



Section 4(f) De Minimis Documentation

**U.S. ROUTE 6 (MAPLE ROAD)
AT
GOUGAR ROAD**



**The Village of New Lenox
And
The City of Joliet
Will County, Illinois**

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

July 2013

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4(f) De Minimis Documentation for the U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) at Gougar Road Project in the Village of New Lenox and the City of Joliet, Will County, Illinois

1. Project Description

- a. Project Number:** P-91-031-12 (IDOT)
- b. Project Name:** U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) at Gougar Road
- c. Location:** The Village of New Lenox and the City of Joliet, Will County, Illinois
- d. Project Type:** Intersection Improvement
- e. Project size:** the project is 0.545 miles long.
- f. Purpose and need of the Project:** The purpose of this project is to install a new traffic signal, add a left turn lane along each leg of the intersection, add a northbound and a westbound right turn, and provide 8 foot paved shoulders along both sides of U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road). As part of the improvement, the existing sidewalk south of the intersection along the west of Gougar Road will be extended to connect to the Spring Creek Greenway Trail at the northwest corner of the intersection. The traffic signal and the left turn lanes along with the right turn lanes at the intersection will provide a safer facility for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. This project is a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) improvement; which is intended to improve mobility and reduce congestion which will in result improved air quality around the project location.
- g. NEPA Class of Action – CE I**
- h. Project Status:** Finalizing preliminary engineering and environmental (phase 1) studies which includes coordinating land impacts and developing the final project report. This improvement is included in the Department’s Fiscal Year 2014-2019 Proposed Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program. Our current engineering efforts are target to enable a contract letting in the early portion of our current multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through our future annual legislative appropriations.

2. Section 4(f) Resources

- a. Name of Resource:** Hadley Valley Forest Preserve
- b. Type of Resource:** Forest Preserve
- c. Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ):** Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC)
- d. Description of role/significance in the community:** The Forest Preserve is located at the northwest corner of U.S. Route 6, in the Village of New Lenox and the City of Joliet, Will County. The Hadley Valley Forest Preserve has an area of about 694 acres, which were acquired between the years of 2000 and 2010. The preserve is part of the Spring Creek preservation system, which conserves more than 1,900 acres of land. There are three different accesses to the Forest Preserve, one on Gougar Road, one on Bruce Road, and the other one is on U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road). The Hadley Valley Forest Preserve protects a diversity of habitats, including forest, savanna, wetland, and a portion of the Spring Creek Greenway Trail which travels along the north side of U.S. Route 6 on the west leg and along the west side of Gougar Road on the north leg of the intersection within the

4(f) De Minimis Documentation for the U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) at Gougar Road Project in the Village of New Lenox and the City of Joliet, Will County, Illinois

project limits. At the Hadley Forest Preserve there are more than 15,000 species of insects, birds, aquatic invertebrates, fish, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles; the preserve is also home to a variety of plants species, including tall swamp marigold, wahoo, great angelica, yellow avens, and shingle oak. The forest preserve is used for numerous recreational purposes such as biking along the Spring Creek Greenway Trail, horseback riding, hiking and running, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing and picnicking.

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

- a. Acres to be taken:** 0.1539 acres of the Hadley Valley Forest Preserve are needed as a permanent easement in order to increase to the turning radius of the northwest corner of the intersection to safely accommodate vehicular turning movements, to accommodate the proposed construction of the sidewalk to connect the Spring Creek Greenway Trail to the intersection, and to re-grade the ditches along the west side of Gougar Road just north of the U.S. Route 6. 0.0092 acres of the Hadley Valley Preserve are needed as temporary easement to provide access for construction equipment for the extension of the culvert along the north side of U.S. Route 6 east of Gougar Road.
- b.** There will be no negative impact to the FPDWC property in this case. The permanent easement and temporary easement will be needed to in order to construct the radius at northwest corner of the intersection, connect the Spring Creek Greenway Trail to the intersection, and re-grade the ditches to match the existing conditions with an acceptable recovery slope.
- c.** The property needed for the permanent and the temporary easement is mostly consists of grass and shrubbery, which is located at the northwest quadrant of the intersection of U.S. Route 6 and Gougar Road.
- d.** As part of the improvement, the existing sidewalk south of the intersection along the west of Gougar Road will be extended to connect to the Spring Creek Greenway Trail at the northwest corner of the intersection to provide access to pedestrians and bicyclists traveling through the intersection.

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

- a.** To minimize the impact on the forest preserve property, IDOT proposes to add curb and gutter along both sides of the north leg of Gougar Road instead of an 8 foot paved shoulder. Addition of an 8 foot shoulder would require IDOT to re-grade the ditches along both sides of Gougar Road; which would require additional right-of-way from the Forest Preserve.

**4(f) De Minimis Documentation for the U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) at
Gougar Road Project in the Village of New Lenox and the City of Joliet,
Will County, Illinois**

b. The addition of the traffic signal, the crosswalks across both U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) and Gougar Road, and the sidewalk connecting to Spring Creek Greenway Trail will provide a safer facility for pedestrians and bicyclist traveling along Spring Creek Greenway Trail. The Spring Creek Greenway Trail will also be connected to the existing sidewalk south of the intersection along the west side of Gougar Road, which will make the Trail and the Hadley Forest Preserve more accessible to residents living in the subdivision south of the intersection.

c. List of commitments for Mitigation or Enhancement:

- The Department will provide construction plans for review for all areas adjacent to the Hadley Valley Forest Preserve that drain to Spring Creek including grading and sediment control, and landscape plans.
- Bollard posts at the northwest corner of the intersection must be relocated to at least 25 feet from the back curb.

5. Evidence of Opportunity for Public Review and Comment:

a. A newspaper ad will be posted to allow the public an opportunity to review and comment on the section 4(f) impacts. (See attachment 5)

