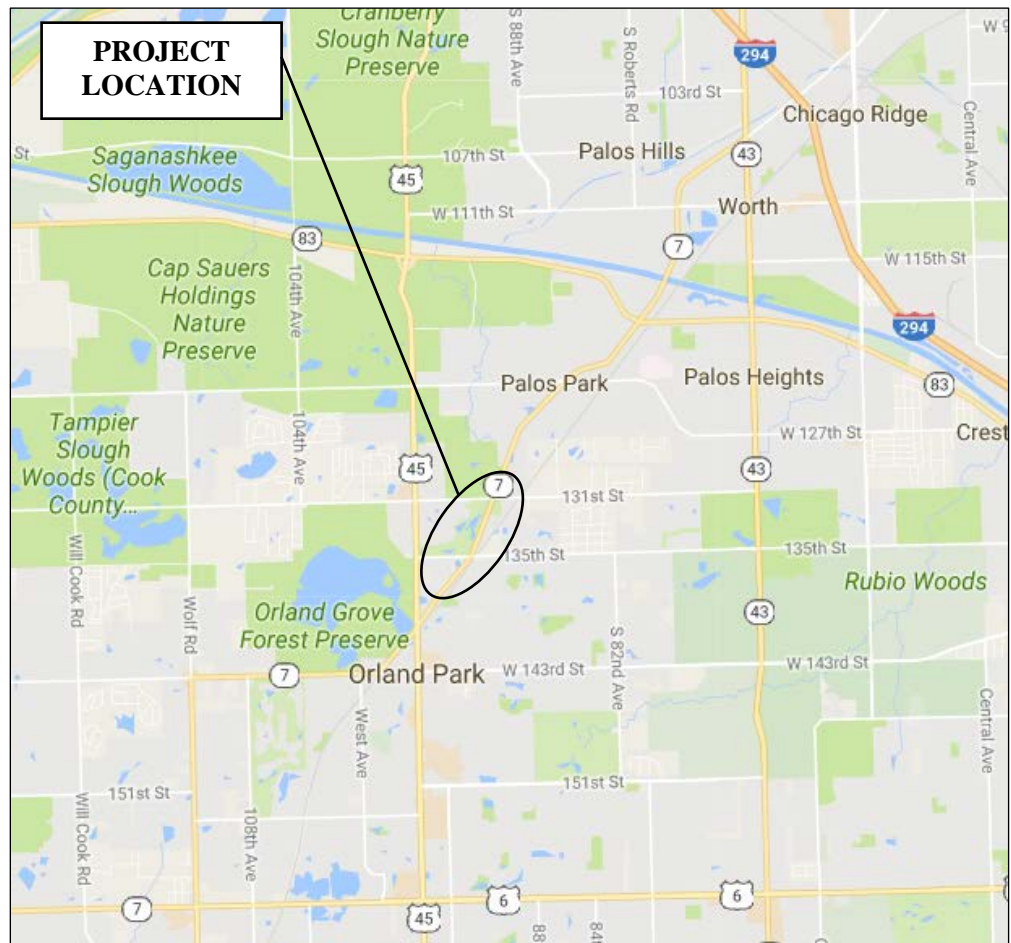




**Section 4(f) De Minimis Documentation**

*Groundhog Slough  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County*

**ILLINOIS ROUTE 7  
131<sup>ST</sup> STREET TO  
SOUTH OF 135<sup>TH</sup> STREET**



**P-91-417-09**

**Villages of Orland Park and Palos Park  
Cook County, Illinois**

*Region One – Office of Highways Project Implementation*

*July 2017*



**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation**  
**Groundhog Slough**  
**Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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**1. Project Description**

- a. Project Name:** IL 7 from 131<sup>st</sup> Street to south of 135<sup>th</sup> Street
- b. Project Number:** P-91-417-09
- c. Project Termini:** Approximately 3,100 feet south of 135<sup>th</sup> Street to 500 feet north of 131<sup>st</sup> Street along IL 7, and 200 feet east and west of IL 7 along 135<sup>th</sup> Street and 131<sup>st</sup> Street in the Villages of Orland Park and Palos Park, Cook County.
- d. Project Type:** Roadway reconstruction. The scope of work consists of raising IL 7 above the 100-year flood elevation, shifting IL 7 to the west to provide a larger floodway for Mill Creek, pavement widening to provide a center turn lane, and adding a shared-use path. Also included is traffic signal replacement at 135<sup>th</sup> Street and 131<sup>st</sup> Street, and larger culverts under driveways and roadways.
- e. Project Length:** 1.24 miles
- f. NEPA Class of Action:** Federal Approved Categorical Exclusion
- g. Purpose and Need of the Project:** The purpose of this project is to address existing drainage conditions and improve the level of flood protection along IL 7.

Existing drainage conditions are poor and result in recurring flooding that overtops IL 7 between 135<sup>th</sup> Street and 131<sup>st</sup> Street. This flooding often makes IL 7 impassable and last occurred for three days between March 1 and March 3, 2017. The flooding is due to a combination of existing ditches and culverts that are inadequate to convey storm water and existing roadway profile that is lower than design standard. In addition, several of the existing culverts are blocked due to buildup of debris, or collapsed. The existing roadway drainage is an open system with the pavement and shoulders draining into a ditch along the west side of IL 7 and Mill Creek along the east side of IL 7.

Safety deficiencies include 92 crashes between the years 2011 and 2014 that resulted in 22 injuries. Nearly one-third of the crashes occurred during wet pavement conditions. The most frequent crash type is rear end which account for nearly three-quarters of crashes. The majority of these crashes occur at the intersections of 135<sup>th</sup> and 131<sup>st</sup> Street indicating a need for additional channelization.

**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation**  
**Groundhog Slough**  
**Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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Operational deficiencies include a need for a westbound right turn lane and a southbound right turn lane at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street intersection and a southbound right turn lane and eastbound right turn lane at the 131<sup>st</sup> Street intersection.

- h. Project Status:** The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) is nearing completion of a preliminary engineering and environmental study (Phase I). Contract plan preparation and land acquisition (Phase II) and construction (Phase III) are included in Department's FY 2018-2023 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the middle portion of the current multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through future annual legislative appropriations.

An open house public meeting was held on July 27, 2016 at the Palos Country Club to discuss the need for the improvement, to present the proposed improvement plan and required land acquisition, and to obtain public input. Materials presented at the meeting can be viewed at [www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL-7](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL-7)

**2. Section 4(f) Resources**

- a. Resource Type:** Forest preserve
- b. Resource Name:** Groundhog Slough
- c. Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ):** Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC)
- d. Description of role/significance in the community:** Forest preserve. Groundhog Slough is in the southwest zone of the FPDCC and is connected to the 15,000 acre Palos Preserves, which are the largest concentration of preserved land within the FPDCC. There are no identified recreational uses within Groundhog Slough. There is a Commonwealth Edison transmission tower corridor located within the preserve adjacent to the north side of 131<sup>st</sup> Street.

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

- a. Type and Acres of Impact:** 0.14 acres
- i. Permanent Easements: 0.08 acres is needed to replace existing traffic signal equipment and an existing drainage culvert that is currently located on FPDCC property.



**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation**  
**Groundhog Slough**  
**Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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- ii. Temporary Easements: 0.06 acres is needed for ditch grading on FPDCC property.

**b. Existing Function of Impacted Areas:** The impacted area is located in the northwest corner of the IL 7 and 131<sup>st</sup> Street intersection within a Commonwealth Edison transmission tower corridor adjacent to the north side of 131<sup>st</sup> Street. There are no recreational uses.

