

Appendix F. Section 4(f) Coordination

Northshore Drive Realignment

Dakota Valley Schools

Section 4(f) Coordination Materials

From: Chad Huwe

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 1:37 PM

To: Tonia Warzecha (Tonia.Warzecha@k12.sd.us) <Tonia.Warzecha@k12.sd.us>

Cc: Huizenga, Paula <Paula.Huizenga@state.sd.us>

Subject: Northshore Bypass Project - 4(f) Properties

Dr. Warzecha:

I hope the new year is treating you well. I want to update you on the Northshore Drive Bypass project. We are in the process of drafting the Environmental Assessment document and anticipate it being out for public review in the next few months.

This project will create a new roadway on a new alignment north of the Dakota Valley School campus (please see attachment). Alternative 1 would require right-of-way acquisition (ROW) from the school district property adjacent to the baseball field and soccer fields in the northeast portion of the property; the football practice field in the northwest portion of the property; and the school playground in the southwest portion of the property. Alternative 2 would require right-of-way acquisition (ROW) from the school district property adjacent to the school playground in the southwest portion of the property.

Although ROW is needed from the school district property, no acquisition will be needed from any of the recreational resources (e.g., sports fields, playgrounds, etc.), and none of these resources would be directly impacted by any project activities. Furthermore, access to and use of these recreational resources would not be restricted during construction or upon project completion.

Due to the use of federal funds, the proposed transportation project is subject to the requirements of Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966, which affords protection to publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the City of North Sioux City, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT), is required to comply with Section 4(f) and the FHWA is required to give special consideration to any properties identified as meeting the definition of a Section 4(f) property (please see attachment).

The ROW acquisition is considered a 'use' of the Section 4(f) properties; however, the following measures to minimize harm would be incorporated into the plans as plan notes and as environmental commitments in the environmental document:

- Access to all Dakota Valley School recreational properties shall be maintained during construction activities.
- Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing 4(f) property and the public.
- The staging and/or storage of construction equipment or materials shall not take place outside proposed construction limits that are within the defined boundaries of the 4(f) property.

Per 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2), we are informing the Dakota Valley School District of our intent to make a **de minimis impact finding** for the Northshore Drive Bypass Project. As the Superintendent, you are the official with jurisdiction (OWJ) over these Section 4(f) resources. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the de minimis finding at an upcoming public meeting for the Northshore Drive Bypass Project. Following the public review comment period and after consideration of any comments received from the public, the OWJ would then concur in writing that the project will not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that make the school's property eligible for Section 4(f) protection.

In the future, you will be receiving a letter requesting concurrence with the above-mentioned measures to minimize harm and the assessment of impacts regarding the proposed project. This concurrence is required to complete the project's environmental documentation.

Thank you for your time and cooperation on this matter. If you have questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me. This documentation is necessary to complete the NEPA review process for this project.

Chad Huwe, PE

Project Manager

Stockwell Engineers, Inc.

Cell / 605-941-1139

Office / 605-338-6668

chuwe@stockwellengineers.com

801 Phillips Ave., Suite 100 / Sioux Falls, SD



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From: Warzecha, Tonia <Tonia.Warzecha@k12.sd.us>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 11:19 AM
To: Chad Huwe <chuwe@stockwellengineers.com>
Cc: Warzecha, Tonia <Tonia.Warzecha@k12.sd.us>
Subject: RE: Northshore Drive Pass Project - Section 4(f)

Good morning,

I am the responsible person/contact for Dakota Valley School District for the Northshore Bypass Project, which is adjacent to the recreation fields owned by Dakota Valley School District. Please let me know if you need anything or have any questions.

Best wishes,
Dr. Warzecha



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From: Chad Huwe <chuwe@stockwellengineers.com>
Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 1:47 PM
To: Warzecha, Tonia <Tonia.Warzecha@k12.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Northshore Drive Pass Project - Section 4(f)

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Tonia,

The Northshore Bypass project is funded by a grant earmarked as part of the 2022 Federal Omnibus bill. Projects that receive federal funds must meet the requirements of Section 4(f), which established the requirements for consideration of park and recreational lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites in the development of transportation projects.

Section 4(f) properties include publicly owned public parks, recreation areas, and wildlife or waterfowl refuges, or any publicly or privately owned historic site listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Before approving a project that uses Section 4(f) property, the

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) must either (1) determine that the impacts are *de minimis*, or (2) undertake a Section 4(f) Evaluation. Please see the attached document for additional information regarding Section 4(f).