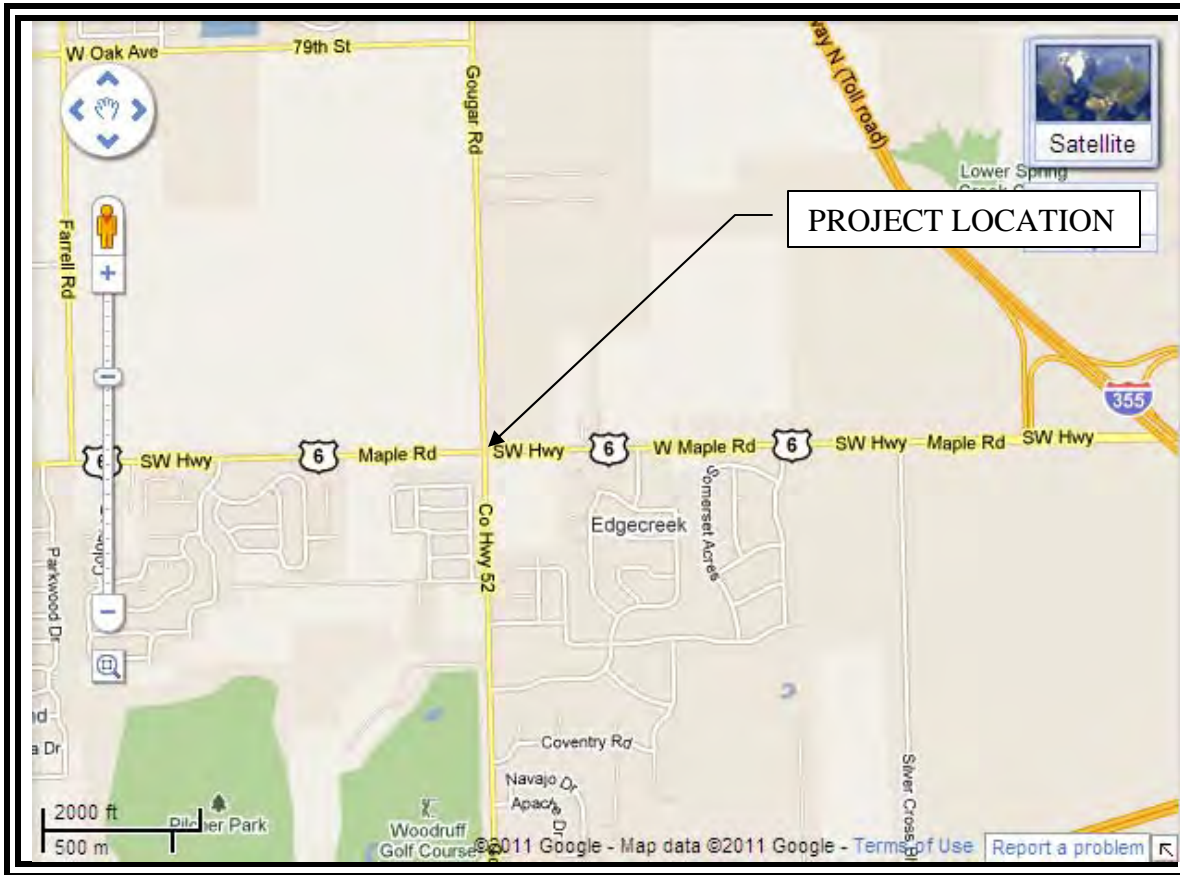
6. Evidence of Coordination with Official(s) with Jurisdiction

- a. Copy of bicycle letter to the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Sent on August 31, 2011
- b. Copy of FPDWC letter to IDOT providing existing and proposed bicycle facilities information. Dated September 14, 2011
- c. Copy of the meeting minutes for the meeting with the Forest Preserve District of Will County (see attachment 7).
- d. Copy of IDOT letter to FPDWC requesting review of the section 4(f) De Minimis Documentation.

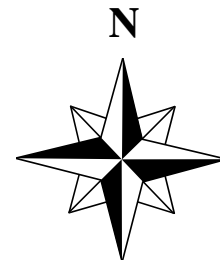
7. Supporting Documentation

- a. Project Location Map (see attachment 1)
- b. Existing Aerial (see attachment 2)
- c. Preliminary Proposed Plan and Profile (see attachment 3)
- d. Resource Information (see attachment 4)
- e. Photographs of Resource (see attachment 5)
- f. Published Newspaper Public Comment Display Ad (see Attachment 6)
- g. Copies of other correspondence (see attachment 7)

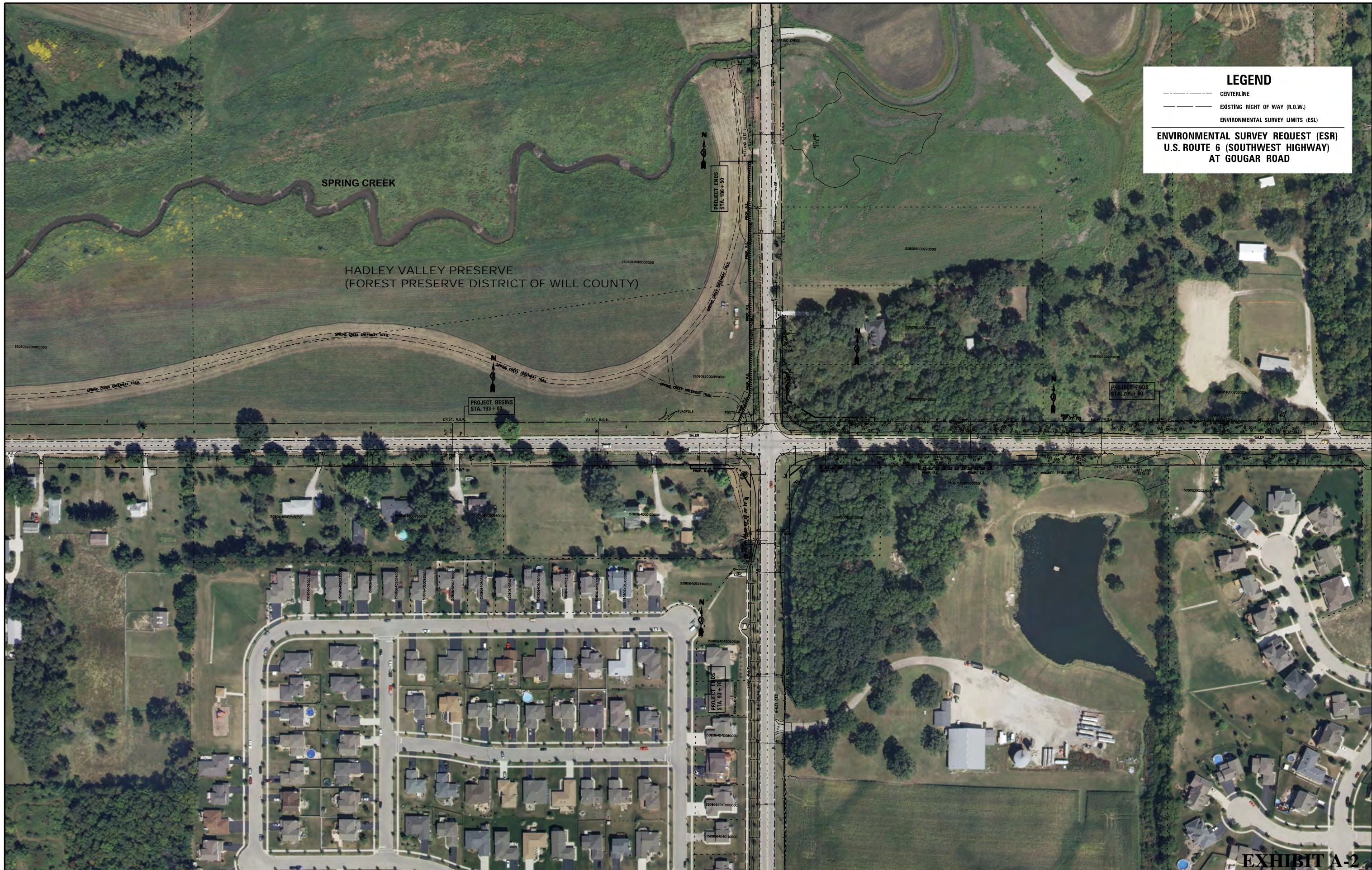
LOCATION MAP



Route: U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road)
FAU297
Limits: at Gougar Road
Municipality: Joliet/New Lennox
County: Will



P-91-031-12



LEGEND

----- CENTERLINE
 - - - - - EXISTING RIGHT OF WAY (R.O.W.)
 - - - - - ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY LIMITS (ESL)

**ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY REQUEST (ESR)
 U.S. ROUTE 6 (SOUTHWEST HIGHWAY)
 AT GOUGAR ROAD**

EXHIBIT A-2

FILE NAME =	USER NAME = estimablek	DESIGNED -	REVISED -
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	PLOT SCALE = 200.0000' / in.	CHECKED -	REVISED -
	PLOT DATE = 12/11/2013	DATE -	REVISED -

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**AERIAL VIEW
 U.S. ROUTE 6 AT GOUGAR ROAD**

SCALE: 1"=200' SHEET NO. 1 OF 1 SHEETS STA. TO STA.

