



Illinois Department of Transportation

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

Project and Environmental Studies
Illinois Route 131 (Green Bay Road)
Russell Road to Sunset Avenue
Lake County

May 25, 2012

Mr. Richard Walker
Director of Parks & Recreation
Zion Park District
2400 Dowie Memorial Drive
Zion, IL 60099

Dear Mr. Walker:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) is currently performing preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase I) for the improvement of Illinois Route 131 (Green Bay Road) from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue, in Lake County. A location map is attached for your reference. This project is not included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2013 to 2018 Proposed Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program. This project will be included in our priorities for future funding consideration among similar improvement needs throughout the region. The scope of work is roadway reconstruction to provide two lanes in each direction with a median. The project is necessary to address the safety issues along the corridor, as well as improve operations, mobility, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

The proposed Illinois Route 131 improvement will require two temporary easements from the Shepherd's Crook Golf Course (Golf Course) property. As this project is anticipated to utilize federal funds, the Golf Course is eligible for protection under federal regulations 23 U.S.C. 138 and 49 U.S.C. 303, which were originally enacted as Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1968 and are still commonly referred to as "Section 4(f)." Section 4(f), which is implemented under Code of Federal Regulations 23 CFR 774, is the federal act that protects publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges. The purpose of this letter is to request your concurrence that this project will satisfy the temporary occupancy requirements under Section 4(f).

The required temporary easements total 2,406 square feet (sq. ft.) as shown on the attached preliminary plan and denoted in blue. The southernmost temporary easement (1,692 sq. ft.) is needed to construct drainage swales and match the existing side slope grades. The northernmost temporary easement (714 sq. ft.) is needed to reconstruct the driveway entrance to the golf course. The overall construction project is estimated to last approximately two years, but the actual duration of the work on the golf course property will be minimized and determined during contract plan preparation (Phase II). The land will be restored after construction with landscaping to include either grass seeding or sodding. This easement will not cause permanent impact, alteration or disruption to the recreational use of the golf course.

The requirements of Section 4(f) will be satisfied for the subject project if the impacts to the Golf Course can be qualified as temporary occupancy. This is described in 23 CFR Part 774 as temporary occupancies of land that are so minimal as to not constitute a use within the meaning of Section 4(f). The following conditions must be satisfied:

- (1) Duration must be temporary, i.e. less than the time needed for construction of the project, and there should be no change in ownership of the land;
- (2) Scope of the work must be minor, i.e. both the nature and the magnitude of the changes to the Section 4(f) property are minimal;
- (3) There are no anticipated permanent adverse physical impacts, nor will there be interference with the protected activities, features, or attributes of the property, on either a temporary or permanent basis;
- (4) The land being used must be fully restored, i.e. the property must be returned to a condition which is at least as good as that which existed prior to the project; and
- (5) There must be documented agreement of the official(s) with jurisdiction over the Section 4(f) resource regarding the above conditions.

We believe that these conditions will be met for this project. If you agree that the subject project meets the above conditions for temporary occupancy, please indicate your concurrence by signing the last page of this letter and returning it to the Department in the enclosed self addressed envelope. Your concurrence will help fulfill the environmental processing for the project and expedite our studies.

Mr. Richard Walker
May 25, 2012
Page 3

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Marty Morse, Project Manager, at (847) 705-4107.

