

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT  
AMONG THE  
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION,  
ILLINOIS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER,  
AND  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
REGARDING THE  
RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERSTATE 55  
BETWEEN COAL CITY ROAD AND RIVER ROAD  
NEAR WILMINGTON, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**WHEREAS**, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) plans to reconstruct Interstate 55 between Coal City Road and River Road near Wilmington, Will County, Illinois (IDOT Sequence #22051C/22051D, SHPO Log #035050820), including the construction of new interchanges at Lorenzo Road and IL 129; and

**WHEREAS**, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) may fund the Project thereby making the Project an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 54 U.S.C. Section 306108, and its implementing regulations, 36 C.F.R. Part 800; and

**WHEREAS**, the FHWA has defined the undertaking's architectural area of potential effects (APE) as a 0.25-mile buffer surrounding the proposed work as shown in Exhibit A; and

**WHEREAS**, the FHWA, in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (Officer), have determined that a 0.7-mile segment of IL 129 located in the APE, which formerly carried Route 66, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and its reconstruction and widening as part of this project will cause an adverse effect to this historic property pursuant to 36 C.F.R. Part 800 (Exhibit B); and

**WHEREAS**, the FHWA has determined that the undertaking will not have a known effect on historic properties other than the former section of Route 66, and the Officer concurred with this finding on March 10, 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, the FHWA and IDOT provided the public opportunities to comment on the undertaking and to become consulting parties. Consulting party letters were sent out on February 4, 2021 to Elion Partners, Will County Historic Preservation Commission, The Road Ahead Partnership & Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway, Will County Historical Society & Museum, Wilmington Area Historic Society & Museum, City of Wilmington, Braidwood Area Historical Society, Landmarks Illinois, Ho-Chunk Nation, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Forest County Potawatomi Community, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Kansas, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Oklahoma, Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, Hannahville Indian Community, Matcheбенashshewish Band of Potawatomi, Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, Prairie

Band of Potawatomi Nation, Sac and Fox Tribes of the Mississippi in Iowa, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri and Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma. At that time, responses were received from Elion Partners, Braidwood Area Historical Society, Will County Historic Preservation Commission and the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. Additional consulting party letters were sent on February 10, 2025 to ten parties: Will County Historic Preservation Commission, Will County Historical Society & Museum, Braidwood Area Historical Society, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Elion Partners, National Historic Route 66 Foundation, Route 66 Alliance, Route 66 The Road Ahead Partnership, Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway, and Route 66 Association of Illinois. Written responses were received from the Braidwood Area Historical Society and the Road Ahead Partnership. A meeting was held for the consulting parties on February 27, 2025 to discuss the project's effects to Route 66 and potential mitigation options for the adverse effect; and

**WHEREAS**, the IDOT, on behalf of FHWA, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800.6(a)(1), notified the ACHP of the adverse effect in an email dated January 28, 2025, and no response was received; and

**WHEREAS**, execution and implementation of this MOA evidences that FHWA has satisfied its Section 106 responsibilities for the Project; and

**NOW, THEREFORE**, FHWA, Officer, and IDOT and agree that the Project shall be implemented in accordance with the following stipulations to ensure that potential effects on historic properties are taken into account.

## **STIPULATIONS**

The FHWA, Officer, and IDOT agree that the following steps will be undertaken for the Project:

### **I. ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCE INVESTIGATIONS**

**A. National Register of Historic Places Nomination.** The IDOT, in coordination with the Officer, will develop a nomination to list the Downtown Wilmington Historic District in the NRHP. This process must be initiated with the Officer's National Register office within one (1) year of the ratification of this MOA and must be completed before the term of the MOA expires.

i. Should the Downtown Wilmington Historic District be found to be ineligible in any capacity, a nomination for listing an alternate Route 66 resource in Will County in the NRHP shall be written. Potential alternates are as follows:

a. Milano Bakery, 427 S. Chicago St., Joliet

b. Braidwood Recreation Club, 33915 IL 53, Braidwood

c. Arnie Bauer Chevrolet GMC, 901 E. Baltimore,  
Wilmington

d. Polk-A-Dot Drive In, 222 N. Front St., Braidwood

- ii. Should an alternative property be necessary, the property shall be agreed upon in writing by the FHWA, Officer and IDOT.

**B. Route 66 “Then & Now” Video Documentation and Dissemination.** The IDOT, in consultation with the Officer, will develop a documentary video about the history of Route 66 in Will County and its importance to nearby communities. Aerial, video or drone imagery and photographs showcasing the NRHP-eligible section of IL 129 must be included. The documentary may feature historic photographs, maps and/or videos. The video will be roughly 10 minutes in length and will be provided in a format easily accessible to the public and Route 66 enthusiasts. The IDOT shall submit to the Officer for review the draft video within twelve (12) months of the initiation of construction activities. The IDOT will ensure the final video is submitted to the SHPO for approval and is then provided to consulting parties and other interested groups.