F.A.U. RTÉ.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
297		WILL	1	1
CONTRACT NO.				
ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				

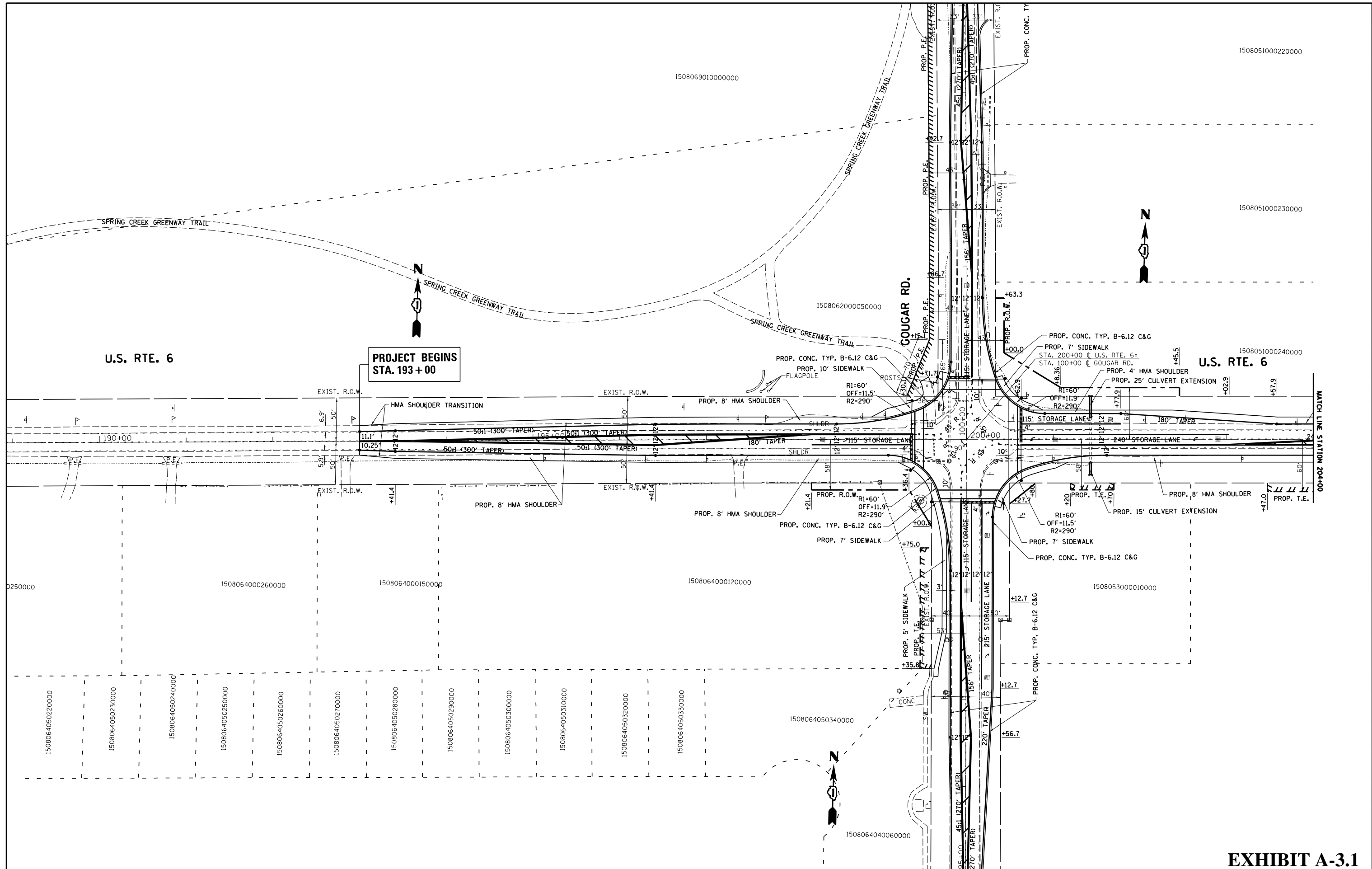


EXHIBIT A-3.1

FILE NAME = e:\pw_work\p\dot\estimblek\d0276797\F03112-planning1.dgn	USER NAME = estimblek	DESIGNED -	REVISED -	STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION	US ROUTE 6 AT COUGAR ROAD EXISTING PROPOSED ROADWAY PLAN			F.A.U. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.		
Default	PLOT SCALE = 100.0000' / in.	DRAWN -	REVISED -		SCALE:	SHEET	OF	SHEETS	STA.	TO	STA.	WILL	3	1
	PLOT DATE = 12/11/2013	CHECKED -	REVISED -									CONTRACT NO.		
		DATE -	REVISED -									ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT		