Very truly yours,

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

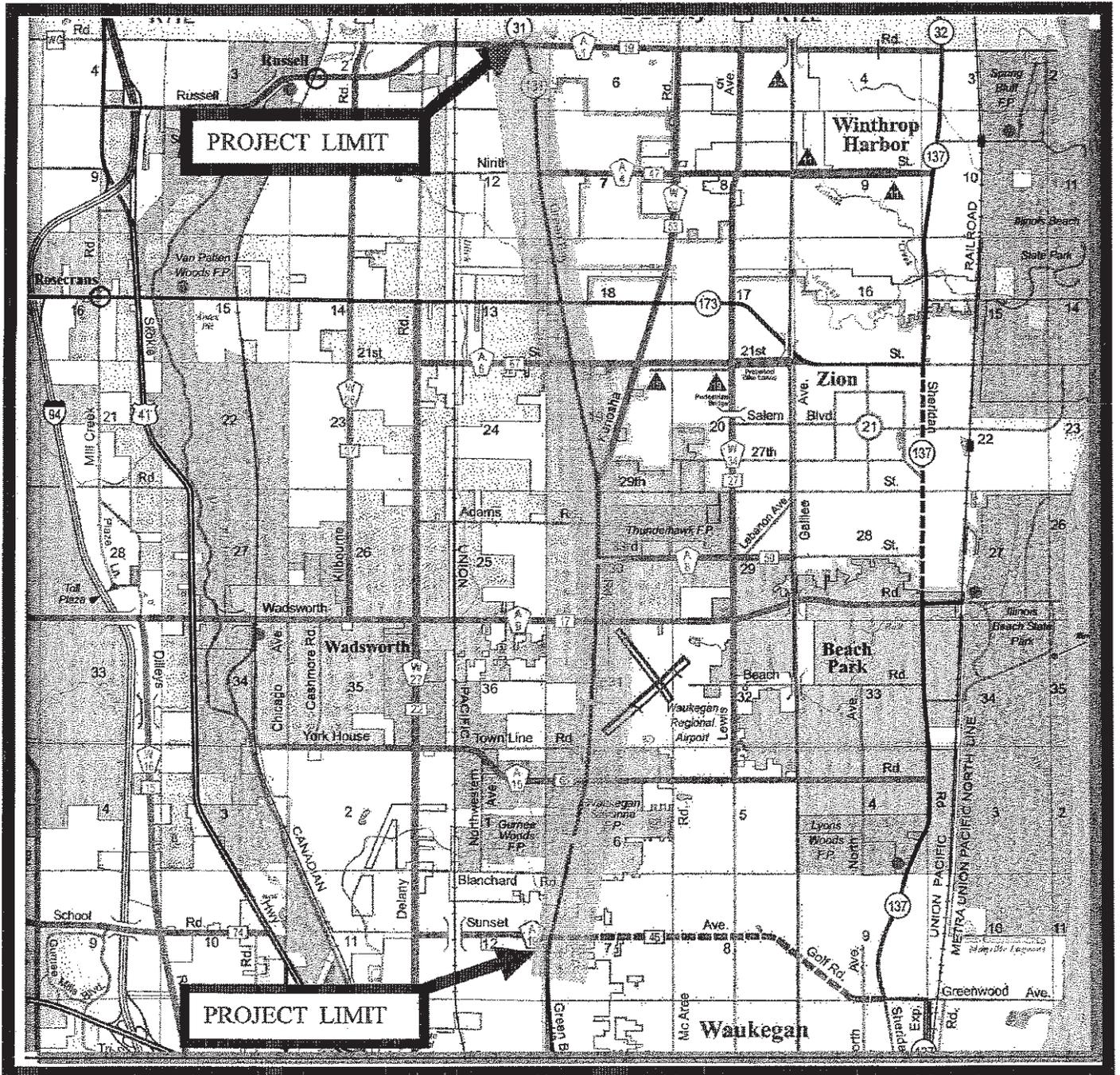
By: 
John A. Baczek, P.E.
Project and Environmental Studies Section Chief

cc: Diane D. Burkemper, Zion City Clerk

Attachments

bcc: Don Wittmer, HNTB
Ken Doll

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Shepherds Crook 4(f) LTR to Walker(2).docx



Location Map

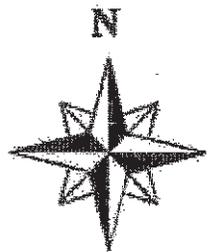
PROPOSED IMPROVEMENT:

Illinois Rte. 131 (Russell Rd. to Sunset Ave.)

Municipalities: Zion, Wadsworth, Beach Park, Waukegan
Gurnee, Winthrop Harbor

County: Lake **Route:** FAP 880/FAU 2711

Project #: P-91-352-07



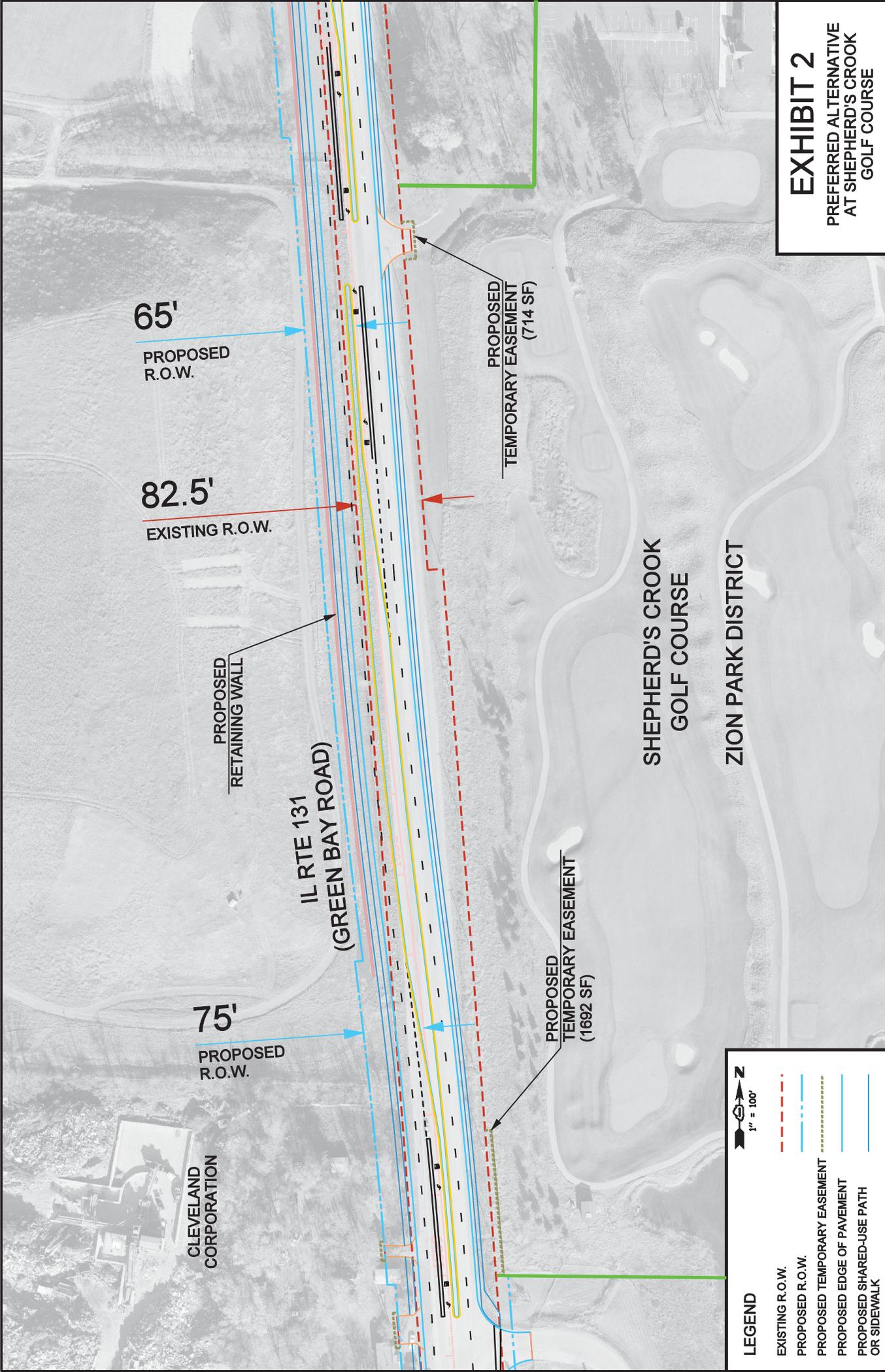


EXHIBIT 2
 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
 AT SHEPHERD'S CROOK
 GOLF COURSE

65'
 PROPOSED
 R.O.W.

82.5'
 EXISTING R.O.W.

PROPOSED
 RETAINING WALL

IL RTE 131
 (GREEN BAY ROAD)

75'
 PROPOSED
 R.O.W.

CLEVELAND
 CORPORATION

PROPOSED
 TEMPORARY EASEMENT
 (714 SF)

PROPOSED
 TEMPORARY EASEMENT
 (1692 SF)

SHEPHERD'S CROOK
 GOLF COURSE

ZION PARK DISTRICT

LEGEND

- EXISTING R.O.W.
- PROPOSED R.O.W.
- PROPOSED TEMPORARY EASEMENT
- PROPOSED EDGE OF PAVEMENT
- PROPOSED SHARED-USE PATH OR SIDEWALK