOT believes this option may be possible and would reduce the size of the permanent easements on the north side of the roadway and some of the permanent easement may be able to be revised to temp easement.

FPDCC also requested that IDOT include BMP's at the storm sewer outfalls on the south side of the bridge.

IDOT will further investigate geometric alternatives that may reduce easement areas and will investigate BMP opportunities and will provide FPDCC a revised section 4(f) report for review.

Meeting Minutes

PROJECT: PTB 185-007 Work Order 6: Washington Blvd

DATE: 6/13/2024

SUBJECT: Forest Preserve District of Cook County

TIME: 9:00 am

BY: Kyle Vander Zee

PLACE: Webex

ATTENDEES:

Steve Schilke
Brenda Alicea
Carlos Feliciano
Jonathan Lloyd
Corey Smith
Kyle Bochte
Aren Kriks
Mike Schechtman
Chris Slattery
John McCabe
Kyle Vander Zee
Joe Guerriero

COMPANY:

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FPDCC
Thomas Engineering Group
Collins Engineers, Inc.

MINUTES:

The purpose of this meeting was to solicit feedback from the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) staff regarding recent changes to the Draft Section 4(f) de minimis report that had been requested during the previous FPDCC coordination meeting on 3/19/2024.

Background: During the 3/19/2024 FPDCC Coordination meeting, FPDCC inquired about the possibility of removing the sidewalk on the north side of the road in order to minimize the need for easements. IDOT stated that sidewalk on both sides of the structure is critical for the safety of bridge inspectors, but that preliminarily it seemed feasible to remove the proposed sidewalk on the north side of the road that leads up to the bridge. Following the meeting, IDOT revised the geometry and removed the sidewalk leading up to the bridge on the north side of Washington Boulevard. This change resulted in the ability to reduce the easement areas on the north side of the road. In addition, some of the easement on the north side of the bridge structure was converted from permanent easement to temporary easement.

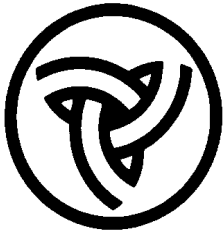
Discussion:

IDOT introduced the project and summarized the background as noted above. FPDCC staff asked for clarification on the changes to the easements, and IDOT staff shared exhibits side-by-side to demonstrate the changes.

FPDCC noted that Area A on the northeast corner of 1st Avenue and Washington Boulevard is currently identified as Fee-Simple ROW, but that it should be changed to Permanent Easement.

FPDCC was pleased with the changes and provided informal concurrence, agreeing that IDOT can make the impacts available for public comment. IDOT will email the revised Draft Section 4(f) document to FPDCC and then make the document available for public comments. Once public comments are received and addressed, the final Section 4(f) document will be returned to FPDCC for signature.





Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To:	Jose Rios	Attn:	Vanessa Ruiz
From:	Jack Elston	By:	Joseph Galloy
Subject:	Cultural Resource Concurrence		
Date:	January 11, 2024		

**Cook County
River Forest, Maywood
FAU 1411 / Washington Blvd.
Bridge & Road Reconstruction
Structure # 016-0950
Job # P-91-033-18
IDOT Sequence # 22970
SHPO Log # 006121423**

IDOT, in coordination with FHWA, has made a finding of “No Adverse Effect” for architectural resources. Attached is a letter from the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) indicating their concurrence with our finding of no adverse effect to the historic resources pursuant to 36 CFR 800. Twelve historic resources were found in the Area of Potential Effects (APE), which include the River Forest Historic District, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and has five contributing resources located in the APE, as well as six other resources that are individually eligible for listing on the NRHP (see attached letter).

This concurrence completes the necessary cultural resource coordination for the above referenced project unless design modifications or new information indicate that historic properties may be affected. If this occurs, then additional coordination with BDE Cultural Resources should be initiated.

Joseph M. Galloy, PhD, RPA
Cultural Resources Unit Manager
Bureau of Design & Environment

JG:el



**Cook County
Maywood to River Forest
Bridge Replacement (SN 016-0950) and Road Reconstruction**

**IDOT-P-91-033-18, IDOT Seq #-22970,
SHPO Log #006121423**

January 11, 2024

**Joseph Galloy
Illinois Department of Transportation
Bureau of Design and Environment
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764**

Dear Dr. Galloy:

Thank you for your submission of the reconstruction of Washington Boulevard from Maywood to River Forest, which we received on 12/14/23 (SHPO log # 006121423), and for the additional information received on 12/18/23. Our comments are required by Section 106 of the [National Historic Preservation Act of 1966](#), as amended, 54 U.S.C. § 306108, and its [implementing regulations](#) (36 CFR Part 800) (Act).

This office concurs that the following buildings within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) are individually eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

- 1. Proviso East High School, 807 S. 1st Ave., Maywood**
- 2. House, 231 Thatcher Ave., River Forest**
- 3. House, 219 Thatcher Ave., River Forest**

We further concur that the following resources in the APE are historic:

- 1. River Forest Historic District (RFHD), between Harlem Ave. and Des Plaines River with two extensions north of Chicago Avenue and two extensions south of Lake Street, River Forest (NRHP)**
- 2. House, 205 Thatcher Ave., River Forest (Contributing to RFHD)**
- 3. House, 147 Thatcher Avenue, River Forest (Contributing to RFHD)**
- 4. House, 8024 Washington Blvd., River Forest (Contributing to RFHD)**
- 5. H.A. Ullrich House, 202 Gale Ave, River Forest (Contributing to RFHD)**
- 6. House, 146 Gale Ave., River Forest (Contributing to RFHD)**

There are three resources within the APE that this office has determined are individually eligible for listing to the NRHP:

- 1. Garden House, 515 S. 2nd Ave., designed in 1977 by George Schipporeit (1933-2013), significant under Criterion C for its modern design, pinwheel plan, and atrium, at the local level of significance.**
- 2. Thomas Jefferson Woods, River Forest**

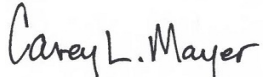
3. **G.A.R. Woods, 536 N Harlem Ave, River Forest**

Along with Thatcher Woods, Jefferson Woods and G.A.R. Woods were early additions to the holdings of the Forest Preserves of Cook County and are eligible under Criterion A.

This project will not adversely affect any historic resources.

If the project's scope of work changes from that which has been submitted to and approved by this office, you must email those changes to SHPO.Review@Illinois.gov and to Anthony Rubano (Anthony.Rubano@Illinois.gov) for review and comment. Failure to submit project changes for review and comment may result in an adverse effect determination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carey L. Mayer".

**Carey L. Mayer, AIA
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer**

c: Emilie Land, Illinois Department of Transportation