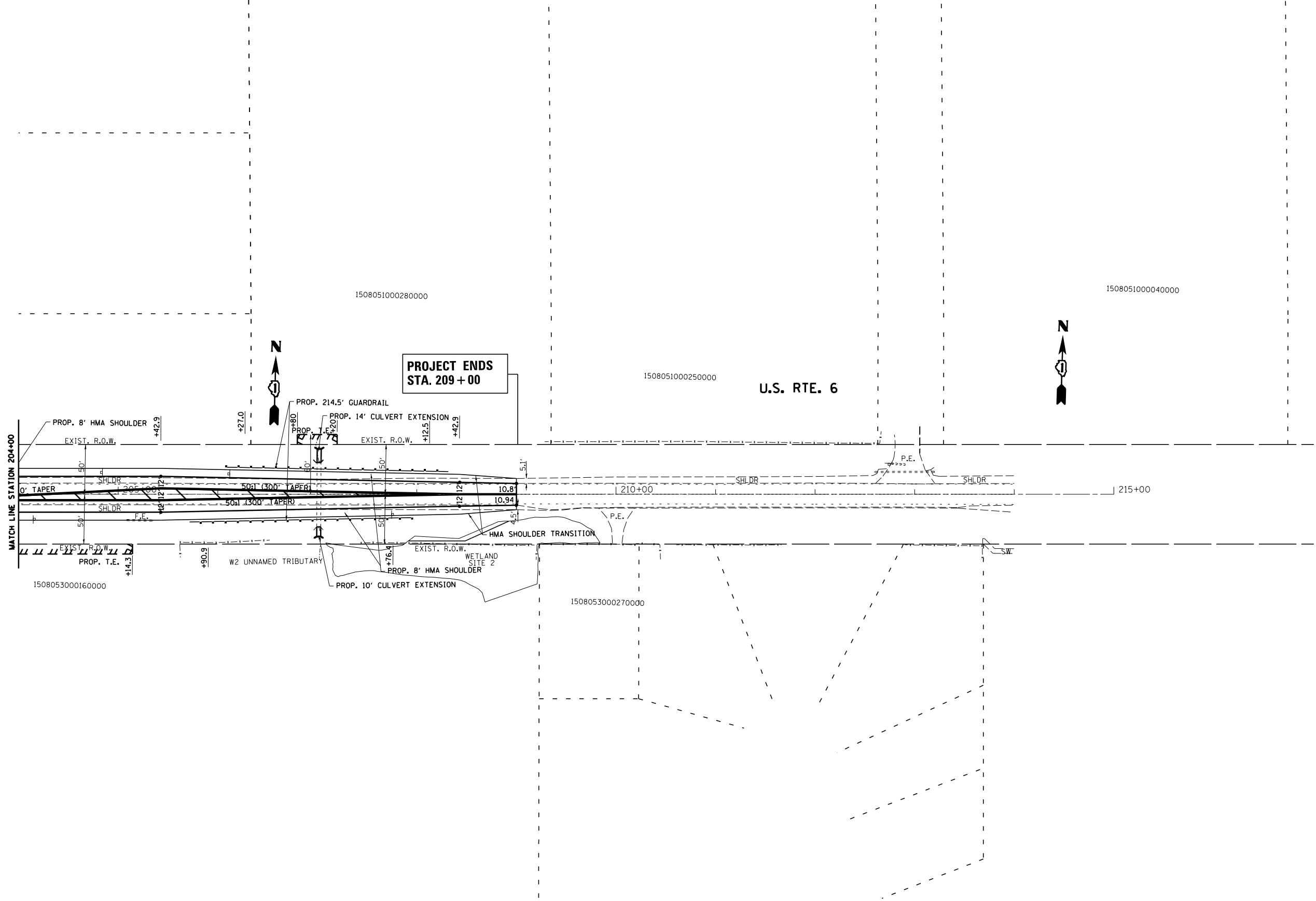


EXHIBIT A-3.2

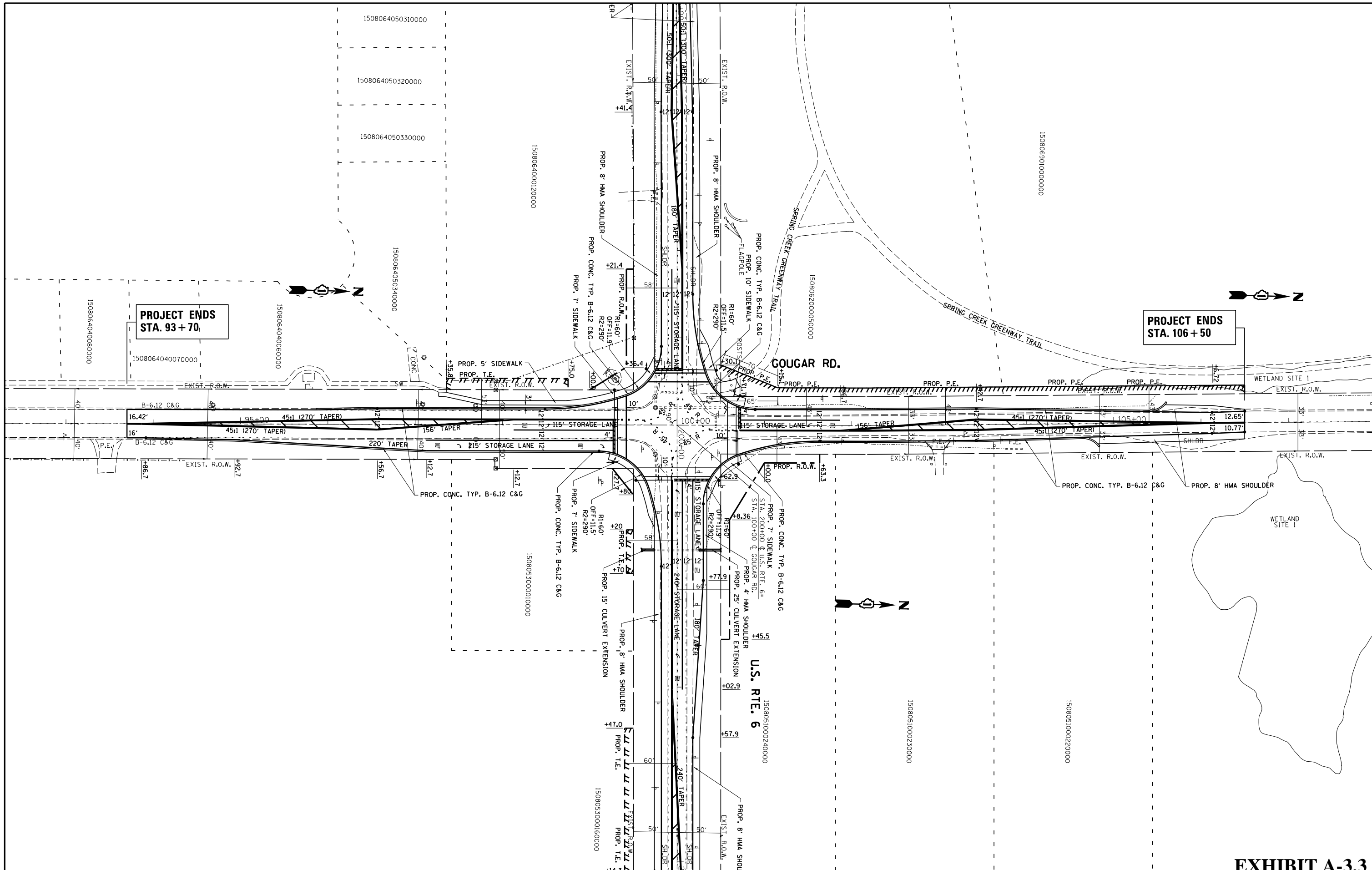
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Default	PLOT SCALE = 100.0000' / in.	CHECKED -	REVISED -
	PLOT DATE = 12/11/2013	DATE -	REVISED -

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**US ROUTE 6 AT GOUGAR ROAD
EXISTING AND PROPOSED ROADWAY PLAN**

SCALE: SHEET OF SHEETS STA. TO STA.