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

- a. **Avoidance and minimization efforts made and benefits to resource:** The proposed improvement includes a new southbound right turn lane along IL 7 adjacent to the preserve. An alternative was evaluated which eliminated this; however, the preserve could not be avoided because the existing traffic signal equipment and ditch/culvert are currently located on FPDCC property. The existing traffic signal controller is proposed to be relocated out of the preserve; however the traffic signal poles and handholes are needed to remain within the preserve. A pedestrian landing was previously proposed at this corner, but has been relocated to avoid additional roadway infrastructure within the preserve. Tree removal is not required within the preserve.

The project does not impact any areas that utilized OSLAD or LAWCON funds.

The FPDCC will be compensated for the proposed land acquisition.

**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation**  
**Groundhog Slough**  
**Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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- b. Commitments for Mitigation or Enhancement:** This project will replace a collapsed culvert along IL 7 that is preventing the annual draw down of McGinnis Slough, which is located just south of the project limits. For the past thirty years, the FPDCC has been conducting an annual draw down to provide suitable feeding and resting habitat for migratory birds, and allows herons and egrets to forage for fish. McGinnis Slough discharges into a ditch along IL 7 and eventually Mill Creek. Drawing down the water level with the collapsed culvert could lead to flooding IL 7 and area businesses. The slough is also an outlet for the local drainage network. The inability to control the slough's water level has a negative impact on the local community by not allowing a draw down to free up storage during a major rain event. The collapsed culvert is on private property and the Department has been unsuccessful coordinating repairs with the property owner. This project will secure additional right-of-way along Mill Creek which will allow the Department to replace the culverts under private driveways and provide long term maintenance. Additional details are provided in the September 22, 2015 letter from the FPDCC to the Department, and FPDCC coordination meetings provided in Appendix B.

A new eight-foot wide shared-use path is proposed along the west side of IL 7 between 135<sup>th</sup> Street and 131<sup>st</sup> Street. Pedestrian signals and crosswalks are proposed at the 135<sup>th</sup> Street and 131<sup>st</sup> Street intersections. These improvements provide a section of off-street accommodation that could be connected to future FPDCC trails, The Center in Palos Park, or the Orland Park Bikeway.

There will be enhanced water quality benefits to the regraded Mill Creek as a result of providing native vegetation lining and realigning a section of the creek in the southeast corner of IL 7 and 131<sup>st</sup> Street intersection.

The Department will contact the FPDCC prior to the start of construction to inform them of the initiation of construction activities near their properties.

**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation  
Groundhog Slough  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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**5. Evidence of Opportunity for Public Review and Comment**

- a. Type of public availability:** Newspaper ads were posted in the Daily Southtown newspaper on July 31, 2017 and August 23, 2017 to allow the public 30 days to review and comment on the Section 4(f) impacts (See Appendix C). The comment period was from July 31, 2017 to August 30, 2017. The Section 4(f) documentation was available for viewing during the comment period at the Department (201 W. Center Court, Schaumburg, IL 60196) and at FPDCC (536 N. Harlem Avenue, River Forest, IL 60305). Fliers were posted in the Village of Orland Park and Village of Palos Park village halls. The documentation was also available for review on the Department's website at [www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/environment/index](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/environment/index) , the project website at [www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL-7](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL-7) and on FPDCC website at [www.fpdcc.com/](http://www.fpdcc.com/). Comments could be made by e-mail through the Department's website by clicking on the link above.
- b. Summary of Comments:** {List comments}

**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation  
Groundhog Slough  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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- 6. Evidence of Coordination with Official(s) with Jurisdiction (OWJ)**
- a. September 10, 2015 ..... FPDCC Coordination Meeting
  - b. September 22, 2015 ..... Letter to Department
  - c. September 8, 2016 ..... FPDCC Coordination Meeting
  - d. March 23, 2017 ..... FPDCC Coordination Meeting
  - e. March 29, 2017 ..... FPDCC email with ComEd agreement
  - f. June 8, 2017 ..... FPDCC Coordination Meeting
  - g. June 8, 2017 ..... Transmittal of Section 4(f)
  - h. DATE ..... Transmittal of Section 4(f) with Public Comments
  - i. DATE ..... Concurrence of No Adverse Impact
  - j. DATE ..... Transmittal of Final Section 4(f)

The above items are included in Appendix B, Coordination

**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation  
Groundhog Slough  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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**7. Supporting Documentation**

**Appendix A - Exhibits**

Section 4(f) Impact Exhibit .....	Exhibit 1
FPDCC Facility Map .....	Exhibit 2
Location Map .....	Exhibit 3
Aerial View .....	Exhibit 4
Ground Level Photographs .....	Exhibit 5
Proposed Typical Section .....	Exhibit 6

**Appendix B - Coordination**

**Appendix C – Public Review**

**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation  
Groundhog Slough  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

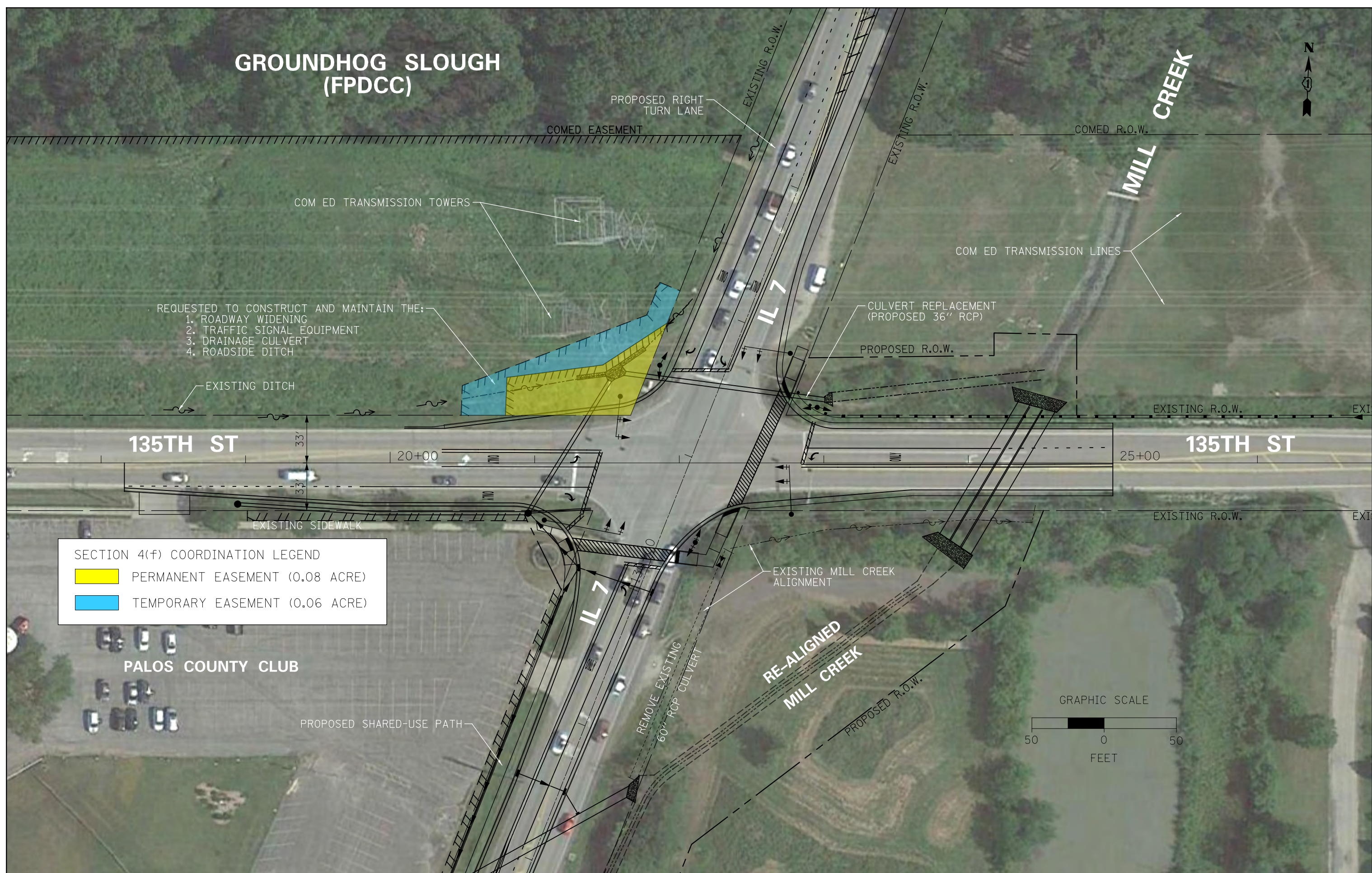
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**Appendix A  
Exhibits**

