



# **Appendix A: Environmental Clearances**

## **Grand Avenue Grade Separation Project**

### **FY 2026 BUILD Grant Application**

**Village of Elmwood Park  
11 Conti Parkway  
Elmwood Park, IL 60707**



# Illinois Department of Transportation

## Memorandum

To: Greg Lupton  
From: Jack A. Elston  
Subject: PESA Review  
Date: May 22, 2025

Attn: Steve Letsky  
By: John Sherrill  
*John Sherrill*

Project: FAU 1376 (W. Grand Avenue), Haymond Street to 73<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Elmwood Park  
District 2: Cook County  
Requesting Agency: Elmwood Park  
Survey Target Date: 04/25/2025  
Anticipated Letting: Not Provided  
BDE Sequence #: 23300A

Job #: P-91-029-017  
Contract #: Not Provided  
Anticipated DA: 06/30/2025  
Section: 16-00118-00-GS  
ISGS PESA #: 3992A

Attached is a copy of the Preliminary Environmental Site Assessment (PESA) report prepared by the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) for the subject project as described in your Special Waste Environmental Survey Request (ESR). Table 1 identifies sites along the project route that were determined to contain recognized environmental conditions (RECs). It is the opinion of this office, in consultation with the Chief Counsel's Office, that a preliminary site investigation (PSI) is required if any site identified in Table 1 of the PESA report involves any of the following situations:

- New right of way or easement (temporary or permanent);
- Railroad right-of-way, other than single rail rural with no maintenance facilities; or
- Building demolition / modification.

Additionally, a PSI is required if the project will have excavation or subsurface utility relocation on existing right-of-way adjoining a site identified in Table 1 of the PESA report.

If the district determines that they can avoid all the sites that contain RECs, then a PSI is not required and the project will be in compliance with Departmental Policy D&E-11. If the district determines that the project will involve a site containing a REC(s), then a PSI is required and the statewide special waste consultant should be requested to perform the PSI. Please notify this office of any actions you may decide to take concerning these sites (avoidance or further investigation). The PESA Response form can be found on PMA.

The District's Bureau of Land Acquisition (DBLA) should determine if any new right-of-way or easement will involve any site identified in Table 1 or any site adjoining a site listed in Table 4 of the PESA report. On those identified situations, DBLA shall coordinate the acquisition with this office, Central Bureau of Land Acquisition, and the Chief Counsel's Office to determine if an "All Appropriate Inquiries" (AAI) assessment is required for additional liability protection under CERCLA.

Other findings and recommendations of the report should be carefully considered. If you have any questions regarding this report or the tasking of the statewide consultant, please contact Josh Venaas at 217/785-4181 or James R. Curtis at 217/558-4653.

Attachments

cc: Office of Chief Counsel – Rm. 313

IDOT Sequence #: 23300A  
IDOT Job #: P91-029-017

ISGS: 3992A  
IDOT District #: 1

## PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT

### FINAL REPORT

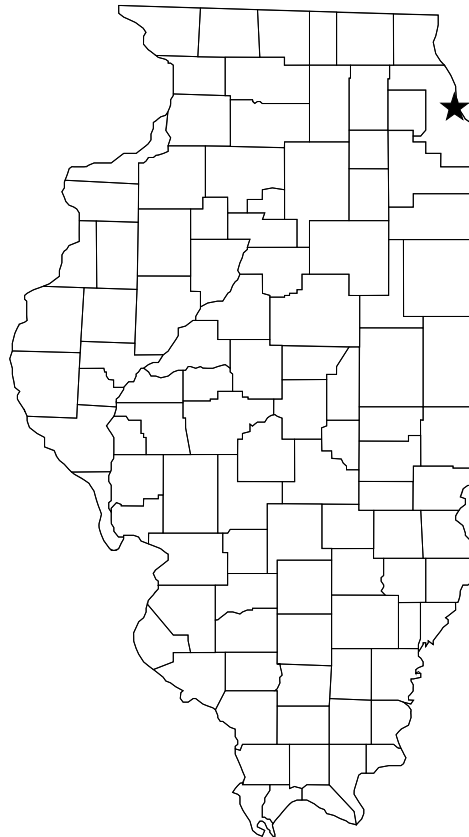
**DATE:** April 25, 2025

**IDOT DESIGN DATE:** June 30, 2025

**SURVEY TARGET DATE:** April 25, 2025

**DATE REQUEST RECEIVED:** October 24, 2024

**LOCATION:** FAU 1376 (W. Grand Avenue), Haymond Street to 73rd Avenue, Elmwood Park, Cook County; River Forest quadrangle (USGS 7.5-minute topographic map), T40N, R12E, Section 25.