F.A.U. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
		WILL	3	2
CONTRACT NO.				
ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				



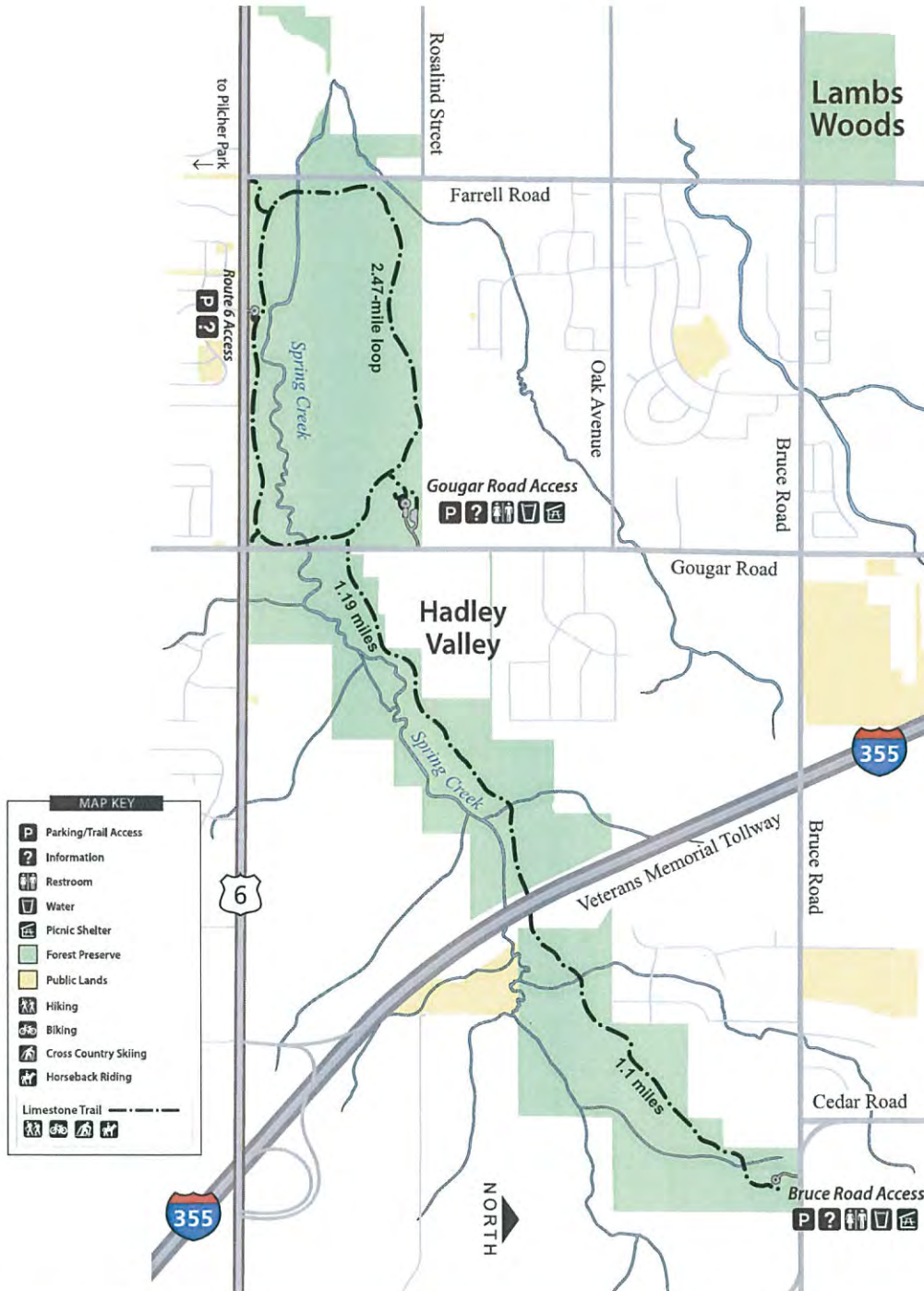
PROJECT ENDS
STA. 93 + 70


PROJECT ENDS
STA. 106 + 50

EXHIBIT A-3.3

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		DRAWN -	REVISED -		SCALE: SHEET OF SHEETS STA. TO STA.				CONTRACT NO.				
CHECKED -	REVISED -					ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT							
DATE -	REVISED -												

Hadley Valley Preserve





Forest Preserve District
OF WILL COUNTY

Bringing People and Nature Together

Directions to Preserve:

Hadley Valley Preserve - Gougar Road Access is located on Gougar Road, 0.2 mile north of Route 6 in Joliet.

For information, please call 815.727.8700 or visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Forest Preserve District of Will County

Hadley Valley Preserve

Preservation of Hadley Valley started in 2000, which extended the Spring Creek Greenway eastward three miles from Walnut Hollow Preserve, and protects a portion of the Hadley Valley Aquifer recharge area (primary source of the City of Joliet's drinking water). Hadley Valley is currently 685 acres. It includes a 0.5-mile-wide valley providing a scenic view from Route 6 along the north edge of New Lenox from Farrell Road in Joliet to Bruce Road in Homer Glen.

The District partnered with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority on a large-scale stream dechannelization and completed a wetland and wildlife habitat restoration project in Hadley Valley using City of Chicago and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer O'Hare Modernization Mitigation Account (OMMA) funds secured through OpenLands.

Hadley Valley and the Spring Creek Greenway Master Plan have been recognized by several organizations:

- 2008 Excellence in Conservation Award, Chicago Wilderness
- 2009 Outstanding Conservation Award, Illinois Park and Recreation Association
- 2010 Implementation Award, Illinois Chapter of the American Planning Association
- 2011 National Planning Excellence Award for Implementation, American Planning Association

Preserve and Trail Hours

8 a.m. - Sunset, year-round

Trail Hours - The following select preserves are open sunrise to sunset to provide access to biking trails:

- I&M Canal Access, Joliet (I&M Canal Trail)
- Hickory Creek Junction, Mokena (OPRT)
- Black Road Access, Joliet (Rock Run Trail)
- Paul V. Nichols Access, Joliet (Rock Run Trail)
- Sugar Creek Administration Center, Joliet (WGT)
- Manhattan Road Access, Manhattan (WGT)
- Symerton Road Access, Symerton (WGT)

Information

Call 815.727.8700 weekdays to receive free informational brochures, such as:

Map & Guide to the Forest Preserve
County map showing preserve locations and complete recreational information.

The Citizen
Quarterly newsletter detailing family programs and preserve happenings.

Or visit ReconnectWithNature.org for more information and to request brochures or other trail maps.

In an Emergency, Call 9-1-1.

Please give the location and nature of the emergency.

In non-emergencies, call the Will County Sheriff's dispatch at 815.727.6191 to reach a Forest Preserve District Officer.

Trail Etiquette

- Slower traffic should stay to the right of the trail. Bicyclists should pass on the left, politely announcing "Passing on the left."
- While in a group, leave room for others to pass.
- Dogs are welcome on most trails but must be leashed. Cleaning up dog waste is required by ordinance. Dogs are not allowed in designated Nature Preserves.
- No Forest Preserve trail is designed for motorized use. Assistive motorized devices permitted.

In providing programs and services to the public, the Forest Preserve District will make reasonable modifications to ensure that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy District offerings. For more information, visit ReconnectWithNature.org/ADA.

Picture Log			
Project:	U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road)	County:	Will
Limits:	At Gougar Road		
Project Number:	P-91-031-12	Target Letting:	06 / 2014



Location: U.S. Route 6 looking west, south Gougar Road.



Location: U.S. Route 6 looking north, west of Gougar Road.

EXHIBIT A-5.1

Picture Log			
Project:	U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road)	County:	Will
Limits:	At Gougar Road		
Project Number:	P-91-031-12	Target Letting:	06 / 2014



Location: North of U.S. Route 6 looking east, west of Gougar Road.



Location: North of U.S. Route 6, looking North, west of Gougar Road

EXHIBIT A-5.2

Picture Log			
Project:	U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road)	County:	Will
Limits:	At Gougar Road		
Project Number:	P-91-031-12	Target Letting:	06 / 2014



Location: North of U.S. Route 6, looking North, west of Gougar Road.



