



Parks Division
Dane County Land & Water Resources Department

Mike Bakalars, PE
Project Manager, KL Engineering, Inc.
5950 Seminole Centre Ct.
Madison, WI 53711

September 25, 2015

SUBJECT: Section 4f Protected Resource – Dane County Parks & Ice Age National Scenic Trail

I.D. 5992-09-30
McKee Road, City of Madison
(Meriter Way – Maple Grove Drive)
CTH PD
Dane County

Dear Mr. Bakalars

In my role as the official with jurisdiction over the Dane County Park property, I am writing to you on behalf of the Dane County Park Commission with regards to the proposed actions of the subject project. After reviewing the above proposed project, ID 5992-09-30, McKee Road, City of Madison, (Meriter Way – Maple Grove Drive), CTH PD Dane County and allowing the public the opportunity to review and comment on the effects of the project, it is our opinion that this project will not have any adverse effects on the Dane County Park adjacent to the project area.

It is the understanding of the Dane County Park Commission that the City of Madison and Dane County plan to reconstruct McKee Road / County Highway PD (CTH PD) in the vicinity of a Dane County Park. Dane County Park staff members have been consulted for their input in reviewing the potential impacts of the proposed action. It is understood that the following paragraphs represent the general concept of the proposed action and incorporate avoidance, minimization, and mitigation elements developed in cooperation with Dane County officials. With this understanding, the Dane County Park Commission believes the proposed action will have no permanent adverse physical impacts, nor will there be any interference with the protected activities, features, or attributes that make the Dane County Park eligible for Section 4(f) protection.

The proposed action includes reconstructing CTH PD as an urban boulevard arterial with four (4) vehicular travel lanes, two (2) on-road bike lanes, curb and gutter, sidewalk, a ten foot multi-use path, and a raised curb and gutter median with trees. Additional project work includes an extension of the box culvert just west of Muir Field Road, and storm sewer, sanitary sewer, and watermain improvements. The project will also include construction of a multi-use path bridge that will pass over CTH PD approximately 900' west of High Point Road and connect the Ice Age Junction Trail system. Portions of the existing Ice Age Junction Trail (IAJT) and the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (IANST) will be reconstructed on the north and south side of CTH PD in order to move the crossing from the existing surface crossing at High Point Road to the proposed bridge. The trails on the north and south side of CTH PD will be reconstructed on temporary limited easement. Additionally, a connection from the IAJT to the proposed ten foot multi-use path on the south side of CTH PD will be constructed. This connection will be constructed on temporary limited easement. The ten foot multi-use path adjacent to CTH PD

will be constructed on permanent limited easement. . Dane County Parks and the City of Madison will update the existing 2014 signed Cost Sharing, Maintenance and Operation Agreement Between Dane County and the City of Madison for the Ice Age Junction Path from Cross Country Rd. to Flagstone Dr to include the proposed McKee Road bicycle pedestrian overpass bridge.

An IANST “spur” will be constructed that will begin at the IAJT just south of the proposed bridge, run along the top of the embankment adjacent to the proposed CTH PD back slopes and connect into the existing Ice Age National Scenic Trail where it runs north/south next to the parking lot to the existing kiosk.

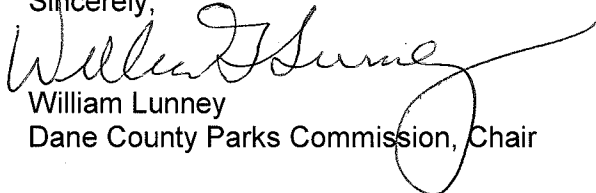
The driveway to the trail head parking lot and a portion of the parking lot will be reconstructed in order to relocate the driveway so that it aligns with High Point Road. The driveway relocation and parking lot reconstruction will be constructed on Temporary Limited Easement.

Grading and construction of the multi-use path will impact restored prairie in the park south of CTH PD. Within this prairie area there is a fire break and maintenance path. Project design staff will coordinate with Dane County Park staff to provide an acceptable grading design, approved seed mixes for prairie and turf grass areas, and erosion control measures for the proposed work with regard to restoring the disturbed prairie areas. The grading work will also include seeding with a Dane County Parks approved mix for restoration of disturbed fire breaks and maintenance paths. The contractor that completes the work will be from a list of contractors approved by Dane County Parks. Dane County Park Staff will also be allowed to review and accept the work on behalf of Dane County.

Approximately 1.47 acres of temporary limited easement will be acquired on the north side of CTH PD in order to reconstruct the IANST and IAJT. Approximately 6.08 acres of temporary limited easement will be acquired on the south side of CTH PD to reconstruct the IANST, IAJT and the trail head driveway and parking lot. Approximately 0.50 acres of permanent limited easement will be acquired to construct the ten foot multi-use path adjacent to CTH PD and for future sidewalk that will continue west from the ten foot multi-use path.

To summarize, Dane County Parks officials, as project stakeholders, have reviewed the proposed action and have been actively engaged in the project’s public involvement process. The Dane County Parks Commission understands that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) plans to make a De Minimis Section 4(f) determination regarding the impacts to the Dane County Park. The Dane County Parks Commission concurs with that determination and anticipates that the proposed action will have no permanent adverse physical impacts, nor will there be any interference with the protected activities, features, or attributes that make the Dane County Park eligible for Section 4(f) protection.

Sincerely,


William Lunney
Dane County Parks Commission, Chair

Cc: Darren Marsh, Dane County Parks Division
Kevin Thusius, Director of Land Conservation, Ice Age Trail Alliance
Chris Petykowski, P.E., City of Madison Engineering