



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Illinois Division

July 29, 2019

3250 Executive Park Dr.
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 492-4640
www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-IL

TO: All Section 106 Consulting Parties

SUBJECT: Section 106 Assessment of Effects to Historic Properties
From the Proposed Undertaking in and Adjacent to Jackson Park
Cook County, Chicago, Illinois

Dear Consulting Party:

Enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of the Section 106 Assessment of Effects (AOE) to historic properties for a proposed undertaking in and adjacent to Jackson Park, Cook County, Chicago, Illinois. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has determined that the subject undertaking will have an “adverse effect” to the Jackson Park Landscape District and Midway Plaisance. Any comments on the effect determinations contained in the AOE should be made no later than August 30, 2019 and be submitted to the City of Chicago (Attention: Abby Monroe, Abby.Monroe@cityofchicago.org).

What is “the Undertaking?”

For the purpose of assessing effects to historic properties under Section 106, collectively the proposed actions by the City of Chicago (City), the National Park Service (NPS), and the FHWA are considered “the undertaking.”

The City’s proposed actions include allowing construction of the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) in Jackson Park, which is not federally funded, and changes to roadways within Jackson Park. The proposed action by the Federal agencies include an amendment to the Urban Parks and Recreation agreements by the NPS and the authorization of Federal-aid Highway Program Funds by the FHWA. These proposed Federal actions occur in response to decisions made by the City.

What steps in the Section 106 process have already been completed?

The first two steps of the Section 106 process have been completed: (1) initiate the Section 106 process and (2) identify historic properties. In the first step, the section 106 process was initiated by inviting consulting parties to participate in the process. The second step concluded with the completion of the Historic Properties Inventory (HPI) and subsequent concurrence by the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer with the determinations made in the HPI.

What is the purpose of the AOE?

The AOE documents the application of the criteria of adverse effect to historic properties within the undertaking's area of potential effect. The submittal of the AOE to consulting parties for review and comment formally initiates the third step of the Section 106 process, "assess adverse effects to historic properties."

The AOE was prepared on behalf of the FHWA as the lead Federal agency for the Section 106 process. The FHWA worked in cooperation with the City, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the NPS to complete the analysis and document the effect determinations in the AOE.

What are the next steps in the Section 106 process?

During the review period of the AOE, a consulting party meeting and a public open house will be held on August 5, 2019 to provide an overview of the effect determinations and receive comments. The public open house will cover the same content as the consulting parties meeting but will allow for a greater number of participants. Both meetings will be held at the Logan Center for the Arts, 915 E. 60th Street, Chicago, IL 60637. The specific meeting times and locations are as follows:

Consulting Party Meeting	Public Open House
August 5, 2019 Logan Center for the Arts, 9 th Floor 3:00 – 5:00 PM RSVP to abby.monroe@cityofchicago.org (required for up to two participants per consulting party)	August 5, 2019 Logan Center for the Arts, 1 st Floor Theater and Lobby 6:00 – 8:00 PM

After the review period on the AOE closes on August 30, 2019, the FHWA will consider any comments received, finalize the Assessment of Effects, and proceed to the final step in the Section 106 process, "resolve adverse effects."

The final step of the Section 106 process involves consultation with the FHWA, NPS, the City of Chicago, IDOT, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and other consulting parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate the adverse effects. A memorandum of agreement is executed among the FHWA, NPS, the City, IDOT, the Illinois SHPO, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation once an agreement is reached on how adverse effects are resolved.

Thank you for participating as a Section 106 consulting party and we look forward to working with you as the process is advanced.

Sincerely,

Arlene K. Kocher
 Division Administrator

Enclosure