Location: At the northwest corner of U.S. Route 6 and Gougar Road, looking north.

EXHIBIT A-5.3

Picture Log			
Project:	U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road)	County:	Will
Limits:	At Gougar Road		
Project Number:	P-91-031-12	Target Letting:	06 / 2014



Location: At the northwest corner of U.S. Route 6 and Gougar Road, looking north



Location: North of U.S. Route 6 and west of Gougar Road, looking North.

EXHIBIT A-5.4

Picture Log			
Project:	U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road)	County:	Will
Limits:	At Gougar Road		
Project Number:	P-91-031-12	Target Letting:	06 / 2014



Location: Northwest corner of U.S. Route 6 and Gougar Road



Location: West of Gougar Road, north of U.S. Route 6, looking south.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Public Comment

IDOT is seeking public comments on impacts the U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) at Gougar Road project will have on Hadley Valley Forest Preserve which is owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of Will County.

The U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) project will impact the property at the northwest corner of the U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) and Gougar Road in the Village of New Lenox and the City of Joliet, Kane County. IDOT requires the acquisition of Permanent Easement and Temporary Easement in order to construct the turning radius at the north corner of the intersection, to connect the proposed 7 foot sidewalk to the existing Spring Creek Greenway Trail at the northwest quadrant of the intersection, and to re-grade the ditches along the west side of Gougar Road. IDOT is seeking public comments on the acquisition of this Permanent Easement and the Temporary Easement at the Hadley Valley Forest Preserve. This is the first opportunity for the public to comment on the additional public land needed for this project.

Hard copies of the Section 4 (f) de minimis documentation will be provided at the following locations during normal business hours.

DATE: 10-29-13 to 11-05-13

TIME: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Monday thru Friday

PLACE: Illinois Department of Transportation

Bureau of Programming

201 West Center Court

Schaumburg, IL 60196

OR

Forest Preserve District of Will County

17540 West Laraway Road

Joliet, IL 60433

The Section 4(f) de minimis documentation is available on the Department's website at: http://www.dot.state.il.us/section_4.html

Electronic copies can be provided by emailing a request to carlos.feliciano@illinois.gov.

Written comments can be submitted at the IDOT office, mailed to the IDOT office, or submitted electronically to carlos.feliciano@illinois.gov. Comments must be received by **11-22-13** to be considered part of the public record.

This documentation will be accessible to handicapped individuals. Anyone needing special assistance should contact Carlos Feliciano at (847) 705-4106. Persons planning to visit either site to review the documents and need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TDD number (847)705-4710 at least five days prior.

All correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation

Bureau of Programming

Attn: Carlos A. Feliciano

201 West Center Court

Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Shadab Khan



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways/Region One / District One
201 West Center Court/Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

Project and Environmental Studies
U.S. Route 6 at Gougar Road
Will County

August 31, 2011

«Full_Name»
«Title»
«CompanyAgency»
«Office»
«Address1»
«Address2»
«City», «State» «PostalCode»

Dear «Alt_Salutation»:

We are writing to inform you that the Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) has recently initiated preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the improvement of U.S. Route 6 (Southwest Highway) at Gougar Road in the City of Joliet and Village of New Lenox in Will County. A location map is attached for your reference. Funding for this improvement is not included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2012-2017 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. This improvement will be included in our priorities for future funding consideration among similar improvement needs throughout the region. The proposed improvement generally consists of intersection reconstruction.

At this early stage of Phase I project development, we request that you provide any information relevant to defining an appropriate roadway configuration which can include bicycle accommodations where needs exist. Specific information we are requesting includes the following:

- Existing or anticipated future bicycle usage along or crossing the U.S. Route 6 corridor
- Existing or planned facilities generating bicycle travel in the project area
- Extent of on-road bicycle usage
- Existing or planned separate bicycle trails or signed bike routes in the vicinity (1.2 miles) of the project
- Planned and programmed local bikeway construction projects within a 5-year period
- Any additional bicycle programs which may affect U.S. Route 6

«Full_Name»
August 31, 2010
Page 2

We appreciate any input you could provide in this matter. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Carlos Feliciano, Project Manager, at (847) 705-4106.

Very truly yours,

Diane M. O'Keefe, P.E.
Deputy Director of Highways,
Region One Engineer

By: 
John A. Baczek, P.E.
Project and Environmental Studies Section Chief

Attachment

bcc: Sam Mead, Environmental Studies Unit
Shadab Ansari

S:\Gen\WP\p&es\NHSE\Projects- Active\US 6 and Gougar Road\letters\Initiation Letters\Initial Letter - Bicycle Letter080511.docx

«Full_Name»
August 31, 2010
Page 3

Sent to:

Mr. Ed Barsotti
Executive Director
League of Illinois Bicyclists
2550 Cheshire Drive
Aurora, IL 60504

Mr. Ron Burke
Executive Director
Active Transportation Alliance
9 West Hubbard Street
Suite 402
Chicago, IL 60610-6545

Mr. John O'Neal
Transportation Planner
Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
233 South Wacker Drive
Suite 800
Chicago, IL 60606

Mr. Hugh O'Hara
Transportation Planning Liaison
Will County Governmental League
3180 Theodore Street, Suite 101
Joliet, IL 60435-8520

Ms. Marcella M. DeMauro
Executive Director
Forest Preserve District of Will County
17540 West Laraway Road
Joliet, IL 60433



LCAE

Forest Preserve District
OF WILL COUNTY

Bringing People and Nature Together

17540 W. Laraway Road / Joliet, IL 60433
815.727.8700 / fax 815.722.3608
ReconnectWithNature.org

September 14, 2011

Mr. Carlos Feliciano
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Highways/District 1
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

**Re: US Route 6 at Gougar Road
Intersection Reconstruction**

Dear Mr. Feliciano,

The Forest Preserve District of Will County (District) is in receipt of your August 31, 2011 request for information regarding bicycle related improvements at the above referenced intersection. The following information and attachment provides an overview of the District's existing and planned bicycle facilities within 1.2 miles of the intersection.

The intersection abuts the 726 acre Hadley Valley Preserve on the northwest quadrant where there is an existing bicycle trail connection to the highway. The preserve has undergone significant expansion, improvement and restoration over the last several years including the development of a portion of the Spring Creek Greenway Trail. In 2010, the District completed the 4.6 mile segment of the greenway trail within the preserve and associated connections to US Route 6 at Gougar Road and at Farrell Road approximately 1 mile west of the referenced intersection. These connections provide access to other trail systems in the area (Pilcher Park) and to the residential areas lying south of the highway. It is expected the City of Joliet would require an extension of the pedestrian sidewalk on the southwest quadrant of US Route 6 and Gougar Road at the time that parcel redevelops to provide additional access to the regional trail system. Likewise, the Village of New Lenox may include bicycle or pedestrian improvements east of the intersection if those parcels are redeveloped.