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# GROUNDHOG SLOUGH (FPDCC)



- REQUESTED TO CONSTRUCT AND MAINTAIN THE:
1. ROADWAY WIDENING
  2. TRAFFIC SIGNAL EQUIPMENT
  3. DRAINAGE CULVERT
  4. ROADSIDE DITCH

**SECTION 4(f) COORDINATION LEGEND**

- PERMANENT EASEMENT (0.08 ACRE)
- TEMPORARY EASEMENT (0.06 ACRE)

FILE NAME =	USER NAME = untitled	DESIGNED -	REVISED -
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Default	PLOT SCALE = 60.0000' / in.	CHECKED -	REVISED -
	PLOT DATE = 6/8/2017	DATE -	REVISED -

**STATE OF ILLINOIS  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

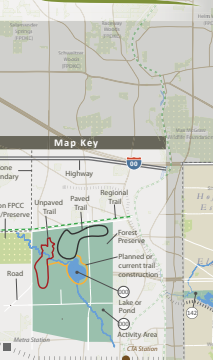
**SECTION 4(f) EXHIBIT  
GROUNDHOG SLOUGH**

SCALE:      SHEET      OF      SHEETS      STA.      TO      STA.

F.A. RTE.	SECTION	COUNTY	TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET NO.
			1	1
CONTRACT NO.				
ILLINOIS FED. AID PROJECT				



# FOREST PRESERVES of Cook County



## Central Zone

- 1 Andrew-Taman Grove
- 2 Aleo Crown Forest
- 3 Bemis Woods-North
- 4 Bemis Woods-South
- 5 Brazoria Woods
- 6 Brookfield Woods
- 7 Brookfield Woods
- 8 Caballero Grove
- 9 Central Family Aquatic Center
- 10 Central Quarry
- 11 Central Quarry
- 12 Chicago/Portage Nat Historic
- 13 Chicago/Portage Nat Historic
- 14 G.R.R. Woods
- 15 Hill Trail/Tribune Museum
- 16 Hill Trail
- 17 LaGrange Park Woods
- 18 Mayfield Woods
- 19 McCormick Woods
- 20 McCormick Golf Course
- 21 Miller Meadow-North
- 22 Miller Meadow-South

## North Zone

- 46 Algonquin Woods
- 47 Alton Woods
- 48 Arrowhead Lake
- 49 Rock Lake
- 50 Rock Lake
- 51 Big Bend Lake & Boat House
- 52 Billy Caldwell Golf Course
- 53 Bonanza Grove
- 54 Blue Beach
- 55 Blue Star Memorial Woods
- 56 Bonanza Grove
- 57 Caldwell Woods
- 58 Calumet & Harbor Center
- 59 Camp Adair
- 60 Camp Baden Powell
- 61 Camp Dan Beaman
- 62 Camp Glenview
- 63 Camp Glenview Golf Course
- 64 Camp Pine Woods
- 65 Catherine Cleveland Woods
- 66 Che Che Pin Quo Woods
- 67 Chicago Golf Course
- 68 Chick Evans Golf Course
- 69 Chipmunk Woods
- 70 Chipmunk Woods
- 71 Dam No. 1 Woods-East
- 72 Dam No. 1 Woods-West
- 73 Dam No. 2 Woods
- 74 Dam No. 3 Woods-East
- 75 Dam No. 3 Woods-West
- 76 Edgemoor Woods
- 77 Edgemoor Woods
- 78 Evans Field
- 79 Evans Field
- 80 Forest Way Grove
- 81 Fullerton Woods
- 82 Fullerton Woods
- 83 Fullerton Woods
- 84 Glenview Golf Club
- 85 Glenview Woods
- 86 Harms Woods-Central
- 87 Harms Woods-North
- 88 Harms Woods-South
- 89 Harry H. Semow
- 90 Indian Boundary Family Picnic Area
- 91 Indian Boundary Family Picnic Area

## Northwest Zone

- 137 Baker's Lake Nature Preserve
- 138 Baker's Lake Overlook
- 139 Baker's Lake Tanglewood Prairie
- 140 Barrington Road Pond
- 141 Beverly Lake
- 142 Bluff Spring Fen Nature Preserve
- 143 Bode East
- 144 Bode Lake
- 145 Busse-North Pond
- 146 Busse-South Pond
- 147 Busse Forest-Central
- 148 Busse Forest-North
- 149 Busse Forest-West
- 150 Busse Forest-East
- 151 Busse Forest-East
- 152 Busse Forest Main Dam
- 153 Busse Forest
- 154 Busse Lake
- 155 Busse Lake
- 156 Busse Lake
- 157 Busse Main Pond
- 158 Camp Reinberg

## South Zone

- 181 Beaulieu Woods
- 182 Beaulieu Woods Boat Launch
- 183 Brownell Woods
- 184 Burnham Prairie & Nature Preserve
- 185 Burnham Woods Golf Course
- 186 Calumet City Park
- 187 Calumet City Prairie & Nature Preserve
- 188 Calumet Woods
- 189 Clayville Woods
- 190 Dan Ryan Woods-91st Street
- 191 Dan Ryan Woods-Central
- 192 Dan Ryan Woods-East
- 193 Dan Ryan Woods-North
- 194 Dan Ryan Woods-South
- 195 Dan Ryan Woods-West
- 196 Eggert Grove
- 197 Eggert Grove
- 198 Eggert Grove
- 199 Eggert Grove
- 200 Glenwood Woods-North
- 201 Glenwood Woods-South
- 202 Green Lake
- 203 Green Lake
- 204 Green Lake Woods
- 205 Hainted Woods
- 206 Indian Hill Woods
- 207 Joe Ori Woods
- 208 Joe Ori Woods
- 209 Jurgensen Woods & Nature Preserve

## Southwest Zone

- 237 Arrowhead Lake
- 238 Bachelor Grove Woods
- 239 Bachelor Grove Woods
- 240 Little House Off-Glencoe
- 241 Mary MacLeod Woods
- 242 Black Partridge Woods
- 243 Bobolink
- 244 Brimley Woods
- 245 Buffalo Woods-Central
- 246 Buffalo Woods-Lake
- 247 Buffalo Woods-South
- 248 Buffalo Woods
- 249 Bar Oak Woods
- 250 Camp Rutberg & Bulling Park
- 251 Camp Kwanan
- 252 Camp Kwanan
- 253 Camp Sullivan
- 254 Cap Saens Holding & Nature Preserve
- 255 Carlton Springs Woods
- 256 Carlton Springs Woods
- 257 Cherry Hill Woods
- 258 Columbia Woods
- 259 Columbia Woods
- 260 Country Lane Woods
- 261 Country Lane Woods
- 262 Cowardin Slough
- 263 Cooked Creek Woods
- 264 Cooked Creek Woods
- 265 Elizabeth A. Conkey
- 266 Forest-North
- 267 Forest-South
- 268 Forest-South
- 269 Forest-South
- 270 Forest-South
- 271 Forest-South
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- 289 Forest-South

**THE FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY ARE 100!**  
 Established in 1914, the Forest Preserves of Cook County is the oldest and one of the largest urban forest preserve systems in the nation. With over 69,000 acres of public open land—11 percent of the county—we preserve prairies, woods and wetlands in the heart of the Chicago region and provide a place for Cook County residents and visitors to explore, learn, play, exercise and restore their spirit.