## **II. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

For the purpose of implementing this MOA, the IDOT shall continue to employ departmental staff with qualifications that meet the requirements of 36 C.F.R. Part 61. The IDOT shall ensure that the professional staff responsible for the implementation of the mitigation measures meet the requirements of 36 C.F.R. Part 61.

## **III. DURATION**

This MOA will expire if its stipulations are not carried out within five (5) years from the date of its execution, unless otherwise amended or terminated pursuant to Stipulations VI or VII. In such an event, the IDOT shall so notify the parties to this MOA and, if it chooses to continue with the Project, then the FHWA shall reinitiate review of the Project in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800.

## **IV. POST-REVIEW DISCOVERIES**

If potential historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties found, the FHWA shall make reasonable efforts to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to such properties and follow the requirements of 36 C.F.R. Part 800.13(b).

## **V. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

Should any signatory to this MOA object at any time to any actions proposed or the manner in which the terms of this MOA are implemented, FHWA shall consult with such party to resolve the objection. If FHWA determines that such objection cannot be resolved, FHWA will:

- A. Forward all documentation relevant to the dispute, including any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP and signatories and the FHWA's proposed resolution, to the ACHP in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800.2(b)(2). The ACHP shall provide FHWA with its advice on the resolution of the objections within thirty (30) days of receiving adequate documentation. Prior to reaching a final decision on the dispute, FHWA shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely advice or comments regarding the dispute from the ACHP and signatories and provide them with a copy of this written response. FHWA will then proceed according to its final decision.
- B. If the ACHP does not provide its advice regarding the dispute within the thirty (30) day time period FHWA may make a final decision on the dispute and proceed accordingly. Prior to reaching such a final decision, FHWA shall prepare a written response that takes into account any timely comments regarding the dispute from the signatories to the MOA and provide them and the ACHP with a copy of such written response.
- C. FHWA's responsibility to carry out all other actions subject to the terms of this MOA that are not the subject of the dispute remain unchanged.

## **VI. AMENDMENTS**

This MOA may be amended when such an amendment is agreed to in writing by all signatories. The amendment will be effective on the date a copy signed by all of the signatories is filed with the ACHP.

## **VII. TERMINATION**

If any signatory to this MOA determines that its terms will not or cannot be carried out, that party shall immediately consult with the other parties to attempt to develop an amendment. If within thirty (30) days an amendment cannot be reached, any signatory may terminate the MOA upon written notification to the other signatories. Once the MOA is terminated and prior to work continuing on the undertaking, FHWA must request, take into account, and respond to the comments of the ACHP under 36 C.F.R. Part 800.7. FHWA shall notify the signatories as to the course of action it will pursue.

Execution of this MOA by the FHWA, Officer, and IDOT and implementation of its terms evidence that FHWA has taken into account the effects of this undertaking on historic properties and afforded the ACHP an opportunity to comment.

(Signature Pages Follow)

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AMONG THE  
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ILLINOIS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER,  
AND  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
REGARDING THE  
RECONSTRUCTION OF INTERSTATE 55  
BETWEEN COAL CITY ROAD AND RIVER ROAD  
NEAR WILMINGTON, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

