

Appendix I

Columbus Park Correspondence

I-290 Eisenhower Expressway
Cook County, Illinois

Prepared For:

Illinois Department of Transportation

Prepared By:

Images

WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff

October 2015



chicago park district

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Oct. 8, 2015

Pete Harmet
IDOT
201 W. Center Ct.
Schaumburg, IL. 60196

Dear Mr. Harmet:

I am writing as a follow up to the meeting we had with representatives of IDOT and members of our staff at the Planning and Construction Department at the Chicago Park District on August 19, 2015 regarding Columbus Park and the I-290 Project.

Based upon the information provided at the meeting, the CPD has determined that the I-290 project would have no adverse effect upon Columbus Park. The CPD supports the multi-use trail connection at Austin Boulevard, and concurs with a temporary easement to construct the path, which would be donated to IDOT.

Further coordination, especially with respect to the path alignment and landscaping, is needed prior to finalizing the actual design in this area of the park. The CPD desires enhanced landscaping along south edge of the property, and would donate a temporary easement to IDOT to accomplish this work. Further coordination is needed, especially with IHPA, prior to finalizing a landscaping plan.

We all agree that this project will not result in an adverse effect and also believe that there is an opportunity to enhance the park's historic integrity that should not be missed. We would like the scope of work to include new berms with tree and shrub plantings along the south perimeter of the park. We hope that the project can also address drainage issues at the park's southeast corner. We are open to working with your team to develop an appropriate plaza treatment at the southwestern edge of the park. We think these improvements will be especially beneficial to pedestrians and bicyclists using the trail along the southern part of the park.

I have discussed this proposal with Rachel Leibowitz of the IHPA and she concurs that if designed well, this work would enhance the historic integrity of the park. She is willing to consult with the team and the project moves into a design phase. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Julia S. Bachrach
Planning Supervisor/ Historian

cc: Rob Rejman, CPD
Rachel Leibowitz, IHPA