General Headquarters: 536 N. Harlem Ave., River Forest, IL 60305  
 Phone: 800.870.3666  
 Police: 708.771.1000  
 Volunteer Hotline: 773.631.1790

**In case of emergency, call 911.**

**STAY CONNECTED**  
 Even when you can't be in the preserves, you can stay connected through our web page, blog, e-newsletter and social media. Find out about programs and events—even go behind the scenes!

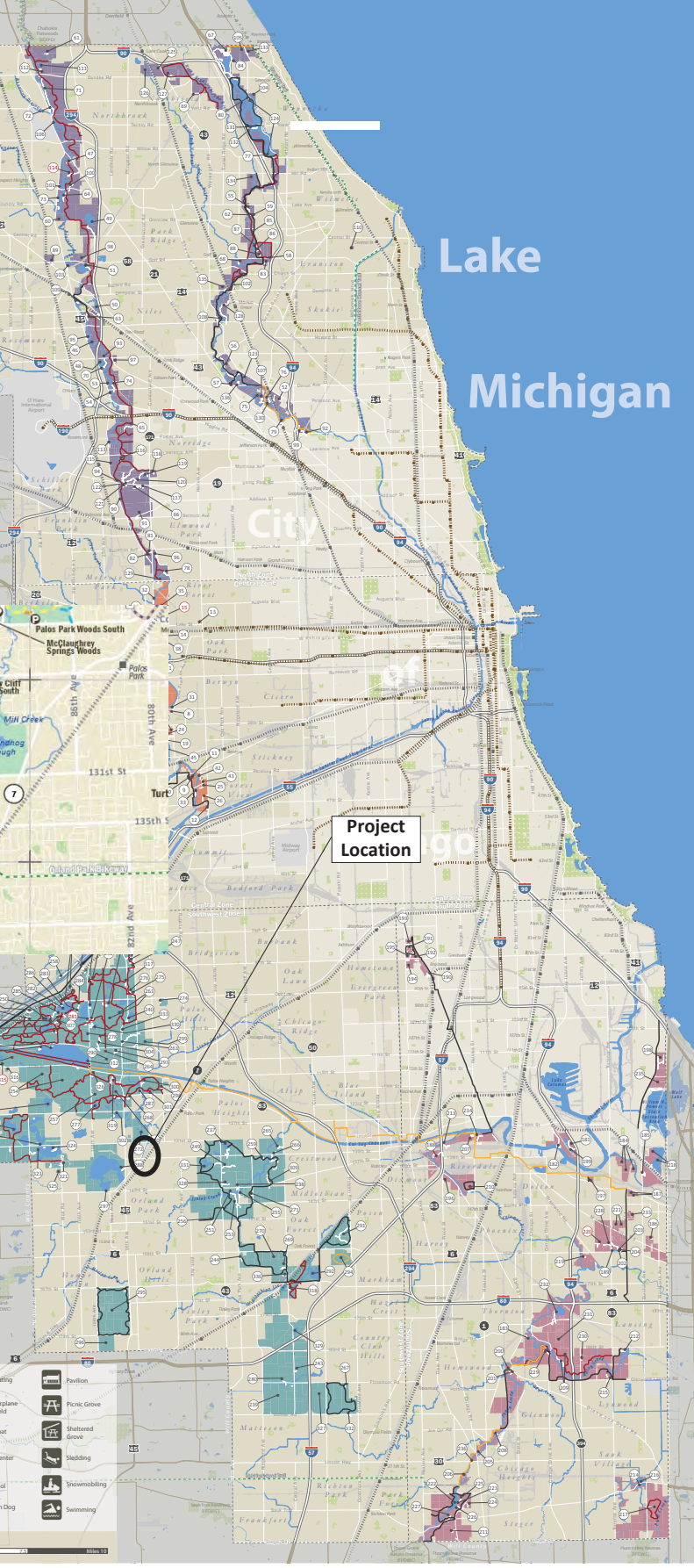
[fpccc.com](http://fpccc.com) [fpccc.com/blog](http://fpccc.com/blog) [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/fpccc) [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/fpccc) [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/fpccc)

**BEFORE YOU GO**  
 Visit our trail closures page for all the latest information about trail and preserve closures, prescribed burns and other work. [fpccc.com/preserves-and-trails/trail-closures](http://fpccc.com/preserves-and-trails/trail-closures)

### Icon Key


\* Boat rental available  
 † Can be reserved/leased at this site  
 ‡ Large capacity group

PLEASE RECYCLE. Pass this map to someone who looks lost. Thank you.

