

APPENDIX B
FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT



Bruce Rauner, Governor
Raymond Poe, Director

Bureau of Land and Water Resources

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December 21, 2017

Mr. Kyle R. Bochte
Illinois Department of Transportation
Consultant Studies Unit
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

Re: IL 47 (US 14 to Charles Road) - 17.9 acres
McHenry County, Illinois
USDA NRCS Form AD-1006

Dear Mr. Bochte:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has completed its review of the agricultural impacts associated with proposed improvements to Illinois Route 47 (IL 47) in McHenry County. The project was examined for its compliance with IDOT's Agricultural Land Preservation Policy as well as the Illinois Farmland Preservation Act (505 ILCS 75/1 et seq.).

The project involves an upgrade of IL 47 from US Route 14 northward to Charles Road. The southern and middle sections are within Woodstock's corporate limits, with all farmland impacts to the northern section. The preferred alternative improvements to the rural section, from Ware Road to Charles Road, will widen and reconstruct IL 47 from one lane in each direction to two lanes in each direction. Lanes will be separated by a mountable median, paved outside shoulders, drainage ditches on each side of IL 47. In addition, a shared-use path will be constructed on the east side of IL Route 47 outside of the highway drainage ditch.

New right-of-way will be acquired adjacent to the existing highway corridor. Because the project has been designed to acquire the least possible amount of land to meet the safety needs of the public, the IDOA has determined that the project complies with IDOT's Agricultural Land Preservation Policy and Illinois' Farmland Preservation Act.

Enclosed are two copies of the USDA NRCS form AD-1006. One copy must be included in the project's environmental assessment; the other is for your files.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steven D. Chard".

Steven D. Chard, Acting Chief
Bureau of Land and Water Resources

SDC:JL/TS

Enclosures-2

cc: Ed Weskerna, McHenry-Lake County SWCD
Agency project file

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Date Of Land Evaluation Request 11/8/17
Name Of Project US-14 widening at Charles Road	Federal Agency Involved FHWA
Proposed Land Use Roadway	County And State McHenry County, Illinois

PART II (To be completed by NRCS)	Date Request Received By NRCS 11/8/17
Does the site contain prime, unique, statewide or local important farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply – do not complete additional parts of this form):	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Acres Irrigated N/A Average Farm Size 372
Major Crop(s) Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Hay	Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: 29,633,500 % 97
Name Of Land Evaluation System Used Illinois	Name Of Local Site Assessment System Statewide Date Land Evaluation Returned By NRCS 11/9/17
Amount Of Farmland As Defined In FPPA Acres: 27,695,900 % 91	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Site Rating			
	Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	17.9			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly				
C. Total Acres In Site	17.9	0.0	0.0	0.0

PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	15.5			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	0.8			
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.0			
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	50.7			

PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value Of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)	121	0	0	0
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PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(b))	Maximum Points				
1. Area In Nonurban Use					
2. Perimeter In Nonurban Use					
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed					
4. Protection Provided By State And Local Government					
5. Distance From Urban Builtup Area					
6. Distance To Urban Support Services					
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average					
8. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland					
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services					
10. On-Farm Investments					
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services					
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use					
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	0	0	0	0

See the attached
Illinois LESA System
Site Assessment **CORRIDOR** Factors

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	150	121	0	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	150	40	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	300	161	0	0	0

Site Selected:	Date Of Selection	Was A Local Site Assessment Used? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Reason For Selection:

** When utilizing the Illinois State Site Assessment Corridor factors, 150 points are assigned to the Land Evaluation Portion, and 150 points are assigned to the Site Assessment portion of the LESA System for a maximum score of 300 points.

**IL Route 47 from US Highway 14 to Charles Road
McHenry County, Illinois
Federal Highway Administration Funds**

PART VI-B Illinois Site Assessment <i>CORRIDOR</i> Factors	Maximum Points	Site A
1. Amount of agricultural land required	30	20
2. Location of the proposed alignment	30	20
3. Acres of off-site agricultural land required for borrow materials	15	0
4. Acres of Prime and Important farmland required for mitigation	15	0
5. Creation of severed farm parcels	10	0
6. Creation of uneconomical remnants	10	0
7. Creation of landlocked parcels	10	0
8. Creation of adverse travel	10	0
9. Relocations of rural residences and farm buildings	10	0
10. Utilization of minimum design standards	10	0
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT <i>CORRIDOR</i> POINTS	150	40

PART VII

Relative Value of Farmland	150	121
Total Site Assessment <i>CORRIDOR</i> Factors	150	40
TOTAL ILLINOIS LESA POINTS	300	161

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JL

** The Illinois LESA System applies the 225 point cutoff when evaluating state and federally funded projects. Site or Corridor alternatives receiving 175 or fewer points have a low rating for protection, and it is not necessary to evaluate additional alternatives. Those alternatives receiving 176 to 225 points are in the moderate range for protection. In most cases, alternatives exceeding the 225 point level should be retained for agricultural use, and an alternate site should be utilized for the intended project. Selecting the alternative with the lowest total points will usually protect the best farmland located in the most agriculturally viable areas. LESA also serves to maintain and promote the agricultural industry in Illinois.*