SECTION 4(f) DE MINIMIS DOCUMENTATION

WAUKEGAN SPORTS PARK
WAUKEGAN PARK DISTRICT

ILLINOIS ROUTE 131
RUSSELL ROAD TO SUNSET AVENUE

P-91-352-07

City of Waukegan
Lake County, Illinois

Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Highways/District 1/Region 1
September 2017
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1. **Project Description**

   a. **Project Number (State and Federal):** P-91-352-07

   b. **Project Name:** Illinois Route 131 (IL 131) from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue

   c. **Location:** Waukegan, Lake County, Illinois

   d. **Project Termini:** Along IL 131, the project limits are from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue.

   e. **Project Type:** The general scope of work for this improvement consists of roadway widening and reconstruction to provide two through lanes in each direction separated by a median, pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations, and drainage improvements.

   f. **Project Length:** 7.3 miles

   g. **NEPA Class of Action:** Environmental Assessment

   h. **Purpose and Need Summary:** The purpose of the proposed action is to provide an improved transportation system along IL 131 from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue. To accomplish this, the proposed improvements are intended to meet the following needs: improve mobility, improve safety and upgrade roadway features to meet current design standards. A goal of the project is to provide improved bicycle and pedestrian facilities along IL 131. The proposed improvements will improve mobility and safety by widening IL 131 to provide two travel lanes in each direction; adding dedicated left and right turn lanes; building a raised median between Russell Road and Yorkhouse Road; constructing a TWLTL between Yorkhouse Road and Sunset Avenue; and providing curb/gutter or shoulders along the corridor. All of the roadway features associated with the proposed improvement will be designed and built to meet current standards. The project will also include a new shared use path and sidewalk to provide improved facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

   i. **Project Status:** The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is nearing completion of a preliminary engineering and environmental study (Phase I). Completion of Phase I studies is anticipated in 2018. Contract plan preparation and land acquisition (Phase II) and construction (Phase III) are not included in IDOT’s FY 2018-2023 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. However, this project will be included in our priorities for future funding consideration among similar improvement needs throughout the region.
2. **Section 4(f) Resources**

   a. **Resource Type:** Public Park

   b. **Resource Name:** Waukegan Sports Park

   c. **Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ):** Waukegan Park District (WPD)

   d. **Description of role/significance in the community:** The Waukegan Sports Park was developed on the property that was once the Orchard Hills Golf Club. Completed in 2011, the first phase of development on the western two-thirds of the site (138 acres) included the installation of thirteen grass soccer fields, one synthetic turf soccer field, four softball fields, a playground and spray park, concession and restroom facilities, an on-site maintenance facility, and 665 parking spaces.

   The next phase of development is adjacent to IL 131 where the remaining one third of the site is planned to include four additional multi-purpose fields, parking and a basketball court. The plans for this section of the redevelopment incorporated the anticipated widening of IL 131 with a dedication of 33.75 feet of land for the roadway (1.00 Acres). The plat of dedication is included in WPD’s 2009 Traffic Planning Assessment report, but has yet to be recorded. A gravel and asphalt overflow parking lot with access from IL 131 is located in this area.

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

   a. **Type and Acres of Impact:** 1.225 acres

      - Fee Simple Acquisition: 0.08 acres is needed for the construction and maintenance of the retaining wall.

      - Temporary Easement: 0.141 acres for grading near the retaining wall and 0.004 acres for construction of the entrance to the overflow parking lot.

      - Donated Right of Way by WPD: 1.00 acres is needed for the widening of IL 131 roadway and to provide adequate drainage.

   b. **Existing Function of Impacted Acres:** The impacted area at the sports park consists of a gravel and asphalt parking lot used as overflow parking during large events with an access point from IL 131.
c. **Description of Efforts to Avoid, Minimize, and Mitigate or Enhance the Resource**

i. **Avoidance and minimization efforts made and benefits to resource:** Roadway widening is required to construct the proposed four-lane roadway, northbound left turn lane at the Beach Road intersection, and the 10-foot shared use path on the west side of the roadway.

To accommodate the planned expansion of the Waukegan National Airport, IL 131 will be depressed to allow the new extended runway and taxiway to go over the roadway. An additional requirement to accommodate the airport expansion is that the proposed centerline of IL 131 shift west approximately 90 feet, beginning 0.43 miles south of the WPD property near Blossom Road. The proposed centerline begins to shift back to existing centerline just south of the WPD property.

To avoid impacts to the Waukegan Sports Complex, an alignment shift to the east was considered. As this would result in displacement of two residential properties, the option was eliminated from further consideration.