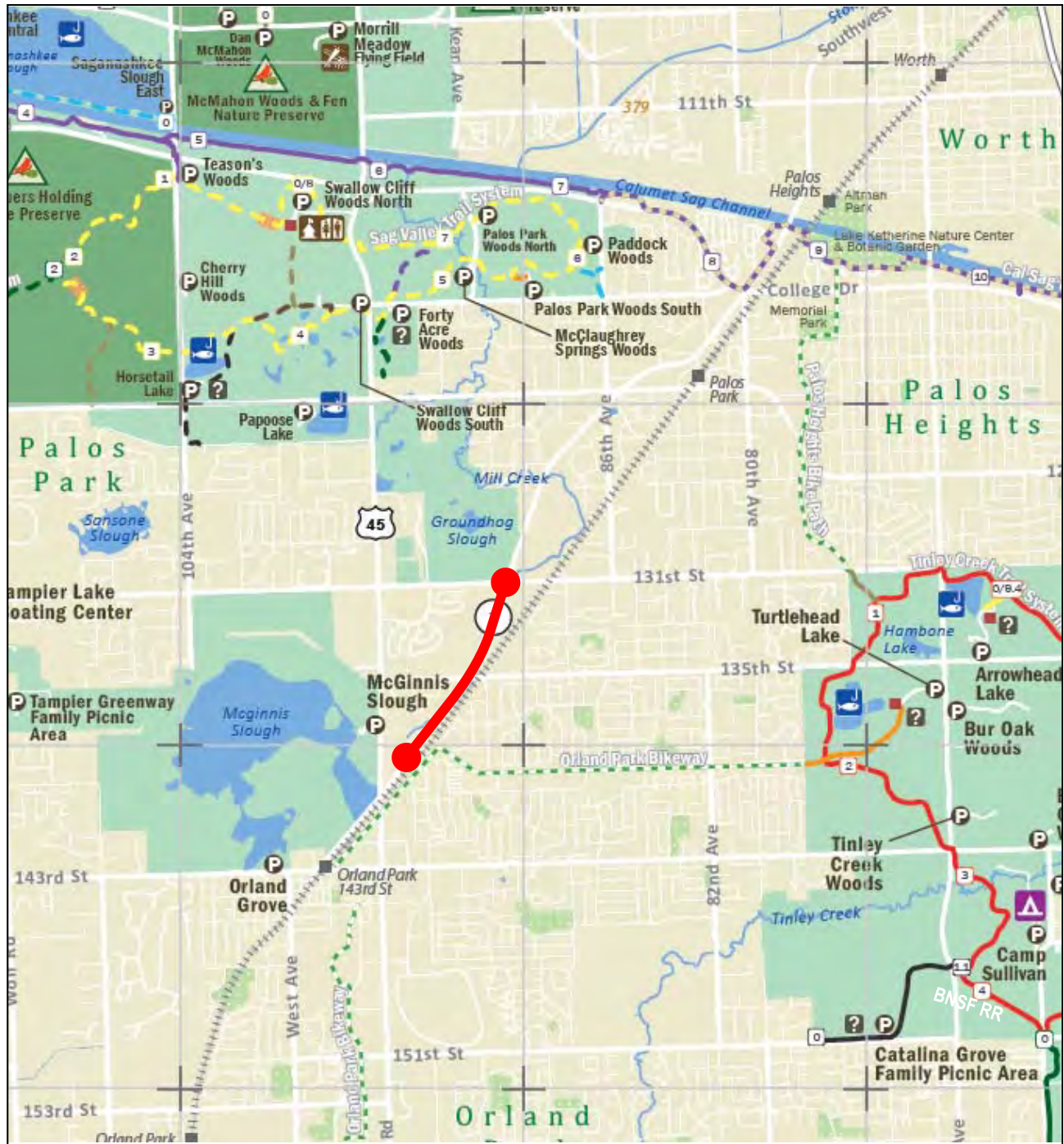



Lake Michigan

City

Project Location





**Legend**  
 Project Limits



**LOCATION MAP**  
 IL 7  
 South of 135<sup>th</sup> Street to 131<sup>st</sup> Street  
 Cook County  
 P-91-417-09





**AERIAL VIEW**  
Groundhog Slough  
IL 7 at 131<sup>st</sup> Street

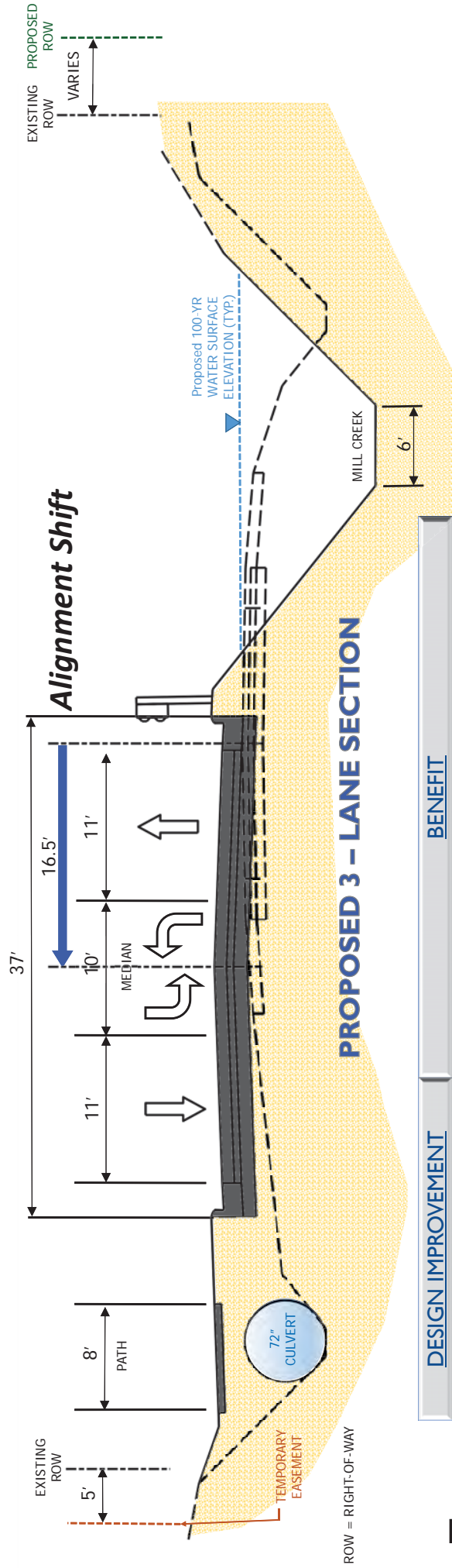
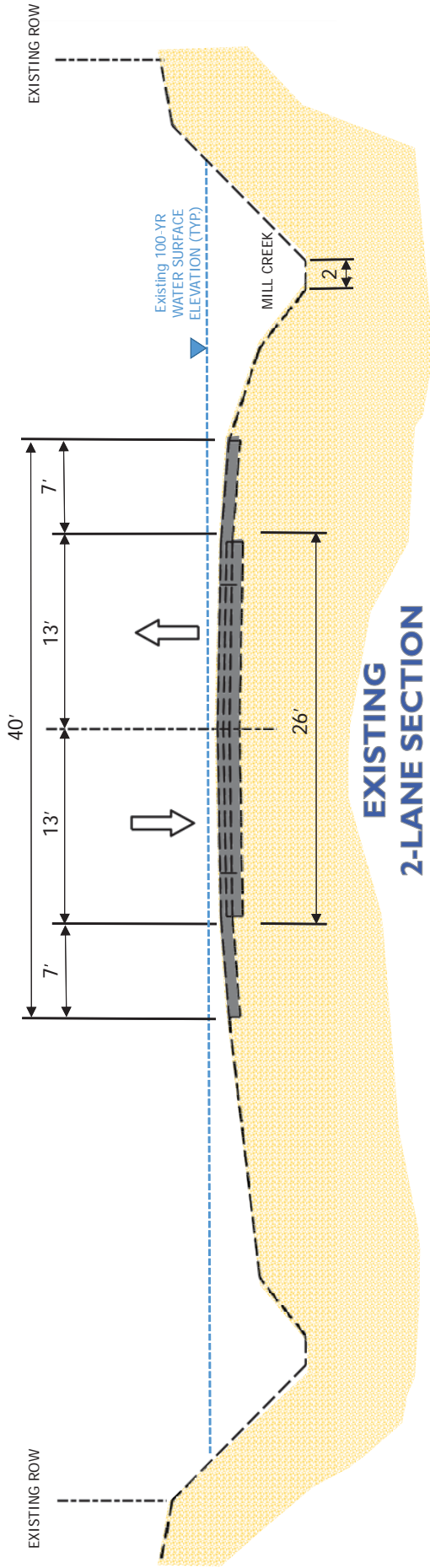




GROUNDLEVEL PHOTOGRAPHS

Groundhog Slough  
IL 7 at 131st Street

# IL ROUTE 7 - TYPICAL SECTION



DESIGN IMPROVEMENT	BENEFIT
ALIGNMENT SHIFT & RAISED PROFILE	ACCOMMODATE 3-LANE SECTION, REDUCE ROADWAY FLOODING
CURB & GUTTER	REDUCE EROSION, DEFINE DRAINAGE, REDUCE ROADWAY FOOTPRINT
MEDIAN TURN LANE	SAFER MOBILITY & ACCESS TO LOCAL BUSINESSES
SHARED-USE PATH	SAFER PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLIST MOBILITY
72" CULVERT ALONG WEST SIDE	REDUCE PAVEMENT FLOODING, INCREASE RUNOFF STORAGE
REGRADED & REALIGNED MILL CREEK	REDUCE PAVEMENT FLOODING

EXHIBIT 6



**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation**  
**Groundhog Slough**  
**Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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**Appendix B**  
**Coordination**

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**IDOT/FPDCC COORDINATION MEETING**  
**IDOT Office – 201 W. Center Ct, Schaumburg**  
**4<sup>th</sup> Floor Executive Conference Room**

**September 10, 2015**

**General Discussion:**

The purpose of this meeting was to coordinate various Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects which are currently in Phase I, Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Studies, and to discuss various locations selected by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) where IDOT action is needed.

**FPDCC Items:**

**95<sup>th</sup> Street at 104<sup>th</sup>** –The FPDCC inquired about the status of the 3 oak trees that were to be planted at the FPDCC’s requested location. These trees have been planted under maintenance contract 60Y70 to replace the 3 trees that died due to the wet conditions. They are under warranty and were inspected in September 2015 and were found to be acceptable. There was one tree that had some signs of having a difficult time but all signs point to it being able to pull through.

