



U.S. Department of
Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

REGION V
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Michigan,
Minnesota, Ohio,
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June 21, 2023

Brian Stepp
Senior Director, Grants Management & Accounting
Metra
547 W. Jackson Blvd. Chicago,
IL 60661

Re: Metra UP North Rebuild: Fullerton to Addison Project - Environmental Review Approval

Dear Mr. Stepp:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has evaluated environmental review documents submitted by the Northeast Illinois Regional Commuter Railroad Corporation DBA Metra for the proposed UP North Rebuild: Fullerton to Addison project (Project) in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois on June 21, 2023. FTA finds that the proposed Project meets the criteria for a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusion in accordance with 23 C.F.R. § 771.118(d)(2), *Bridge replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings*.

The Project proposes to shift the track alignment and replace abutments, retaining walls and 11 bridges over roadways along approximately 1.9 miles of the Union Pacific (UP) North Line above-grade commuter rail corridor. This corridor is within railroad right-of-way from north of the North Branch Chicago River bridge (UP mile post [MP] 3.27) to approximately Grace Street (UP MP 5.22) in Chicago, Illinois. The Project is located just south of the UP North Line Grace to Balmoral Project, which replaced 11 railroad bridges and rebuilt the existing Ravenswood train station. A Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) environmental document was completed and approved by Metra and the FTA for the Grace to Balmoral Project in June 2011; construction of the bridges is complete and station construction is ongoing. No permanent property acquisition or changes to the existing railroad right-of-way boundary are anticipated for this Project.

On March 10, 2022, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800 – Protection of Historic Properties and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), FTA provided the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) with the eligibility and effects determinations for the proposed Project. FTA determined that the proposed Project would result in *no adverse effect* to historic properties. On July 15, 2022, SHPO provided concurrence with this determination. FTA finds, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800, that the Section 106 coordination and consultation requirements for the proposed Project have been fulfilled.

This determination applies only to the proposed Project as described in the aforementioned correspondence and supporting materials. Any changes to the proposed Project which would result in environmental impacts not outlined in this documentation, including the disclosure of new information or previously unidentified environmental concerns, will require re-evaluation of this action.

This confirmation of a categorical exclusion does not provide FTA commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for this proposed Project. Any costs incurred under FTA pre-award authority must meet all Federal requirements prior to those costs being incurred in order to retain eligibility of those costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have further questions regarding this determination, please contact Tony Greep, Community Planner, at (312) 353-1646 or anthony.greep@dot.gov. Thank you.

Sincerely,

R. Stewart McKenzie, AICP
Director, Office of Financial Management and Program Oversight

cc: Tony Greep, FTA
Rita Yamin, Metra