



February 2, 2026

Carey L. Mayer, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, IL 62702-1271

RE: 16th Street Interlocking Tower Demolition Project, Chicago, Cook County, Illinois
Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement, Stipulation IV: Monitoring and Reporting
SHPO Log #009090924

Dear Ms. Mayer:

In accordance with the *Memorandum of Agreement Among Metra and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the 16th Street Interlocking Tower Demolition Project in Chicago, Illinois*, please find the enclosed Summary Report detailing work undertaken in 2025 per Stipulation IV: Monitoring and Report.

Thank you for your continued cooperation on this Project. At your earliest opportunity, please confirm receipt of this summary and let us know if you have any questions. We are also happy to schedule a meeting to discuss planned 2026 objectives in more detail if you think that would be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rita Yamin".

Rita Yamin, Director
Grant Development
myamin@metrarr.com

enclosures (1): *Summary Report: February 2025 - January 2026*

cc: Anthony Rubano, Project Designer & Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
James M. Derwinski, CEO / Executive Director, Metra
Janice R. Thomas, Executive Director of External Affairs / Chief of Staff, Metra
Scott Schiemann, Chief Engineering Officer, Metra
Glenford Peters, Senior Director, Capital Projects, Metra
Casey Campetti, NEPA Manager, Metra
Christopher Meyers, Senior Historic Preservation Specialist, Metra

**16TH Street Interlocking Tower
Demolition Project**
SUMMARY REPORT: FEBRUARY 2025 - JANUARY 2026
Addressing Memorandum of Agreement Stipulation V



On behalf of Metra and in accordance with the *Memorandum of Agreement Among Metra and the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the 16th Street Interlocking Tower Demolition Project in Chicago, Illinois* (MOA), please find the following summary report detailing work undertaken from February 2025 to January 2026 per Stipulation V: Monitoring and Reporting.

The following summary report contains updates for Stipulation I. Mitigation: Photographic Recordation of Tower Interlocking Machinery and Stipulation II. Mitigation: Salvage, Marketing, and Disposition of Tower Interlocking Machinery.

Stipulation	Stipulation Description	February 2025 - January 2026 Implemented Activities	February 2026 - January 2027 Proposed Activities
I. Mitigation: Photographic Recordation of Tower Interlocking Machinery	A. Metra shall use agency staff member(s) or retain a historical contractor(s) of its choice who meet the Secretary of the Interior's Qualifications (36 CFR Part 61, Appendix A, to perform photographic recordation of the tower's interior and equipment according to the measures described below: 1. Recordation will be conducted using digital or 35mm photography. 2. All photographs will be black and white, 5"x7", and printed on archival photopaper once approved by the Office. 3. Upon completion of photography, Metra shall digitally submit the images to the Office for review and comment. 4. Upon confirmation from the Office in writing that the photographic recordation is accepted and complete, Metra will proceed with the printing of archival black and white photos. 5. Upon completion, the Metra shall submit the following to the Office: a. One archival clamshell of sufficient size to encapsulate the recordation. b. One digital record (download, link, flash drive, CD, or DVD) with the complete recordation for posting on the SHPO website.	In August 2025, Metra SOI-qualified staff conducted photographic recordation of the tower's interior and equipment. A digital packet of photography was emailed to Steve Dasovic for review. In September 2025, Metra received confirmation that the photographic recordation, provided to SHPO in digital format, was accepted and confirmed as complete. At this time, Metra moved forward with archival printing. In December 2025, Metra provided Steve Dasovic with a museum-quality clamshell containing archival black and white prints of the approved photographic recordation as well as a flash drive containing digital records and historic manuals for the tower's machinery.	Activity Completed.
II. Mitigation: Salvage, Marketing, and Disposition of Tower	A. Prior to demolition of the Tower and as depicted in Attachment 1, Metra will salvage, to the extent feasible, the internal machinery that dates from the Tower's period of significance including: 1. Taylor Model 2 Interlocking Machine and Cabinetry,	No activity on this stipulation during this period.	Metra will remove identified machinery and components prior to demolition of the tower.

Interlocking Machinery	2. Illuminated Track Diagram Board, 3. Power Distribution Switchboard, 4. Wall-Mounted Domed Signal Releases, and 5. Select Tractive Type Relays.		
	B. At Metra's expense, Metra will remove the described machinery and securely store the equipment at a Metra storage facility to be determined. Salvaged machinery shall be placed into initial storage for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months.	No activity on this stipulation during this period.	Tower demolition is anticipated to take place in Q4 FY 26 to Q2 FY 27. At that time, salvaged machinery will be placed into a secure Metra storage facility.
	C. As listed in Attachment 2, Metra has identified potential railroad and heritage-oriented museum entities in which to market the salvaged machinery and mechanical components. During a period not to exceed four (4) months, Metra will conduct outreach to these entities via electronic mail or via United States Postal Service and will market the salvaged machinery to other parties that may be later identified during that period.	In March 2025, Metra staff sent out certified letters marketing the future salvage opportunity to the twenty-two (22) identified railroad and heritage-oriented museums listed in the MOA's Attachment 2. As follow up and in April 2025, Metra staff sent emails to these identified agencies as well as to two (2) additional museums and alliances not previously identified. Feedback that was received from the majority of contacted entities iterated that similar machinery is already within their collections or that these entities did not have the space or the capacity to accept such a donation. The salvage opportunity has also been posted online via Railway Preservation News. Recently in January 2026, Metra has been contacted by Zachary Gillihan. Mr. Gillihan expressed interest in securing salvaged machinery from the tower. He expressed that he previously pulled equipment from other demolished towers. Metra staff provided Mr. Gillihan with the MOA and advised him of the railroad or heritage-oriented museum entity stipulation as well as the requirement to provide a disposition plan for the salvaged machinery. To date,	Activity Completed.

		Mr. Gillihan has not responded about meeting entity requirements nor has he provided a proposed disposition plan for the machinery.	
	D. At Metra's request, interested entities will provide information documenting proposed disposition plan and location of the machinery, an entity's financial capacity to relocate the salvaged machinery from Metra storage to final disposition location, long-term fiscal viability of the prospective entity, and ability to meet the timelines set forth in this Agreement.	No activity on this stipulation during this period.	As no qualified entity has expressed interest in the salvaged machinery, Metra has not activated this specific stipulation to request a disposition plan.
	E. Following the four (4) month equipment marketing period, Metra will review and select a preferred entity. Metra will then commence coordination with the selected entity and develop an agreed upon work plan to retrieve and transport the machinery by the entity.	No activity on this stipulation during this period.	With no interested party expressing a desire for the salvage to date, this step has not occurred.
	F. Within a period not to exceed six (6) months, the selected entity will complete the retrieval and transport of the salvaged machinery. Documentation memorializing the transfer of the salvaged equipment will be provided to SHPO.	No activity on this stipulation during this period.	With no interested party expressing a desire for the salvage to date, this step has not occurred.
	G. If the equipment is not transferred to a qualifying entity within the twelve (12) month storage period, at Metra's discretion, the salvaged equipment may continue to be maintained in storage or be properly disposed. Documentation memorializing Metra's decision will be provided to SHPO.	No activity on this stipulation during this period.	After the twelve (12) month initial storage period, Metra will provide SHPO with documentation that memorializes any future decision regarding the salvaged equipment.

Metra has not encountered any problems, unexpected issues, disputes, or objections in efforts to carry out the terms of the MOA. There are no changes recommended in the implementation of this MOA.

The next summary report will be released for the period of February 2026 - January 2027.

Christopher Meyers
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist
Metra