East of the Gougar Road, nearer to Interstate 355, the District is currently engaged in Phase I and Phase II engineering for the Veterans Memorial Trail which will run along the interstate and connect to US Route 6 near Clinton Street (Silver Cross Boulevard). The Veterans Memorial Trail will parallel interstate corridor between 127th Street and US Route 6 connecting to the Spring Creek Greenway Trail and other local bicycle routes. It will also connect to the Centennial Trail in Romeoville and ultimately to the

BUREAU OF PROGRAMS
RECEIVED
SEP 20 2011
DISTRICT #1

Board of Commissioners

- Walter G. Adamic
- John Argoudelis
- Joseph M. Babich
- Jim Bilotta
- Herbert Brooks, Jr.
- Katrina L. Deutsche
- Ann Dralle
- Lee Ann Goodson
- Suzanne Hart
- Robert Howard
- Kathleen Konicki
- Edward Kusta, Jr.
- Charles E. Maher
- Sharon May
- James G. Moustis
- Diane H. Seiler
- Brian Smith
- Laurie Smith
- Frank D. Stewart
- Jacqueline Traynere
- Thomas Weigel
- Stephen M. Wilhelmi
- Denise E. Winfrey

- Cory S. Singer
President
- Donald Gould
Vice President
- Deborah A. Rozak
Secretary
- Laurie McPhillips
Treasurer
- Marcella M. DeMauro
Executive Director

Mr. Feliciano
September 14, 2011
Page 2 of 2

DuPage County Bicycle Trail System at International Parkway in Woodridge. Funding for the construction of the southern segment Veterans Memorial Trail (Romeoville to New Lenox) has not yet been secured but engineering is expected to be completed within the next three years. It is possible the trail will be constructed in phases with the southern portion nearer to US Route 6 being the first phase to provide access to planned commercial and health care facilities.

If you have any questions regarding these existing or planned trail projects, please contact Ralph Schultz, Director of Planning and Operations at 815-722-5993 or rschultz@fpdwc.org.

Sincerely,

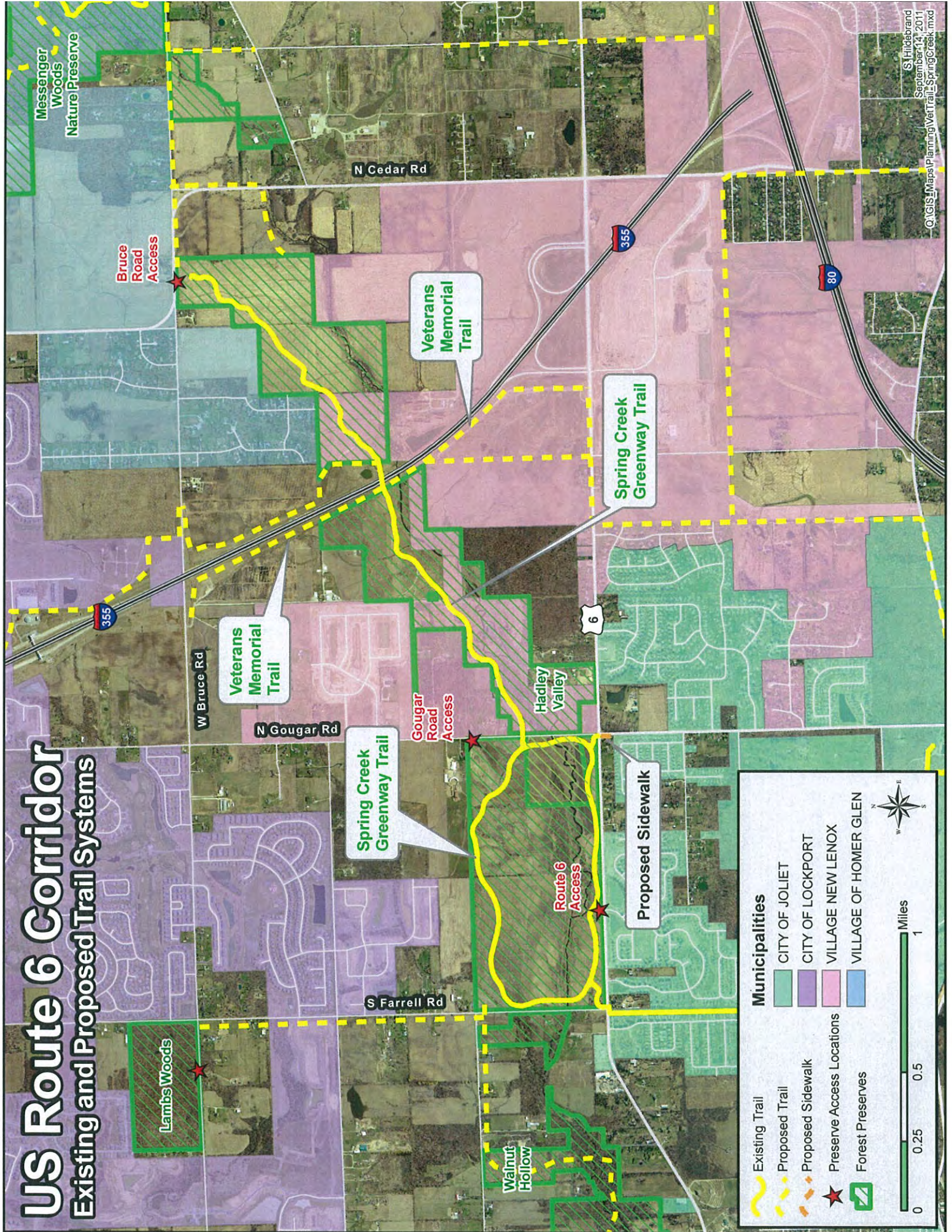
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcella M. DeMauro". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marcella M. DeMauro
Executive Director

enclosures

US Route 6 Corridor

Existing and Proposed Trail Systems



Municipalities

- CITY OF JOLIET
- CITY OF LOCKPORT
- VILLAGE NEW LENOX
- VILLAGE OF HOMER GLEN

Trail Systems

- Existing Trail
- Proposed Trail
- Proposed Sidewalk

Other Features

- Preserve Access Locations
- Forest Preserves

Scale: 0, 0.25, 0.5, 1 Miles

North Arrow

S. Hildebrand
September 14, 2011
Q:\GIS\Maps\Planning\WatTrail_SpringCreek.mxd

EXHIBIT A-7.2



EXHIBIT A-7.2

MINUTES OF MEETING

Subject: U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) @ Gougar Road

Date: Monday, August 12, 2013

Time: 01:00 P.M. - 02:00 P.M.

Place: Forest Preserve District of Will County
17540 West Laraway Road
Joliet, IL 60433

Attendees:

Kendy Estimable	IDOT Bureau of Programming – P&ES
Shadab Ansari	IDOT Bureau of Programming – P&ES
Deborah Specht	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Michelle Blackburn	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Andrew Hawkins	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Karen Fonte	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Dave Robson	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Carl Crawford	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Matt Novander	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Juanita Armstrong-Ullberg	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Edward Yousif	AECOM
Tom Good	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Carlos Feliciano	IDOT Bureau of Programming – P&ES

The purpose of the meeting was to present IDOT's proposed improvement at the intersection of U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) at Gougar Road to the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC), and to further explain why IDOT is acquiring right-of-way (ROW) from the Hadley Valley Forest Preserve. The project is located within the Village of New Lenox and the City of Joliet, Will County.