**Illinois Route 7 (Southwest Hwy) e/o U.S. Route 45 Collapsed Culverts** –The FPDCC noted that in order to protect the habitat of some species at the McGinnis Slough they drain part of the slough in Orland Park. Approximately 10 years ago they coordinated with Orland Park to add a control structure and through the years they’ve coordinated the drainage of the slough with Orland Park after receiving permission from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR). The overflow is drained across a culvert on the north leg of U.S. Route 45 and Illinois Route 7 and then continues east and drains south through a culvert on the east leg to continue on the ditch. On this ditch there are two collapsed culverts within a couple hundred feet of each other along the south side of Illinois Route 7 that inhibit the flow of water. IDOT’s maintenance crew investigated and found that one culvert under Jeane’s Construction (13841 SW Hwy) is the responsibility of Orland Park and that coordination with John Ingrim (708-362-2358, Orland Park Public Works Director) noted that they are working on addressing the culvert collapse. The other culvert is under AutoMedics business (13751 Southwest Hwy) and that IDOT’s Traffic Permits Section has been coordinating and sending letters to the business to repair the collapsed culvert. IDOT’s last letter was sent on January 28, 2015 and is in the process of mailing another letter informing them that failure to repair the culvert will force IDOT to close their driveway. The FPDCC noticed that for the past 2 years they have not drained the slough and have concerns that if Orland Park or the IDNR required the slough to be drained there could be concerns of an inability to do so or for Illinois Route 7 to be flooded during the drain. IDOT requested that any past coordination with



Orland Park be sent to them so that they can include the documentation in future coordination with the Village of Orland Park and the AutoMedics business.

**Wolf Road at 95<sup>th</sup> Street** –The FPDCC noted the they continue to have complaints from visitors to the Bull Frog Lake Camp over sight distances along the 95<sup>th</sup> Street curve in front of Wolf Road. At previous coordination meetings, the FPDCC decided that it would be best for them to do their own tree clearing and sight line improvements rather than have IDOT do this work. They stated that they've coordinated with IDOT's Traffic Permits and that their request to close 95<sup>th</sup> Street to do the tree clearing was denied. They feel that IDOT should be the one doing the tree clearings since they can't get a permit to do the work. IDOT informed them that given the rising costs of the intersection improvement to eliminate the visible retaining walls it was unlikely that this project would be let for construction in the early or middle part of our 2016-2021 Multi-Year Highway Improvement Program; as such, including the work with the improvement at Illinois Route 171 at 95<sup>th</sup> Street would not be time sensitive. IDOT has been monitoring the 95<sup>th</sup> Street corridor for potential safety improvements but any improvements would require significant tree impacts and easements that in the past have led to long project delays in coordination with the FPDCC and has restricted IDOT's ability to effectively spend and manage safety funds; as such, IDOT is limiting its improvements near FPDCC properties where absolutely necessary for safety needs and benefits. IDOT will follow up with the Traffic Permits staff to determine if there are any compromises that can be made to provide the tree clearing permit.

**Cicero at Midlothian Culvert** – The FPDCC noted that IDOT's U.S. Route 6 (159<sup>th</sup> Street) over Midlothian Creek near Illinois Route 50 (Cicero Avenue) has an easement request but that there is no tree survey included. IDOT looked into this matter and noted that our Land Acquisition negotiator sent the FPDCC a spreadsheet showing a single 6" Ash Tree that was impacted in the easement but that the tree was found to be dead and falling in the water. Therefore there is no value added for reimbursement for the tree and a tree survey assessment was not done because the tree was found dead. The latest inspection in 2015 shows a picture of the dead tree attached to these minutes as an exhibit.

**Illinois Route 83/171 (Archer Avenue) at 11<sup>th</sup> Street** – The FPDCC noted that a part of a previous improvement they were interested in completing a bike path connection at the northeast corner of this intersection but that the work was taken out of the contract in order to be built as part of an improvement built by others; however, they are interested in once again adding the bike path connection as part of IDOT's project. IDOT's improvement received Phase I, Preliminary Engineering and Environmental, Studies Design Approval on February 24, 2014 and is currently in Phase II, Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition. This improvement is funded for construction in the early part of IDOT's 2016-2021 Proposed Highway Improvement Program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and



**TONI PRECKWINKLE,  
PRESIDENT**

**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

- Luis Arroyo, Jr.
- Richard Boykin
- Jerry Butler
- John P. Daley
- John A. Fritchey
- Bridget Gainer
- Jesus G. Garcia
- Gregg Goslin
- Stanley Moore
- Sean M. Morrison
- Joan P. Murphy
- Timothy O. Schneider
- Peter N. Silvestri
- Deborah Sims
- Robert Steele
- Larry Suffredin
- Jeffrey R. Tobolski

September 22, 2015

Carlos A. Feliciano  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
201 W. Center Ct.  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Re: Collapsed culvert affecting McGinnis Slough

Mr. Feliciano,

I am writing this letter to provide you with additional follow-up information regarding the collapsed culvert at McGinnis Slough, a topic which was discussed at length at the most recent IDOT/FPDCC Coordination meeting held on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

McGinnis Slough is a 300-acre water body located on the north side of the Village of Orland Park, west of US-45 (LaGrange Road) and south of 135<sup>th</sup> Street. This water body is a major staging point in the spring and fall for migratory birds.

In order to provide suitable feeding and resting habitat for these birds, the Forest Preserves of Cook County have been conducting an annual draw down of the water for the past thirty plus years. The draw down is started in early July and continues through the end of September when the water control structure is closed and the slough is allowed to refill.

This draw down opens up mud flats that provide feeding and resting habitat for shorebirds migrating from their breeding grounds in the high arctic to wintering grounds in Central and South America. Additionally the lower water level allows herons and egrets to forage for fish. The fish population of the slough is predominantly common carp, bullheads and green sunfish. These fish species feed heavily on the eggs and young of native amphibians and are detrimental to their populations. The lower water level helps control the fish population thus protecting the more desirable native amphibians. Aquatic vegetation such as water smartweed that grows on the mud flats created by the draw down will provide food for migratory waterfowl that utilize the slough later in the fall and early winter.

In the spring of 2014 in anticipation of the draw down the Forest Preserve's Fisheries Section contacted the company working on US-45/LaGrange Road to see if there would be any negative impact to the construction site when the water control structure was opened. We were asked if it would be possible to hold off for three weeks. We complied



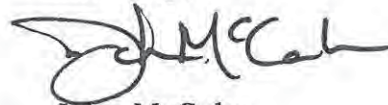
with their wishes; however, at this time we were informed of a collapsed culvert and sink-hole along the drainage ditch that the water from McGinnis Slough flows through. This drainage ditch runs along IL-7/Southwest Highway and eventually empties into Mill Creek.

Opening the water control structure with the culvert in its present condition could lead to the flooding of IL-7/Southwest Highway and area businesses. In its present condition, this collapsed culvert is preventing the Forest Preserves of Cook County from managing McGinnis Slough and thus providing area wildlife with a healthy environment.

In addition to the impact to the wildlife that uses this water body, the inability to control the water levels at the slough could have a negative impact on the local community. In 2007, the Village of Orland Park requested permission to install a large culvert under 143rd Street and into McGinnis Slough to help alleviate flooding within the community. To help accommodate this additional water the Forest Preserves requested a new water control structure be installed allowing us the ability if needed to lower the water level if heavy flooding is forecasted. With the culvert along IL-7/Southwest Highway in its present condition, the manipulation of the slough's water level in times of flooding is next to impossible.

Until this culvert is repaired and the drainage ditch is cleared of debris, McGinnis Slough cannot be managed as intended by its ecological management plan. Additionally, if the need to lower the water level arises because of a major rain event, the inability to control water levels could result in a negative impact to the local community.

