

**Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Impact Documentation**  
**Arie Crown Forest Preserve**  
**Forest Preserve District of Cook County**

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**1. Project Description:**

- a. **Project Name:** Joliet Road at Brainard Avenue
- b. **Project Number (State and Federal):** P-91-548-12
- c. **Location:** City of Countryside, Cook County, Illinois
- d. **Project Type:** Intersection improvement. The scope of work includes adding southbound and westbound right turn lanes, traffic signal replacement, and drainage improvements.
- e. **Project Length:** 0.21 miles
- f. **Purpose and need of the Project:** In 1998 Joliet Road was closed between Joliet Road and 55th Street due to safety and structural integrity concerns. On May 17, 2010, the State of Illinois was awarded 40 million dollars in a settlement with Vulcan Materials as a result of the closure of Joliet Road. Later that year the Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) revisited a 2003 Traffic Impact Study of this area to determine how to mitigate traffic impacts from the closure of Joliet Road. The updated study identified and analyzed intersections and roadway segments in the study area to determine how safety and capacity could be improved. This information helped to group intersection improvements by priority based on safety issues, opportunities to improve capacity, and proximity of the improvement to the Joliet Road closure.

Joliet Road at Brainard Avenue intersection was one of the identified intersections. The purpose of the proposed action is to improve highway user safety, capacity and operations at the Joliet and Brainard Avenue intersection. The proposed southbound and westbound lanes will enhance system linkage along Joliet Road and Brainard Avenue. In existing conditions, the lack of right turn channelization is a continuous source of congestion resulting in decreased air quality.
- g. **NEPA Class of Action:** Categorical Exclusion, Group II

Board. Submittal of the 4(f) De Minimis document does not guarantee approval. The FPDCC also requested a cross section of the original berm elevations be provided. The original berm elevation was obtained from a Hydraulic Report conducted in 2005, and while the recommendations in this report are not being pursued, they did contain original berm design sheets as a base. These sheets were used to examine and determine previously documented berm elevations.

**Joliet at Brainard Road** –The proposed improvements consist of traffic signal replacement and the addition of right turn lanes on the north and east legs. Title search information indicates that the FPDCC owns the south leg of Brainard Road, up to the centerline of Joliet Road. No dedications have been identified on historical Plat information. The scope of improvements will require work on the south leg of Brainard Road for detector loop placement and the installation of pedestrian landings. The Department inquired about acquiring these portions in fee, based on the fact that the sections needed are paved and already comprise a portion of the roadway. The FPDCC noted that a fee simple acquisition was a complicated and lengthy process, as it entails giving up land. At this time, only a permanent easement could be considered.

The FPDCC requested that several existing property lines on the exhibit presented were not shown accurately and should be removed. The Department will forward the Section 4(f) De Minimis report and completed Land Use Form for review.

**Illinois Route 43 at 46/47<sup>th</sup> Street** – Phase I, Preliminary Engineering and Environmental, Studies for this intersection improvement was completed on September 16, 2013. The Cook County Board approved acquisition and conveyance documents on September 10, 2014; however, IDOT has not received the signed documents for the land acquisition donations under project R-90-010-13 contract 60V42 parcel # 0JG0005. The FPDCC responded that there were some comments on the documents that needed addressing and that they were submitted for signature and should be available shortly.

**Illinois Route 171 at Roosevelt Road** – The project is located in the Villages of Maywood and Forest Park in Cook County. The scope of improvements consists of extending the eastbound right turn lane on the west leg and restriping the north and south legs of the intersection to include dual left turn lanes. The preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase I) for this improvement have been completed. The surrounding land use is comprised of commercial/residential buildings on the northwest quadrant, the John Madden Mental Health Hospital on the southwest quadrant, the Proviso Math and Science Academy on the northeast corner, and the Miller Meadows Forest Preserve of the FPDCC on the southeast corner of the intersection.