The U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) at Gougar Road improvement is a Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funded project, which will address the traffic congestion at the intersection. This segment of U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) is functionally classified as Other Principal Arterial with a 2011 ADT of 9,450 vpd and a projected 2040 ADT of 16,000 vpd under IDOT jurisdiction which consists of a 2 lane cross section, one 11-foot lane and an 8-foot HMA shoulder in each direction. Gougar Road is classified as a Minor Arterial with the south leg under Will County jurisdiction and the north leg under the jurisdiction of the Village of New Lenox. It carries a 2012 ADT of 9,500 vpd on the south leg and 6,900 vpd on the north leg and a projected 2040 ADT of 19,000 vpd with a posted limit of 45 mph. It is also not designated as a truck or bicycle route. It has a cross section of 2-16 foot lanes, one in each direction. There is a 5-foot sidewalk located on

the west side just south of the intersection ending at the property line of the southwest quadrant residence. There's also a 5-foot sidewalk along the east side of Gougar which ends a few parcels south of the intersection. The existing right-of-way (R.O.W.) along U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) extends 50 feet on each side. The existing R.O.W. along the south leg of Gougar Road extends 40 feet on each side, and the existing R.O.W. along the north leg extends 33 feet on each side from the centerline.

After an internal review of U.S. Route 6 at Gougar Road considering RAB and traffic signal options, the District has decided to implement the traffic signal alternative. The roundabout alternative required avoidance of a detour due to the lack accessible routes. The runarounds required to avoid the detour required additional temporary easements not required with the traffic signal alternate. Although the traffic signal and roundabout capacity analysis depict the roundabout as performing better than the traffic signal alternate for the 2008 design year, the life of the proposed design may require additional capacity improvements before the design year of 2040. The traffic signal design would still perform at an acceptable level of service in 2040. The introduction of a modern roundabout as a spot/intersection improvement along the U.S. Route 6 corridor raises concerns over adaptability and interoperability of this corridor as it relates to the expanding commercial development in the area which will eventually need a corridor add-lanes improvement. A modern roundabout option would best be suited as part of a corridor evaluation that examines the interaction and effect of adjacent intersection designs. The land acquisition and wetland impacts associated with the modern roundabout, the projected capacity performance and the adaptability with future corridor expansion plans outweighed the benefits of the modern roundabout alternative.

	Traffic Signal Alternate		Roundabout Alternate	
Period	2012 AM	2012 PM	2012 AM	2012 PM
Delay	20.8 sec	23.0 sec	10.0 sec	10.4 sec
LOS	C	C	A	A
Period	2040 AM	2040 PM	2040 AM	2040 PM
Delay	26.9 sec	39.0 sec	15.5 sec	21.4 sec
LOS	C	D	B	C

The proposed scope of work consists of installation of a new traffic signal, addition of a left turn lane along each leg of the intersection, and the addition of a northbound and a westbound right turn lane. An 8-foot HMA shoulder will be added along both side U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) to accommodate complete the street policies. There are two culverts along the east leg of US Route 6 that will need to be extended. The existing profiles along both U.S. Route 6 and Gougar Road will be maintained. As part of the improvement a 5-foot sidewalk will be added along the west side of Gougar Road on the south leg that will connect the existing sidewalk south of U.S. Route to the intersection. A 10-foot sidewalk will be added at the northwest corner of the intersection, and a 7-foot

sidewalk will be added at the remaining corners. The proposed sidewalks will provide better access to the existing Spring Creek Greenway Trail which is located in the Hadley Valley Forest Preserve at the northwest corner of the intersection. The open drainage system along U.S. Route 6 (Maple Road) will be maintained. Both the 24"x24" box culvert and the 48"x48" box culvert along the east leg of U.S. Route 6 will be extended to accommodate the roadway widening for the proposed geometry. To minimize impact to the Hadley Valley Forest Preserve the north leg of Gougar Road will be converted to a closed drainage system by adding curb and gutter along both side of the roadway. The closed drainage system along the south leg of Gougar Road will be maintained.

In order to re-construct the northwest corner of the intersection and to add a 10-foot sidewalk to be connected to the Spring Creek Greenway Trail, IDOT is requesting the acquisition 0.0269 acres of Permanent Easement from the Hadley Valley Forest Preserve. The Department also proposed the acquisition of 0.1319 acres of Temporary Easement from Hadley Valley Forest Preserve along the west side of Gougar Road north of U.S. Route 6 in order to re-grade the ditches to a recoverable slope 1:4. The total acreage of impact to the FPDWC property will be 0.1588 acres. IDOT believes that the transportation improvement impacts to the FPDWC owned land qualify for the use of the Section 4f De minimis. IDOT has completed a Section 4f De minimis report and is in the process of submitting it to the FPDWC.

Prior the meeting a list of preliminary comments was emailed to the Department by the FPDWC, which were addressed at the meeting. The FPDWC requested to review all construction plans for areas along U.S. Route 6 and Gougar Road adjacent to Hadley Valley Preserve that drain to Spring Creek. FPDWC also requested that the plans provided should include both grading and sediment control measures and restoration/landscape plans; IDOT stated these plans will be sent to the FPDWC during phase II. FPDWC requested that the sidewalk at the northwest corner of the intersection and crosswalks to be 10-foot wide instead of the standard 7-foot wide, and also that the slope of the Spring Creek Greenway trail not exceed 5%. The plans have been updated to include a 10-foot sidewalk at the northwest corner of the intersection, the proposed crosswalks are already 10-foot wide. The Spring Creek Greenway Trail will not exceed a grade of 5%. Due the widening of the roadway there are some bollard posts at the northwest corner of the intersection that need to be relocated, the FPDWC requested that these posts are relocated at least 25 feet from the curb. The Spring Creek Greenway Trail will not be affected by the re-grading of the ditches. The FPDWC requires that IDOT provide two appraisals of value for any permanent easement areas requested and the higher appraisal value will be utilized for any transfer agreement. IDOT already provides 2 appraisals and utilizes the higher value for FPDWC projects. In the same email the FPDWC stated that the ROW along Gougar Road should be 50 feet instead of the 66 feet showing in the plans.

A draft copy of the 4f De minimis report was provided to the FPDWC during the meeting, a final copy of the report will be sent to the FPDWC at a later date. To avoid delaying the process and the Design Approval of this project, the FPDWC suggested that instead forwarding the final copy of the report to them, IDOT should send to them a De minimis Impact Letter. That process have been used before between IDOT and the FPDWC for the improvement of U.S. Route 6/Illinois 7 (159th Street) from east of I-355 to west of U.S. Route 45 (La Grange Road) in the City of Lockport and the Villages of Homer Glen and Orland Park, in Will and Cook County. A copy of the template letter was obtained from the Project Engineer and IDOT is now in the process of sending a De minimis Impact Letter to the Board of Commissioners of the Forest Preserve District of Will County requesting their concurrence that no adverse effects are occurring to publicly owned land maintained by the FPDWC.

By: Carlos A. Feliciano / Shadab Ansari / Kendy Estimable - IDOT

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Attendance Roster

Bureau: Programming Section: Project & Environmental Studies

Project/Topic: U.S. Route 6 @ Gougar Road
 Date: 8/12/13
 Time: 1 PM
 Location: Forest preserve district of will county

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7.	Dave Bobson	FPDWC	815 722-5374	drbobson@fpdwc.org
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