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July 2, 2012

Ms. Elizabeth Cole  
Maryland Historical Trust  
Project Review and Compliance, Office of Preservation Services  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032



BY:

Re: Reconstruction of Central Avenue Phase II  
From Lancaster Avenue to 200' South of Baltimore Street  
Baltimore City Project Number TR-12317  
WR&A WO #31576-004



Dear Ms. Cole:

**SOUTH CENTRAL AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT (B-5058) NR-LISTED  
CENTRAL AVE BRIDGES (B-4582 + B-4583) - NOT NR ELIGIBLE**

The City of Baltimore has undertaken the reconstruction of Central Avenue from Lancaster to Madison Street. The original construction bids for this project exceeded the City's available funds and therefore the project scope, limits and design were revised to save cost. The project was divided into two phases. Phase I (TR-08310) has been permitted and is currently under construction. Phase I involved the rehabilitation of the Harford Run storm drain underneath Central Avenue from Eastern Avenue to Madison Street, and reconstruction of Central Avenue from Baltimore Street to Madison Street. Phase II will involve the reconstruction of the Central Avenue corridor between Lancaster Street and approximately 200' south of Baltimore Street as shown on the attached project location map. More specifically, Phase II will involve roadway reconstruction, sidewalk and pedestrian ramp reconstruction, landscaping/streetscape, street lighting, conduits, and signal upgrades. Bridge repairs at Central Avenue/Aliceanna Street and Central Avenue/Fleet Street are also included. No storm drain repair is involved in Phase II. This transportation project by the City of Baltimore is designated for Federal funding through the Maryland State Highway Administration.

The Phase II bridge repairs at Central Avenue/Aliceanna Street and Central Avenue/Fleet Street will involve partial impact to bridge abutments that are approximately 80 years old (see attached photographs). The abutments are stone masonry construction supporting concrete encased steel beams and pre-stressed concrete beams. The abutments can only be viewed from within the culverts under the street. The abutments are in satisfactory condition; however, approximately 50% of the joint mortar is missing above the waterline. The steel beam encasements are delaminating and the exposed bottom flanges are experiencing minor section loss due to rust. It is proposed that the abutments will remain but will be removed partially to facilitate constructing a new superstructure (i.e., roadway) ovetop of them.

The project may also require minor repairs to concrete culverts approximately 52 years old upstream and downstream from the two bridges (see attached photographs). The scope of repairs would be limited to random/isolated areas and the repair would match the adjacent concrete as closely as possible. The culvert repair is not related to the abutment work.

HBE: 2N2 TJT 8/9/12

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B-4582  
B-4583

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Through the former studies, the Harford Run Drain was determined eligible for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places as part of the Lakewood Avenue Drain. Concurrence with this recommendation was provided March 5, 1999. On May 16, 2003 the Maryland Historic Trust provided effect determinations for the seven proposed alternatives. Three of the alternatives were determined to have "no effect" and four, including the preferred alternative, to have "an adverse effect" on the Harford Run Drain. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was subsequently executed on June 16, 2003 complete with signatures from the Federal Highway Administration. In 2008 SHA complied with the MOA by providing a photographic recordation package to MHT. MHT stated on November 5, 2008 that the "submittal satisfies all stipulations of the MOA and completes the Section 106 process for this undertaking. No additional coordination with our office is necessary" (attached).

Although the MOA has been satisfied for the Harford Run storm drain work, we are requesting any updated information or records regarding the presence of cultural, archaeological, or historic resources within the Phase II project area; and comment regarding the Central Avenue/Aliceanna Street and Central Avenue/Fleet Street bridge abutments and concrete culverts.

We look forward to working with your agency again to successfully complete this needed project. If you have any questions, please contact me at 443-224-1633 or the City of Baltimore Project Manager, Mr. Jamie McDonald at 410-396-6915.

Very truly yours,  
Whitman, Requardt & Associates, LLP



Laura C. Callens, CFM  
Environmental Scientist

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jamie McDonald – City of Baltimore  
Mr. Michael Wilmore -- City of Baltimore  
Ms. Adriene Metzbower –SHA  
Mr. Walt Miller – WR&A  
Mr. Ning Zhou – WR&A  
Ms. Amanda Baxter– WR&A