Sincerely,



John McCabe

Director

Department of Resource Management

cc: John Sterenberg, *Licensed Surveyor for Land Use Compliance*  
Steve Silic, *Fisheries Biologist III*  
Jim Phillips, *Fisheries Biologist II*

**IDOT/FPDCC COORDINATION MEETING**  
**IDOT Office – 201 W. Center Ct, Schaumburg**  
**Lower Level Training Room A**

**September 8, 2016**

**General Discussion:**

The purpose of this meeting was to coordinate various Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) projects which are currently in Phase I, Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Studies, and to discuss various locations selected by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) where IDOT action is needed. The following is a brief summary by project:

**FPDCC Items:**

**Illinois Route 7 (Southwest Hwy) e/o U.S. Route 45 Collapsed Culverts** –The FPDCC informed IDOT that they need to drain the McGinnis Slough to protect the habitat of species at the McGinnis Slough in Orland Park in accordance with their agreement with the IDNR. The overflow is drained across a culvert on the north leg of U.S. Route 45 and Illinois Route 7 and then continues east and drains south through a culvert on the east leg to continue on the ditch. On this ditch there are two collapsed culverts within a couple hundred feet of each other along the south side of Illinois Route 7 that inhibit the flow of water. It was not discussed if Orland Park has fixed the culvert under Jeane’s Construction (13841 SW Hwy). The second culvert is under AutoMedics business (13751 Southwest Hwy). IDOT’s last letter to the business was sent on January 28, 2015 and was in the process of mailing another letter at the end of last year informing them that failure to repair the culvert will force IDOT to close their driveway. The FPDCC noticed that for the past 2 years they have not drained the slough and have concerns that if Orland Park or the IDNR required the slough to be drained there could be concerns of an inability to do so or for Illinois Route 7 to be flooded during the drain. The FPDCC’s plan is to release the slough water at a slower rate over several days in order to minimize/avoid flooding on Southwest Highway. IDOT’s Traffic Permits Section was going to send the property owner an ultimatum letter to repair the culvert but this letter has not been sent out yet. IDOT will inform administrative staff of the FPDCC’s intent and follow up on the culvert’s status. For further questions, IDOT can contact Jim Phillips, Fisheries Biologist, at (708) 906-3905 / [James.Phillips@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:James.Phillips@cookcountyil.gov) who is in charge of draining the slough.

**FPDCC Capital Bike Plan** – The FPDCC informed IDOT that they will be working on a Capital Bike Program and that future coordination with IDOT can be expected.

**Illinois Route 72 @ Shoe Factory Road** – IDOT informed the FPDCC that it is currently evaluating a safety improvement at this intersection which will entail restricting turning movements (northbound right turns, east and west left turns). During internal discussions it was brought up that realigning Shoe Factory Road, a Cook County Department of

FPDCC users of the Bullfrog Lake Camp. IDOT proposes to install a 5-ft diameter pipe and fill the area with grout or Concrete Low Strength Material (CLSM) to sustain the box culvert until the intersection improvement is able to be constructed. IDOT would not have enough time to acquire a temporary easement and as such in accordance with drainage law proposes to improve the culvert, IDOT asked if a right of entry permit by the FPDCC could be issued to do the repairs. The FPDCC noted that they have a Construction Use Permit that can be requested and would take only several weeks to approve. There are fees involved with this permit for which IDOT would be responsible for and in addition, any trees over 4" in diameter would have to be mitigated in accordance with their Tree Mitigation Policy. IDOT will look to avoid any tree impacts and only expects to clear small brush to be able to lower the equipment to brace the structure and bring down the 5-ft diameter pipe. Alain Midy is the IDOT Design Project Manager and will be in contact with John Sterenberg, FPDCC Land Use Compliance Surveyor, to coordinate the entry permit. IDOT expects to be in an August 2017 construction letting.

**Illinois Route 7: 131<sup>st</sup> St to 135<sup>th</sup> St** – This was the first presentation of this project to the FPDCC. IL 7 from 131<sup>st</sup> Street to south of 135<sup>th</sup> Street is located in the Villages of Orland Park and Palos Park in Cook County. Existing drainage conditions are poor along IL7, which results in flooding that overtops IL 7 between 135th Street and 131st Street. This flooding often makes IL 7 impassable. The last flooding event occurred for three days between March 1 and March 3, 2017. Collapsed driveway culverts along IL 7 south of 135<sup>th</sup> Street prevent the FPDCC from draining McGinnis Slough. The effects of draining the slough were discussed at past FPDCC meetings. IDOT has sent two letters to the property owner requesting repairs. The general scope of work for this improvement consists of drainage and roadway improvements to decrease flooding on IL 7. Proposed improvements include culvert replacement, ditch, and in-stream work, installing a closed drainage system, shifting the horizontal alignment, raising the roadway profile, and traffic signal replacement. In addition, an open house meeting regarding the improvement was held on July 27, 2016. This improvement is included in the Department's FY 2017-2022 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Our current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the middle years of our current multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through our future annual legislative appropriations. The impacted FPDCC land is located in the northwest corner of the IL 7 and 131st Street intersection within a Commonwealth Edison transmission tower corridor adjacent to the north side of 131st Street. Easements are needed from the FPDCC for the roadway widening, traffic signal equipment, drainage culvert, and ditch grading. There are no recreational uses as this area is currently used by various utilities. The FPDCC stated that they do not believe the utilities have exclusive rights within their easements. The FPDCC supported the improvements and did not object to the proposed easements in the northwest corner of IL 7 and IL 131<sup>st</sup> Street. The FPDCC will be compensated for the proposed land acquisition. A draft 4(f) DeMinimis document will be sent to the FPDCC (John Sterenberg) for review. A project update will be given at the June 2017 FPDCC coordination meeting.

**From:** [Alicea, Brenda](#)  
**To:** [Kersten, Chris](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [External] FPCC 131st & SW Hwy  
**Date:** Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:15:12 AM  
**Attachments:** [0105 .PDF](#)  
[image001.png](#)

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FYI.

Brenda L. Alicea, P.E.  
(847) 705-4107

-----Original Message-----

From: Feliciano, Carlos A  
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 9:08 AM  
To: Alicea, Brenda  
Subject: FW: [External] FPCC 131st & SW Hwy

Fyi

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From: John Sterenberg (Forest Preserve District) [[john.sterenberg@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:john.sterenberg@cookcountyil.gov)]  
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 2:37 PM  
To: Feliciano, Carlos A  
Subject: [External] FPCC 131st & SW Hwy

Carlos:

Attached ComEd agreement for 131st & SW Hwy as discussed this morning. This is a rare easement rather than a License, probably due to the consideration of ComEd conveying a 5.8 acre parcel to the FPCC.

As I read it, it is non-exclusive.

JOHN STERENBERG  
LICENSED SURVEYOR FOR LAND USE COMPLIANCE  
O: 708-771-1192 • C: 708-906-3759  
[John.Sterenberg@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:John.Sterenberg@cookcountyil.gov) <<mailto:John.Sterenberg@cookcountyil.gov>>  
536 N Harlem Ave • River Forest, IL 60305 [cid:image001.png@01D03BC1.AA526D80]  
CELEBRATING 100 YEARS!  
[fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com/) <<http://www.fpdcc.com/>> | [facebook.com/fpdcc](https://www.facebook.com/FPDCC) <<https://www.facebook.com/FPDCC>> |  
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ROAD

LA GRANGE

E. 75 Ac. OF NW 1/4

NE 1/4

131st

1418.26'

1238.70'

1233.70'

1012.00'

948.88'

*4.9563 Acres SEC.*

34  
37-12

ST.

SOUTHWEST

HIGHWAY

PARCEL "A"



southwest quadrants of the intersection are located within the Village of Western Springs. The northeast and northwest quadrants are in Unincorporated Cook County.

The land use in the northwest and northeast quadrants consists of Forest Preserve District of Cook County (FPDCC) holdings. Bemis Woods is located in the northwest quadrant and Salt Creek Woods is located in the northeast quadrant. The southwest and southeast quadrants are comprised of residential areas.