To minimize the impact of the proposed improvement a retaining wall extending 600 feet north of the sports park’s south property line will be constructed to avoid extensive property acquisition needed for grading. The wall will vary in height from 23 feet at the south end to 4 feet at the north.

ii. **Commitments for Mitigation or Enhancement:** WPD will benefit from the proposed ten-foot shared-use path on the west side of IL 131 which will provide community access to the sports park. Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve’s Conceptual Master Plan includes a future regional trail located to the south of the sports park at the IL 131 and Yorkhouse Road intersection. The proposed shared-use path will connect the future regional trail to the sports park.

IDOT will replace the asphalt entrance to the overflow parking lot with a left/right-in and right-out driveway if the second phase of the redevelopment has not been completed. The proposed raised-curb median will be constructed for a northbound left turn lane into the WPD. Undeveloped land disturbed by construction will be restored to turf cover in accordance with Chapter 59 Landscape Design from IDOT Bureau of Design and Environment Manual and IDOT Departmental Design and Environment Policy 18 as appropriate for the project location. According to the Department’s policy, a minimum ratio of 1:1 shall be used for any proposed tree removal and a minimum ratio of 3:1 if seedlings are used.
There will be no cost participation to the WPD, provided the City of Waukegan agrees to cost participate and maintain the shared-use path. Waukegan Park District will be compensated for right of way acquisition needed for the project.

4. Evidence of Opportunity for Public Review and Comment:

a. **Type of public availability:** A public hearing will be held in late 2017 to allow the public an opportunity to review and comment on the Section 4(f) impacts. For 30 days after the hearing the document will be available for public review at WPD, at IDOT/Bureau of Programming, and on the project website. The notifications of 4(f) impacts will be advertised in conjunction with the public hearing.

b. **Summary of comments:** TBD

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

(See Attachment A-5)

a. June 18, 2012…………….Waukegan Park District Coordination Meeting
b. April 30, 2015…………….Waukegan Park District Coordination Meeting

1. TBD……………………Transmittal of Draft Section 4(f) Documentation for Waukegan Park District review and requesting no adverse effect determination
2. TBD……………………Waukegan Park District written concurrence with a no adverse determination
3. TBD……………………Transmittal of Draft Section 4(f) Documentation for public viewing
4. TBD……………………Transmittal of final Section 4(f) Documentation to Waukegan Park District
5. TBD……………………FHWA finding of de minimis impact

6. Supporting Documentation

a. Section 4(f) Impact Exhibit……………………………………Attachment A-1
b. Project Location Map…………………………………………Attachment A-2
c. Waukegan Sports Park Location Map………………………Attachment A-3
d. Typical Sections………………………………………………Attachment A-4.1
e. Preliminary Proposed Plan and Profile…………………………Attachment A-4.2
f. Coordination……………………………………………………….Attachment A-5
g. Public Review and Comment Documentation………………….Attachment A-6
ATTACHMENT A-1

Section 4(f) Impact Exhibit
Project Location Map
IL 131 (Green Bay Road)
Russell Road to Sunset Avenue
Lake County, IL
P-91-352-07
ATTACHMENT A-3

Waukegan Sport Complex Facility Area
ATTACHMENT A-4

Proposed Improvement Plans
NOTES:

21) LFT TURN ONLY LANES PRESENT AT SUNSET AVE, YORKHOUSE RD, BEACH RD, WADSWORTH RD, LEFT TURN ONLY LANES PRESENT ON SUNSET AVE, YORKHOUSE RD, BEACH RD, WADSWORTH RD AND ON W 21ST ST, IL RTE 173, STONEBRIDGE DR, W 33RD ST, WAKEFIELD DR, WAVERLY ST (NB RIGHT TURN ONLY LANES PRESENT AT: SUNSET AVE, YORKHOUSE RD, BEACH RD, WADSWORTH RD, LEFT TURN ONLY LANES PRESENT ON SUNSET AVE, YORKHOUSE RD, BEACH RD, WADSWORTH RD AND ON W 21ST ST, IL RTE 173, STONEBRIDGE DR, W 33RD ST, WAKEFIELD DR, WAVERLY ST (NB

STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

ILLINOIS ROUTE 131
SUNSET AVENUE TO RUSSELL ROAD
EXISTING TYPICAL SECTIONS

1) PROPOSED PCC PAVEMENT
2) PROPOSED CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER
3) PROPOSED PCC SHOULDER
4) PROPOSED SIDEWALKS
5) PROPOSED SHARED USE PATH
6) PROPOSED BARRIER MEDIAN
7) PROPOSED DRAINAGE SWALE, VARIABLE DEPTH AND WIDTH
8) PROPOSED DITCH, VARIABLE DEPTH AND WIDTH
9) PROPOSED RETAINING WALL
10) EXISTING PAVEMENT
11) EXISTING GROUND
12) EXISTING AGGREGATE SHOULDER
13) 4-FT SHELF AT 2.0% ADJACENT TO PATH
14) PROPOSED BRIDGE PIER
15) PROPOSED BRIDGE ABUTMENTS