I am reaching out to you because the project may impact Section 4(f) properties (the recreation fields owned by the Dakota Valley School District). We are requesting contact information for the individual with jurisdiction over this parcel and the recreational fields. I have attached an e-mail that the City sent us. I need something similar from the school district. It is just verification for the Federal Highway Administration that you are aware of the project. Thank you.

Chad Huwe, PE

Project Manager

Stockwell Engineers, Inc.

Cell / 605-941-1139

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chuwe@stockwellengineers.com

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Northshore Drive Realignment

McCook Lake / North Sioux City Trail

Section 4(f) Coordination Materials

From: Chad Huwe

Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 3:15 PM

To: Jeff Dooley <jeff.dooley@northsiouxcity-sd.gov>

Cc: Huizenga, Paula <Paula.Huizenga@state.sd.us>

Subject: Northshore Bypass Project - 4(f) Properties

Jeff,

I want to update you on the Northshore Drive Bypass project. We are in the process of drafting the Environmental Assessment document and anticipate it being out for public review in the next few months.

This project will create a new roadway on a new alignment north of the Dakota Valley School campus (please see attachment). The project will reconstruct the intersection near Streeter Drive on the east and Westshore Drive on the west, impacting the McCook Lake/North Sioux City Trail. The proposed project includes a new sidewalk and bike lanes that will connect to the existing McCook Lake/North Sioux City Trail. The trail connection will remain in place upon completion of the project.

Due to the use of federal funds, the proposed transportation project is subject to the requirements of Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation (DOT) Act of 1966, which affords protection to publicly owned parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges. As part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review process, the City of North Sioux City, in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT), is required to comply with Section 4(f) and the FHWA is required to give special consideration to any properties identified as meeting the definition of a Section 4(f) property (please see attachment).

Based upon the proposed improvements and to maintain trail access during construction, marked detours, temporary trail connections, and/or phasing will be used to maintain pedestrian access to the McCook Lake/North Sioux City Trail during construction. This construction activity is a 'use' of a Section 4(f) property. Although the location of trail segments near the intersections will be permanently altered due to the new configuration of the intersections, the McCook Lake/North Sioux City Trail will maintain the same trail connections upon completion of the project. New sidewalks and bike lanes will be a benefit to the resource by expanding the existing pedestrian/bicyclist network within the City.

The following measures to minimize harm will be incorporated into the plans as plan notes and as environmental commitments in the environmental document:

- Access to the McCook Lake/North Sioux City Trail shall be maintained during construction activities via construction of temporary trail connections and phasing and/or an approved detour. The proposed detour for the pedestrian crossing at the intersection of Northshore Drive with Westshore Drive will use existing sidewalks along Suncoast Drive and Izaak Walton Drive (see Figure 3 in the attachments).

- Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing 4(f) property and the public.
- The staging and/or storage of construction equipment or materials shall not take place outside proposed construction limits that are within the defined boundaries of the 4(f) property.

Per 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2), we are informing the City of North Sioux City of our intent to make a **de minimis impact finding** for the Northshore Drive Bypass Project. As the City Administrator, you are the official with jurisdiction (OWJ) over these Section 4(f) resources. The public will have an opportunity to comment on the de minimis finding at an upcoming public meeting for the Northshore Drive Bypass Project. Following the public review comment period and after consideration of any comments received from the public, the OWJ must then concur in writing that the project will not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that make property eligible for Section 4(f) protection.

In the future, you will be receiving a letter requesting concurrence with the above-mentioned measures to minimize harm and the assessment of impacts regarding the proposed project. This concurrence is required to complete the project's environmental documentation.

Thank you for your time and cooperation on this matter. If you have questions and/or concerns, please feel free to contact me. This documentation is necessary to complete the NEPA review process for this project.

Chad Huwe, PE

Project Manager

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From: Amy Lilly <Amy.Lilly@northsiouxcity-sd.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 6:09 PM
To: Jon Brown <JBrown@stockwellengineers.com>
Subject: Recreation Use Property - Trail

Jon,

With Eric being gone, I will be the responsible person/contact if another EA is needed with regard to the City's recreational use property trail adjacent to the Northshore Bypass project. Please let me know if you need something more on this.

Thank you!

Amy Lilly
City of North Sioux City
Finance Officer
605-232-4276