

Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor



James T. Smith, Jr., Secretary
Melinda B. Peters, Administrator

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mr. Steve Pearce
Federal Aid Liaison Engineer
Federal Aid Programming Section

FROM: Donald H. Sparklin
Division Chief
Environmental Planning Division

DATE: November 13, 2013

SUBJECT: Project No. TR-08310; Project ID 12-08-045
Central Avenue (Phase II): Lancaster Street to 200 Feet South of Baltimore Street
Roadway Reconstruction
Re-Evaluation

The following information indicates that the current design plan, when compared to that for which a CE was approved will not result in significantly different environmental impacts for this project.

A. Date Categorical Exclusion (CE) approved: 11/4/2003

B. Are the proposed improvements different than those approved for the **CE**
 Yes No

A CE/Section 4(f) Evaluation for the project was approved on 11/4/2003. The original design was taken through advertisement, but due to bids significantly exceeding estimates the project was re-designed to lower costs. The project was also split into two phases: Phase I- Madison Street to Eastern Avenue and Phase II- from south of Baltimore Street to Lancaster Street. Phase I included rehabilitation of the storm drain under Central Ave. and reconstruction of the roadway from Baltimore Street to Madison Street. Phase II from Lancaster Street to 200 feet south of Baltimore Street includes roadway reconstruction, sidewalk and pedestrian ramps, landscaping, street lighting, conduits and signal upgrades. Bridge repairs to the concrete-encased bridges at Aliceanna Street and Fleet Street are also included in this phase of the project (as included in the original CE).

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C. Are the environmental impacts different? Yes No

Coordination with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) has confirmed that the City has satisfied all stipulations of the MOA for the adverse effect on the Harford Run storm drain. The project team provided additional opportunity for MHT review to confirm no additional historic resources in the project area. On August 10, 2012, the MHT confirmed that the proposed Phase II work would have no adverse effect on historic properties. This project would not impact any listed or proposed rare, threatened, or endangered species habitat. On August 14, 2013 the Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission concurred that this project is consistent with Baltimore City's Critical Area Program. The proposed streetscape will require removal of three trees which will be mitigated with the planting of 25 two-inch caliper trees along the corridor.

D. Are there changes in the project surroundings (new development, etc.)? Yes No

The Harbor East area where this project is partially located is a rapidly re-developing area and the project location is partially within the City's Waterfront Revitalization Area. The project surroundings remain urban, although the urban character of this area is shifting from industrial and commercial to a mix of high-density residential and commercial development. Several new development projects are planned for the area, including the Harbor Point Development, which will draw additional traffic to the area. This project will upgrade Central Avenue to be consistent with the newly-developed surroundings and will provide a safer multi-modal experience for the traveling public.

E. Is the **CE** classification still valid? Yes No

If no, what additional or supplemental documentation is required?

Following the CE/Section 4(f) Evaluation approval in 2003, this project was re-evaluated on May 17, 2007 to provide additional Preliminary Engineering funding for the re-design of the culvert replacement and again on April 6, 2009 for Phase I of the reconstruction project. The current Phase II project is consistent with the improvements originally proposed in 2003, and therefore the CE classification is still valid.

F. Are the commitments shown on the plans? Yes No N/A

Identify any prior commitments (including those related to engineering). Discuss how commitments are/will be addressed.

The terms of the MOA with MHT for the adverse effect to the Harford Run storm drain have been satisfied per the terms of the agreement.

Concur:

Date: 11/13/2013

Donald H. Sparklin
Division Chief
Environmental Planning Division

Revised: June 2013

Attachments

- cc: Ms. Adriene Metzbower, SHA- EPLD (w/attachments)
- Ms. Laura Callens, WRA "
- Mr. Michael Wilmore, Baltimore City "

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