1) PROPOSED PCC PAVEMENT
2) PROPOSED CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER
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14) PROPOSED BRIDGE PIER
15) PROPOSED BRIDGE ABUTMENTS
### NOTES

1. **PROPOSED PPC PAVEMENT**
2. **PROPOSED CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER**
3. **PROPOSED PPC SHOULDER**
4. **PROPOSED SIDEWALK**
5. **PROPOSED SHARED-USE PATH**
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7. **PROPOSED DRAINAGE SWALE, VARIABLE DEPTH AND WIDTH**
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10. **EXISTING PAVEMENT**
11. **EXISTING GROUND**
12. **EXISTING AGGREGATE SHOULDER**
13. **4-FT SHELF AT 2.0% ADJACENT TO PATH**
14. **PROPOSED BRIDGE PIER**
15. **PROPOSED BRIDGE ABUTMENTS**

### PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTIONS

- **ILLINOIS ROUTE 131**
- **RUSSELL ROAD TO SUNSET AVENUE**
- **PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTIONS**

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### SCALE:

- 2.0 feet = 10 inches
- 41.25 feet = 1/4 inch
- 51.25 feet = 1 inch

### NOTES:

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### PROPOSED TYPICAL SECTIONS:

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ATTACHMENT A-5

Coordination
Illinois Route 131 (Green Bay Road)
From Russell Road to Sunset Avenue
Lake County
Phase I Engineering
Monday, June 18, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: See attached roster.

Waukegan Sports Park impact: The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) Illinois Route 131 (IL 131) Phase I Study is developing a preferred alternative for improvements to the route from Sunset Avenue in Waukegan to Russell Road at the Wisconsin state line. Where IL 131 passes the Waukegan Sports Park (WSP), the proposed roadway configuration is two lanes in each direction with a median and left turn lane at Beach Road. The preferred alternative also proposes a shared-use path on the west side of the highway to conform with Illinois Complete Streets Law and to join the Lake County Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve and the WSP. The existing ROW of 82.5’ (41.25’ on each side of the highway centerline) is not adequate to accommodate the improvements and land will need to be acquired on both sides. The highway improvements will need up to 33.75’ additional ROW along the WSP property. Total avoidance of the WSP was considered but shifting the alignment east would displace two residential properties south of Beach Road.

The WSP redevelopment plans and traffic planning assessment report developed by Gewalt Hamilton Associates (GHA) included this anticipated ROW for Department and IL 131 (Green Bay Road) improvements.

The IL 131 study team proposes to process this land acquisition as a de minimis Section 4(f) impact in the Environmental Assessment. The area of acquisition is not currently used and is not proposed in the redevelopment plans to be used for recreation.
Any proposed acquisition must be presented to and reviewed and approved by the Waukegan Park District Board. The Board meets monthly on the second Tuesday of each month and the land acquisition committee meets on the fourth Tuesday.

The WSP redevelopment was controversial but has proven lucrative so far, with a recent soccer tournament reportedly bringing $2.5 million to the local economy.

The WSP plan that HNTB has on file is old and an updated design can be requested from GHA. Greg Petry provided a contact name and number.

**Waukegan Airport Coordination:** The IL 131 study is actively coordinating with the Waukegan Regional Airport (UGN) improvement study to determine the preferred roadway alternative along the airport.

The airport preferred alternative is to lower the roadway below the proposed runway and taxiway. Under this scenario, IL 131 would be shifted slightly west to allow the existing highway to remain open to traffic while the proposed underpass is constructed. This alternative may require a small amount of additional ROW in the southeast corner of the Sports Park as the highway curves back east to the existing alignment.

Another alternative to be considered is a western bypass of IL 131 around the improved airfield. This alternative would result in approximately 2.5 acres of acquisition in the southeast corner in addition to the approximately one acre of acquisition for the highway widening. This would impact a proposed parking lot in the southeast corner of the property.

**Waukegan Sports Park access:** The current IL 131 preferred alternative only proposes access to the WSP via Beach Road. The Sports Park plan includes a 4-lane public entrance in the middle of the east side of the property. A two-lane emergency only access to IL 131 is proposed near the south edge of the property as well.

