

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 5 77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

NOV 3 0 2010

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF 9J

Norman Stoner, Division Administrator Federal Highway Administration 3250 Executive Drive Springfield, Illinoius 62703-4514

RE: Invitation to be a Cooperating and Participating Agency for the Interstate 80 from Ridge Road to US 30 Project

Dear Mr. Stoner:

The United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5 (U.S. EPA) has received your invitation letter of November 29, 2010, regarding the above project. Because the U.S. EPA has expertise concerning the nation's natural resources and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, we do have an interest in this project.

Pursuant to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and in keeping with our responsibilities under the NEPA and Section 309 of the Clean Water Act, we accept the invitation to participate in this project, to the degree time and resources permit and be a cooperating agency. Specifically, we will:

- 1. Provide meaningful early input to defining the purpose and need; range of alternatives; methodologies and level of detail for alternatives analysis;
- 2. Participate in coordination meetings and appropriate field reviews;
- 3. Provide timely review and comment on pre-draft and subsequent environmental documents;
- 4. Participate in other activities as deemed significant and as resources permit, determined on a case-by-case basis.

We look forward to reviewing any NEPA documents and related information for this project. If you have any questions about the review process, please contact Norm West of my staff at (312)-353-5692 or at west.norman@epa.gov.

Kenneth A. Westlake

Chief, NEPA Implementation Section

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Cc: Matt Fuller