IDOT Sequence #: 23300B  
IDOT Job #: P91-029-017

ISGS: 3992B  
IDOT District #: 1

**PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENT**

**FINAL REPORT**

**DATE:** December 18, 2025

**IDOT DESIGN DATE:** June 30, 2025

**SURVEY TARGET DATE:** January 15, 2026

**DATE REQUEST RECEIVED:** July 15, 2025

**LOCATION:** FAU 1376 (W. Grand Avenue), 78th Avenue to 75th Court, Elmwood Park, Cook County; River Forest quadrangle (USGS 7.5-minute topographic map), T40N, R12E, Section 25.







# Illinois Department of Transportation

## Memorandum

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To: Greg Lupton, P.E.                      Attn: Steve Letsky  
From: Jack A. Elston                      By: Shawn Wilcockson  
Subject: Natural Resources Review  
Date: October 21, 2024

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shawn Wilcockson".

Seq #                      23300/A  
Section #                16-00118-00-GS  
Route:                    FAU 1376  
Marked:                 W Grand Ave  
Location:                T40N/ R12E/ S25, 26, and 36  
Description:            Roadway Reconstruction  
Project:                 78<sup>th</sup> Ave. to 75<sup>th</sup> Ct.  
Municipality:         Elwood Park  
County:                 Cook

The project (23300) was originally submitted as a PEL study in May 2020. This Addendum (23300A) included modifications to the project boundaries. Proposed work includes the reconstruction of the Grand Avenue crossing of the Milwaukee District West Metra/Canada Pacific Railroad, from 78<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 75<sup>th</sup> Court, in Elwood Park.

There will be an unknown amount of right-of-way (ROW) acquisition and/or temporary construction easements (TCE) required to complete the project. There will be no in-stream work. There will be 20 trees removed. The project is located in an urban setting surrounded by residential, commercial, and industrial properties on both sides (north and south) of the Milwaukee District West Metra/Canada Pacific Railroad.

### **Review for Illinois Endangered Species Protection and Illinois Natural Areas Preservation – Part 1075**

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of state-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project. **Therefore, consultation under Part 1075 is terminated.**

**This review for compliance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed improvement is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the proposed improvement has not been implemented within two years of the date of this memorandum, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new review will be necessary.**

### **Review for Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act – Part 1090**

A wetland review was previously conducted by the project sponsor using available resource information from USGS, FEMA, USFWS, and USDA and performing a visual inspection of the project area. The review concluded that no inventoried wetlands were in the project area. There will be no impacts to wetlands. **Our review for compliance under Part 1090 is terminated.**

## **Review for Endangered Species Act - Section 7**

The proposed improvement was reviewed in fulfillment of our obligation under Section 7(a)(2) of the Endangered Species Act. Our review included use of the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) web-based review tool. Through IPaC, an official species list was received and is saved to the project folder. The list contains the endangered, threatened, proposed and candidate species and proposed and designated critical habitat that may be present within or in the vicinity of the proposed improvement. The following species are listed in Cook County: Tricolored bat, Rufa red knot, Whooping crane (experimental population, non-essential), Eastern massasauga, Hine's emerald dragonfly, Eastern prairie fringed orchid (EPFO), and Leafy prairie-clover. There is no Critical Habitat in the project vicinity. **Under 50 CFR 402.12(e), the accuracy of the species list is limited to 90 days.**

### **Bats**

There will be 20 trees removed as a result of this project. Land cover in the project area is urban. There are no records of maternity roost trees, maternity colonies, or hibernacula in the vicinity of the project corridor.

At this time, the Tricolored bat is proposed for listing as federally endangered. The species' habitat requirements are similar to NLEB and lbat. They often roost in trees during the summer active season and hibernate in caves or mines during the wintertime period. Therefore, this office has determined that the project will have **no effect** on the Tricolored bat. Once the USFWS issues their final ruling on whether or not to list the Tricolored bat as federally endangered, there may be additional consultation needed for those projects that have not been completed by the effective date.

### **Eastern prairie fringed orchid**

Eastern prairie fringed orchid occurs in a wide variety of habitats, from mesic prairie to wetland communities such as sedge meadows, marsh edges and even bogs. It requires full sunlight for optimum growth and flowering, which restricts it to grass- and sedge-dominated plant communities. The substrate of the sites where it occurs ranges from neutral to mildly calcareous. Occasionally the orchid colonizes successional habitats or recolonizes previously occupied areas.

We evaluated the limits of the proposed improvement for the presence of potentially suitable EPFO habitat. Our evaluation included the use of EPFO guidance from the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Ecological Services Field Office. There are no impacted prairies or high-quality wetlands in the project corridor. We determined there would be **no effect** to EPFO from the proposed improvement.

### **Other Federally Listed Species**

We cross-referenced the preferred habitat of each of the remaining listed species with our knowledge of the project area and determined that there are no suitable habitats present. We have determined that the proposed improvement will have **no effect** on any of the remaining listed species.

**We have determined that the proposed improvement is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered species or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of any critical habitat.**

Should the proposed improvement be modified, or new information indicate listed or proposed species may be affected, consultation or additional coordination should be initiated.

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