Due to the proximity of the middle entrance to the existing intersection with Beach Road, the Department recommends that this driveway propose a right-in/right-out in design, with no access from northbound IL 131. The emergency access will be provided.

**Schedule:** The next step for the IL 131 study is to coordinate with the Airport Study to determine the preferred alternative. When the preferred design is complete, the study team will schedule individual meetings with each of the municipal leaders. After the individual meetings, the preferred alternative will be available for comment at a Corridor Planning and Technical Advisory Group meeting and a Public Hearing in late 2012 or early 2013. When the preferred alternative is determined, it will be sent to the Waukegan Park District Board to review the impacts to the WSP.

By: Derek Johnson, HNTB
## Attendance Roster

**Bureau:** Programming  
**Section:** Project Studies  
**Project/Topic:** IL-131 (Russell Rd to Sunset Ave) Discuss Section 4(f) Impacts with Waukegan Park District  
**Date:** June 18, 2012  
**Time:** 1:30 p.m.  
**Location:** Waukegan Park District Offices, 2000 Belvidere Road, Waukegan, Illinois 60085

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Attendees: See attached list

1) IL 131 Project Status Update

The IL 131 project is moving forward now that the preferred geometric alternative has been determined for IL 131 at the Waukegan National Airport. The roadway alignment at the airport will be offset to the west and depressed to maintain access during construction, to accommodate the future airport extension of the runway and taxiway and to meet runway safety area requirements. Neither the IL 131 project nor Waukegan National Airport currently has funding for construction. One more Corridor Planning Group Meeting and a Public Hearing are tentatively scheduled for late summer/fall 2015.

2) Waukegan Sports Complex Redevelopment Update

Phase I of the sports complex redevelopment has been completed. Currently there is no funding to complete Phase II and there is no anticipated date of when funding will be available. Phase I consisted of building the sports complex, parking and aquatic habitats/dry/wet bottom detention areas. on the west end of the property.

A temporary one-way roadway was built from Beach Road to access the existing parking lots adjacent to IL 131 that serve as overflow lots. These consist of an asphalt parking lot at the southeast end of the complex and an adjacent gravel parking lot to the north. The lots are used during large events and national tournaments held at the sports complex. Approximately five of these larger events are held each year while the park is open from spring to fall. These parking lots have right in/right out access to IL 131. The closest intersection for traffic to perform a U-turn from the parking lot is Yorkhouse Road. IL 131 experiences traffic queues mostly from the south entering the sports complex from IL 131 and Beach Road experiences traffic queues with visitors exiting the sports complex during these tournaments. Law enforcement helps direct traffic at the intersection during the tournaments. Several residents have complained about the traffic on Beach Road during these tournaments.
3) Waukegan Sports Complex Property

The proposed roadway improvements will impact part of the overflow parking lots. Waukegan Park District (WPD) had shown 33.75 feet of right of way to accommodate the IL 131 future roadway improvements. WPD has not yet dedicated the right of way. IDOT will have to mitigate part of the existing overflow parking lot to the west of the proposed improvements. Slightly more right-of-way is needed at the south end of the property due to the offset roadway alignment, as the Waukegan National Airport is being shifted back to the existing alignment. A retaining wall is proposed at the south end of the property to minimize the impacts to the sports complex property. WPD noted they also currently own three lots south of Howard Street. The Port District allows the Park District to use part of their land for parking if needed.

IDOT will replace the driveway with the proposed roadway improvements and may locate the driveway further north along IL 131, which WPD would allow. WPD would prefer to have a break in the proposed median to allow traffic to make a left turn in and out into the parking lots from IL 131, and reduce the traffic on Beach Road. Making a roadway connection at the west end of their property from Townline Road into the sports complex to help reduce traffic volumes on Beach Road was also suggested by WPD. However, this would be an agreement between WPD and the jurisdictional local agency, not IDOT.

The roadway improvements also include a proposed ten foot shared use path on the west side of IL 131. IDOT could construct the path with the roadway improvements if the community agrees to cost sharing (80% IDOT/20% Local) and future maintenance responsibility. WPD is willing to consider maintaining the path. Otherwise, a shelf would be graded for a future path, if and when the local agency chose to install it.

Section 4(f) is a federal act that protects publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges. The Department anticipates a de minimis impact finding for the Waukegan Park District property, based on the determination that the project will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities qualifying the property for protection under Section 4(f). The impacts at the Waukegan Sports Complex will be presented at the public hearing. A letter will be sent to the Park District after public comments have been received for the Park District to take into account the public’s input. The board will then be requested to approve the impacts to the property and the impacts are de minimis. HNTB will update the Section 4(f) draft report for WPD to review.

