



Bureau of Land and Water Resources

State Fairgrounds • P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/782-6297 • TDD 866/287-2999 • Fax 217/557-0993

August 27, 2018

Mr. Sagar R. Sonar
IDOT, Bureau of Programming
201 West Center Ct.
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Re: Interstate 80, Ridge Road to US Route 30
Environmental Assessment
Kendall, Grundy and Will Counties, Illinois
USDA NRCS Form CPA-106 - 1.5 ag acres

Dear Mr. Sonar:

The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has completed its review of the agricultural impacts associated with the Environmental Assessment for the improvement of Interstate 80 from Ridge Road to US Route 30 in Kendall, Grundy and Will Counties. 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 includes reconstructing the mainline pavement, adding auxiliary lanes, replacing and/or widening bridges and upgrading interchanges. The project also includes reconstructing the I-80 bridges over the Des Plaines River on a new alignment. Construction will occur within a highly urbanized area, and none of the project area is zoned for agricultural use. Ultimately, the project results in the conversion of 1.5 agricultural acres to non-agricultural use.

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 the USDA NRCS Form CPA-106. One copy must be included in the project's Environmental Assessment; the other is for your files.

Sincerely,

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

SDC:TS
Enclosures-2

cc: Kendall, Grundy and Will Co. SWCDs
Agency project file

FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING
FOR CORRIDOR TYPE PROJECTS

PART I (To be completed by Federal Agency)		3. Date of Land Evaluation Request 5/21/18	4. Sheet 1 of 1
1. Name of Project I-80 - Ridge Road to U.S. Route 30		5. Federal Agency Involved FHWA	
2. Type of Project Transportation		6. County and State Will, Kendall and Grundy Counties, Illinois	
PART II (To be completed by NRCS)		1. Date Request Received by NRCS 5/24/18	2. Person Completing Form Tim Prescott
3. Does the corridor 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"/>	4. Acres Irrigated Average Farm Size N/A 372
5. Major Crop(s) Corn, Soybeans, Wheat, Hay	6. Farmable Land in Government Jurisdiction Acres: 29,633,500 % 97	7. Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 27,695,900 % 91	
8. Name Of Land Evaluation System Used Illinois	9. Name of Local Site Assessment System Statewide	10. Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 5/30/18	

PART III (To be completed by Federal Agency)	Alternative Corridor For Segment Ridge Rd-US 30			
	Corridor A	Corridor B	Corridor C	Corridor D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly	1.5			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly, Or To Receive Services	0			
C. Total Acres In Corridor	1.5			
PART IV (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information				
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland	.86			
B. Total Acres Statewide And Local Important Farmland	.64			
C. Percentage Of Farmland In County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted	0.0000054			
D. Percentage Of Farmland In Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value	86			
PART V (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information Criterion Relative value of Farmland to Be Serviced or Converted. (Scale of 0 - 100 Points)	108 **			
PART VI (To be completed by Federal Agency) Corridor Assessment Criteria (These criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5(c))		Maximum Points		
1. Area in Nonurban Use	15			
2. Perimeter in Nonurban Use	10			
3. Percent Of Corridor Being Farmed				
4. Protection Provided By State And Local				
5. Size of Present Farm Unit Compared To				
6. Creation Of Nonfarmable Farmland				
7. Availability Of Farm Support Services				
8. On-Farm Investments				
9. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support				
10. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use	10			
TOTAL CORRIDOR ASSESSMENT POINTS	160	0	0	0

See attached Illinois LESA Site Assessment Corridor Factors

PART VII (To be completed by Federal Agency)					
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)	150	108	0	0	0
Total Corridor Assessment (From Part VI above or a local site assessment)	150	32	0	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)	300	140	0	0	0

1. Corridor Selected:	2. Total Acres of Farmlands to be Converted by Project: 1.5	3. Date Of Selection:	4. Was A Local Site Assessment Used? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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5. 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.

Signature of Person Completing this Part: Tim Prescott	DATE 5/30/18
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NOTE: Complete a form for each segment with more than one Alternate Corridor

**I-80 Ridge Road to U.S. Route 30
Will, Kendall & Grundy Counties, 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	1
2. Location of the proposed alignment	30	1
3. Acres of off-site agricultural land required for borrow materials	15	15
4. Acres of Prime and Important farmland required for mitigation	15	15
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	32

PART VII

Relative Value of Farmland	150	108
Total Site Assessment <i>CORRIDOR</i> Factors	150	32
TOTAL ILLINOIS LESA POINTS	300	140

* 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.