



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Illinois Division

June 9, 2020

3250 Executive Park Dr.
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 492-4640
www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv

In Reply Refer To:
HPER-IL

Eleanor Esser Gorski
First Deputy Commissioner
City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development
121 North LaSalle Street, 10th Floor, Suite 1000
Chicago, IL 60602

SUBJECT: Section 106 Consulting Party Comments Regarding Location and Design
Obama Presidential Center

Dear Ms. Gorski:

I am writing to request the City of Chicago provide a response to suggestions we received from Section 106 consulting parties asking either (1) the Obama Presidential Center (OPC) be relocated outside of Jackson Park or (2) that the design of the OPC be modified to further minimize effects to historic properties.

These suggestions have previously been submitted to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), and after considering them, we concluded the FHWA cannot require these changes because it is not within our scope of Federal authority to do so. However, we believe it would be beneficial to the Section 106 consultation process for the City to respond to these suggestions and to explain its position regarding alterations to the location of the OPC site and any design flexibilities that exist. We request you provide a written response to these issues so we may share it with consulting parties.

Please contact Matt Fuller (Matt.Fuller@dot.gov) if you need further information.

Sincerely,

Arlene K. Kocher
Division Administrator