The entrance to Bemis Woods is located 1,000' west of the intersection on US 34 and the entrance into Salt Creek woods is located nearly 1,000' east of the intersection, also on US 34.

The FPDCC noted that Bemis Woods has recently added a zip line park to this facility and would like to pursue the addition of an eastbound left turn lane, as there is currently no channelization into Bemis Woods. They inquired about the possibility of including this as part of the scope of the improvements. It was noted that the access is located outside the limits of the improvement.

***Post-meeting update:***

Since this is an HSIP funded improvement, the source of funding is limited to addressing the crash history of the intersection in order to remain eligible for funding. It is recommended that the FPDCC pursue the installation of the left turn lane under a separate, locally let contract, or via permit through the District One Bureau of Traffic-Permits Section. For information about permits along state highways, contact Mr. William Weitzel, Cook County Permit Coordination at (847)705-4132.

Wolf Road consists of one lane in each direction with an exclusive left turn lane and right turn lane on the north leg, as well as an exclusive left turn lane on the south leg. The north leg is comprised of an open drainage system with a 3' paved shoulder and a 5' aggregate shoulder on the north and a closed drainage system with curb and gutter on the south leg.

The FPDCC noted that they recently dedicated easements to the Village of Western Springs along the west side of Wolf Road, north of the intersection. The Village of Western Springs is planning on adding a shared use path to interconnect to the FPDCC bike path, located 500' north of the intersection. It was not certain if the improvement is in the planning stages. IDOT will contact the Village of Western Springs and Cook County to determine what stage the project is in. As part of the proposed improvements, high visibility crosswalks and pedestrian count downs will be included on all four legs of the intersection.

The FPDCC noted that they receive many complaints regarding safety, due to the lack of crossings and sidewalks across US 34 and north on Wolf Road. There is currently a mid-block crossing into Bemis Woods that includes flashers and a high visibility cross walk. The FPDCC noted that while it helps, it is located at an unsignalized entrance to the FPDCC.

IDOT requested Plats and available existing right-of-way from the FPDCC.

Once the existing ROW is verified, it will be determined if IDOT will need to pursue de Minimis findings for this project improvement.

**IL 7 from 131<sup>st</sup> Street to 135<sup>th</sup> Street**

This was the second presentation of this project to the FPDCC. IL 7 from 131st Street to south of 135th Street is located in the Villages of Orland Park and Palos Park in Cook County. The general scope of work for this improvement consists of drainage and roadway improvements to decrease flooding on IL 7. Proposed improvements include culvert

## IDOT/FPDCC Coordination Meeting

June 8, 2017

Page 4

replacement, ditch, and in-stream work, installing a closed drainage system, shifting the horizontal alignment, raising the roadway profile, and traffic signal replacement. A draft 4 (f) De Minimis document was given to the FPDCC for review. A pdf of this document will be emailed to the FPDCC as well. After FPDCC review, the Department will seek public comments on the Section 4(f) impacts. In order to maintain project schedules, the Department is targeting an advertisement in July 2017. A project update will be given at the September 2017 FPDCC coordination meeting.





# Illinois Department of Transportation

## Attendance Roster

Bureau: Programming

Section: Project & Environmental Studies

Project/Topic: FPDCC / IDOT Quarterly Coordination Meeting

Date: June 8, 2017

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Executive Conference Room

	Attendees	Representing	Phone Number	Email Address
1.	Carlos Feliciano	IDOT-P&ES	847-705-4106	Carlos.Feliciano@illinois.gov
2.	Sam Mead <i>SM</i>	IDOT- Environmental	847-705-4101	Sam.mead@illinois.gov
3.	<i>John Sterenberg</i>	<i>FPCC</i>	<i>708-771-1192</i>	<i>John.Sterenberg@CookCountyIL.Gov</i>
4.	<i>Adnan Nammar:</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>708-771-1357</i>	<i>adnan.nammar:@cookcountyil.gov</i>
5.	<i>Chris Slattery</i>	<i>"</i>	<i>708-771-1572</i>	<i>chris.slattery @ "</i>
6.	<i>CARLOS FELICIANO</i>	<i>IDOT- Proj-Studies</i>	<i>847-705-4106</i>	<i>CARLOS.FELICIANO@ILLINOIS.GOV</i>
7.	<i>John McCaskey</i>	<i>FPCC</i>	<i>708 771 1180</i>	<i>john.mccaskey</i>
8.	<i>Mike Phan</i>	<i>IDOT-P&amp;ES</i>	<i>847-705-4634</i>	<i>Michael.Phan@illinois.gov</i>
9.	<i>Rick Wojcik</i>	<i>IDOT- Proj/Hyd. Section</i>	<i>847 705 4105</i>	<i>Rick.Wojcik@illinois.gov</i>
10.	<i>GIA ZAFFINA</i>	<i>IDOT- MAINT.</i>	<i>847-705-4072</i>	<i>GIOVANNA.ZAFFINA@ILLINOIS.GOV</i>
11.	<i>Angelia Millsap</i>	<i>TEC</i>	<i>815-345-1233</i>	<i>AngeliaM@Thomas-Engineeri.com</i>
12.	<i>Steve Lipkoc</i>	<i>IDOT Maint.</i>	<i>847-705-4173</i>	<i>steven.lipkoc@illinois.gov</i>
13.	<i>PAUL GREGOIRE</i>	<i>IDOT CONSTRUCTION</i>	<i>847 846 4324</i>	<i>PAUL.GREGOIRE@ILLINOIS.GOV</i>
14.	<i>Brenda L. Alicea</i>	<i>IDOT Prog/CSU</i>	<i>847 705-4107</i>	<i>Brenda.Alicea@illinois.gov</i>
15.	<i>Kimberly Murphy</i>	<i>IDOT Programming</i>	<i>847-705-A791</i>	<i>Kimberly.Murphy@illinois.gov</i>
16.	<i>GRISelda Monsivais</i>	<i>IDOT PROG./CSU</i>	<i>847-705-4716</i>	<i>griselda.monsivais@illinois.gov</i>
17.	<i>Chris Kerstan</i>	<i>IDOT PROG/TEL</i>	<i>847-705-4633</i>	<i>Chris.Kerstan@illinois.gov</i>
18.				
19.				
20.				
21.				
22.				



**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Documentation  
Groundhog Slough  
Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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**Appendix C  
Public Review**

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IDOT is seeking public comments on Section 4(f) impacts the IL 7 (South of 135<sup>th</sup> Street to 131<sup>st</sup> Street) project will have on Groundhog Slough owned and operated by the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. Section 4(f) lands include publicly owned parks, recreational areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or public and private historical sites. The project will impact Groundhog Slough to construct a right turn lane, improve drainage and replace traffic signals. This is the first opportunity for the public to comment on the additional public land needed for this project. The Section 4(f) *de minimis* documentation is available for viewing at the following locations during normal business hours.

**DATE:** July 31, 2017 to August 30, 2017  
**TIME:** 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday thru Friday  
**PLACE:** Illinois Department of Transportation  
Bureau of Programming – 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196

OR

Forest Preserve District of Cook County  
536 North Harlem Avenue  
River Forest, IL 60305

Electronic copies are available on IDOT's website at [www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/environment/index](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/environment/index) under the Section 4(f) tab. Written comments can be submitted at the IDOT office, mailed to the IDOT office, or submitted electronically at the above website. Comments must be received by August 30, 2017 to be considered part of the public record.

*This documentation will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance should contact Brenda Alicea at (847)705-4107. Persons planning to visit either site or view the documents who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844/or 711; TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/or 711; and Telebraille (877) 526-6670 at least five (5) days prior to the visit.*

All correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096  
Bureau of Programming  
Attn: Brenda Alicea