HNTB verified the ownership of the lots south of Howard Street with Lake County Maps online. Waukegan Park District owns lot 1 through 5 with PIN #s 0431306005, 0431306006, 0431306007, 0431306008 and 0431306009. These five lots are located along IL 131 between Howard Street and Suddard Street.

Based on follow-up discussions, WPD indicated the roadway improvements will be impacting the recreational use of the sports complex by not providing a proposed driveway on IL 131. HNTB is evaluating the alternatives for providing access to the sports complex from IL 131.

The foregoing is the writer’s understanding of the matters discussed and the conclusions reached in summary form. This will become part of the project record and is the basis upon which we will proceed. Concurrence is presumed unless the writer receives notice of additions or corrections.

By: Anne Marie Jensen, HNTB
cc: Participants (via e-mail)
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A-5.2
IDOT and Waukegan Park District Coordination Meeting

Illinois Route 131 (Green Bay Road)
From Russell Road to Sunset Avenue
Lake County
Phase I Engineering
Tuesday, May 17, 2016

Final Meeting Minutes

In attendance: see attached roster

1) IL 131 Project and Waukegan Sports Complex Redevelopment Update

HNTB and IDOT are continuing to work on the IL 131 project. A public hearing for the project is anticipated for end of 2016 or the beginning of 2017. The IL 131 project currently does not have funding for Phase II Design or Phase III construction.

Currently there is no funding to complete Phase II of the Waukegan Sports Complex Redevelopment and there is no anticipated date of when funding will be available.

2) Waukegan Sports Complex Property

HNTB and IDOT provided the 4(f) report for Waukegan Sports Complex to Waukegan Park District. The proposed roadway improvements will impact part of the overflow parking lots along IL 131. Waukegan Park District (WPD) had shown 33.75 feet of dedicated right of way to accommodate the IL 131 future roadway improvements. WPD has not yet dedicated the right of way. IDOT will have to relocate part of the existing overflow parking lot to the west of the proposed improvements. IDOT will coordinate with WPD on relocating the parking lot, but typically IDOT provides a fee for the owner to relocate and it is not included as part of the roadway project. Proposed fee simple acquisition and temporary easement are needed at the south end of the property due to the roadway alignment and grade shifting back from being offset and depressed at the Waukegan National Airport. A retaining wall is proposed at the south end of the property to minimize the impacts to the sports complex property.

IDOT will replace the existing driveway to the overflow parking lots with the proposed roadway improvements. The driveway needs to be relocated further north due to the location of the proposed retaining wall and IL 131 becoming on grade. The driveway will allow right turns in and out of the parking lots. Also, a proposed dedicated left turn lane will allow left
turns from the northbound direction into the parking lots. This will help alleviate traffic impacts on IL 131 from the south and on Beach Road during larger sporting events. A few residents on Beach Road complain about the traffic on Beach Road during these large events. WPD built a one way road from Beach Road to the overflow parking lots to help the traffic access.

The roadway improvements also include a ten foot asphalt path on the west side of IL 131. The shared-use path will be part of the planned connections between Robert McClory trail, Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve and the Des Plaines River Trail. IDOT could construct the path with the roadway improvements if the community agrees to the required cost participation. Otherwise, a shelf would be graded for a future path, if and when the local agency decided to install it. However, as noted, local and IDOT cost sharing is involved to pave the path along with an agreement that the local community will maintain the paved path. WPD could potentially maintain the path and would need to coordinate such an arrangement with the local community.

IDOT was asked to present the 4(f) report to the Waukegan Park District Board Commissioners. The board meetings are held every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at the Waukegan Park District Administration office. There are five members on the board. A formal powerpoint presentation is not necessary.

Section 4(f) is a federal act that protects publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges. The Department anticipates a de minimis impact finding for the Waukegan Park District property, based on the determination that the project will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities qualifying the property for protection under Section 4(f). The impacts at the Waukegan Sports Complex will be presented at the public hearing. A letter will be sent to the Park District after public comments have been received for the Park District to take into account the public’s input. The board will then be requested to approve the impacts to the property and agree that the impacts are de minimis.

HNTB corresponded with Waukegan Park District on May 25, 2016. IDOT and HNTB will present to the board after the public hearing comment period.

The foregoing is the writer’s understanding of the matters discussed and the conclusions reached in summary form. This will become part of the project record and is the basis upon which we will proceed. Concurrence is presumed unless the writer receives notice of additions or corrections.

By: Anne Marie Jensen, HNTB

cc: Participants (via e-mail)
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ATTACHMENT A-6

Public Review and Comment Documentation

TBD