Signatory

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

By: *Darien J. Siddall* Date: 6/24/2025

**Print Name:** Darien Siddall

**Title:** FHWA, IL Division Environmental Unit

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Signatory

ILLINOIS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

By: Carey L. Mayer Date: 6/18/2025

**Print Name: Carey L. Mayer, AIA**

**Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources**

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Signatory

Illinois Department of Transportation

By: \_\_\_\_\_



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

6/20/25

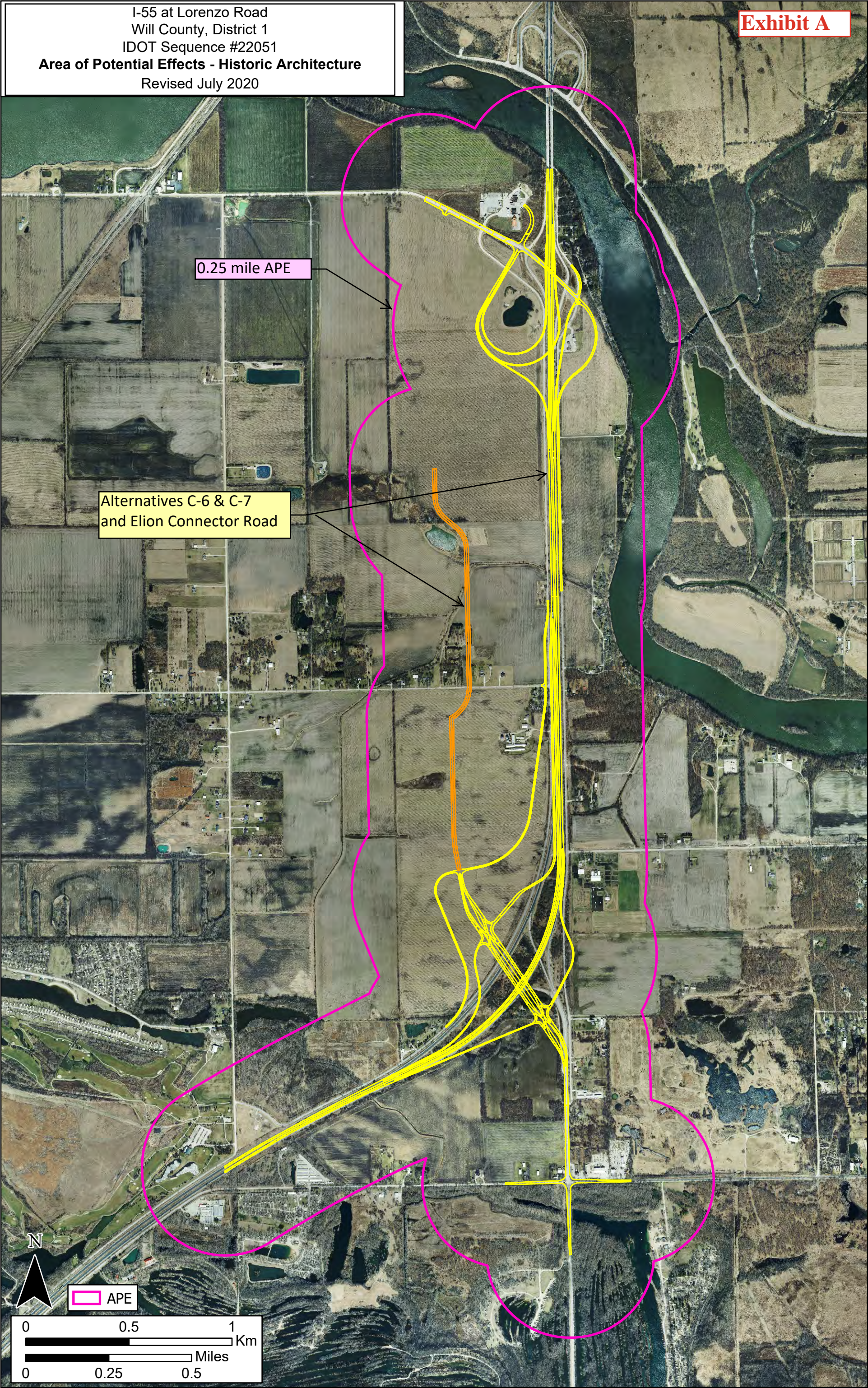
Print Name:

JOSE RIOS

Title:

JOSE RIOS REGION ONE  
ENGINEER, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT  
OF TRANSPORTATION









# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

**Will County  
Wilmington, Wilmington Township  
FAI 55/I-55/Historic US 66  
Highway Reconstruction & Improvements  
Job # P-91-003-19  
Sequence # 22051C, 22051D  
SHPO Log # 035050820**

**December 6, 2024**

## **FEDERAL 106 PROJECT – NOTIFICATION OF ADVERSE EFFECT FINDING**

Ms. Carol J. Wallace  
Cultural Resources Coordinator  
Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
Illinois State Historic Preservation Office  
1 Natural Resources Way  
Springfield, Illinois 62702

Dear Ms. Wallace:

Based on continuing coordination with your office, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are revising the effects finding for this undertaking. One historic resource stands in the Area of Potential Effects (APE): IL 129 for a 0.7-mile segment, as it is a former alignment of Route 66.

On December, 23, 2021, IDOT proposed a Conditional No Adverse Effect finding provided your office review and approve the preliminary and pre-final plans to ensure adherence to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. On March 3, 2022, your office concurred with the Conditional No Adverse Effect finding. However, on December 4, 2024 your office reviewed the preliminary plans provided for the undertaking and stated that the project as proposed does not meet the Standards for Addendum C and that Addendum D would also adversely affect historic Route 66. As such, IDOT has revised its overall project finding to an Adverse Effect as the project will negatively impact this section of historic Route 66.

The IDOT Cultural Resources Unit will continue consultation with your office to resolve the adverse effect through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph M. Galloy".

Joseph M. Galloy, PhD, RPA  
Cultural Resources Unit Manager  
Bureau of Design & Environment

JG:el

Attachments

Ecc: Ms. Vanessa Ruiz, IDOT District 1  
Mr. George Kocek, Braidwood Area Historical Society  
Mr. Michael Stellino, Elion Partners  
Mr. Gary Mueller, Will County Historic Preservation Commission  
Mr. Logan York, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma