

**DRAFT**

September 5, 2008

Ms. Diane M. O'Keefe, PE  
Deputy Director of Highways  
Region One Engineer  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Subject: Grass Lake Road/Millburn Road at US Route 45  
P-91-666-09  
SN: 05-00262-02-RP  
Letter of Understanding Regarding IDOT Participation for Additional  
Engineering along US Route 45.

Dear Ms. O'Keefe:

As a result of recent meetings between our office, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the project limits and scope of work associated with the subject project has been expanded to include the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) for US Route 45 from IL Route 132 to IL Route 173, a distance of approximately 5.5 miles. On this basis, we are requesting IDOT agreement that any additional work required to expand the subject project accordingly, will be funded by IDOT.

As you are aware, the Lake County Division of Transportation (LCDOT) is the lead agency, and is fully funding Phase I Engineering and Environmental studies (Phase I Study) for the subject project. The Phase I Study will include evaluation of a full range of alternatives to improve the intersection of Grass Lake Road/Millburn Road at US Route 45, which traverses the Millburn Historic District. The objective is to identify an improvement alternative that addresses the near term transportation improvement needs, and provides long term utility such that impacts to the Millburn Historic District are avoided or minimized with improvements potentially needed along US Route 45 beyond the current planning horizon. In this regard, a west bypass alternative for US Route 45 to avoid the Millburn Historic District was previously identified by IDOT to as part of the US Route 45 Strategic Regional Arterial (SRA) study from 1995. The west bypass alignment was subsequently surveyed and recorded by IDOT, with one parcel of property acquired by IDOT. However, based on early project coordination with FHWA, the current Phase I Study must start from a clean slate to ensure the resulting Phase I Study is compliant with Federal project development procedures (ie; NEPA) and thus future project development activities are eligible for federal funding. LCDOT has negotiated a comprehensive Phase I Study to accomplish this objective, including an involved Context Sensitive Solution (CSS) public involvement program, totaling approximately \$1.7 million.

The Phase I Study scope of work as discussed with IDOT and negotiated by LCDOT with the project consultant, assumed that a US Route 45 bypass alignment associated with this project would reconnect with existing US Route 45 as soon as practical north and south of

the subject intersection, for an overall project length along US Route 45 of approximately 1.5 miles. However, as noted above, FHWA is requiring that the EA cover from IL Route 132 to IL Route 173 to comply with NEPA and specifically logical termini criteria. FHWA is agreeable to complete the expanded EA based on concept level geometry north and south of the Millburn Historic District area since there is no funding in place or improvements anticipated to these sections of US Route 45. This will minimize the amount of additional work required to complete the EA for the larger limits, however, some additional work is anticipated. At this time, the amount of actual additional work required is unknown, since it will depend on the effects of 2040 traffic projections received from CMAP (vs current 2030 projections), which will not be available until late 2009 or early 2010.

Since the additional effort will result in an EA for US Route 45 from IL Route 132 to IL Route 173 for IDOT's future use, we are requesting that IDOT fund the associated additional Phase I Study costs. However, given the unknowns, we are proposing to proceed with this work based on the current engineering contract. We will ask our consultant to document all extra work associated with the larger project limits, but we anticipate proceeding for the next 12 to 18 months under the current Phase I contract. When a complete picture of the actual additional level of effort expended and/or required to complete is known, we will submit the request for additional funding to IDOT. For IDOT's programming purposes, we would request that \$100,000 be budgeted in Fiscal Year 2011 for this purpose.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me or Ms. Paula Trigg, PE, Director of Planning and Programming at 847/377-7400.

Sincerely,

Martin Buehler, PE  
Director, Lake County Division of Transportation

**AGREED:**

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Diane M. O'Keefe  
IDOT – Deputy Director of Highways  
Region One Engineer

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Date

bcc: Paula Trigg, PE; LCDOT Director of Planning and Programming  
Chuck Gleason, LCDOT Project Manager