PUBLIC NOTICE
APPLICATION FOR PERMIT

U.S. ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CHICAGO DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE/APPLICATION NUMBER: LRC-2014-00902

COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS: March 13, 2015
COMMENT PERIOD EXPIRES: April 13, 2015

PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

APPLICANT
John Fortmann
Illinois Department of Transportation
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

PROPOSED ACTION
Proposal to reconstruct and widen Weber Road from south of Normantown Road to south of 135th Street/Romeo Road. A detailed description of this proposal is provided on page 2 of this notice.

LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTION
Romeoville, Will County, Illinois.

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein and as shown on the attached drawings. You are invited to provide your comments by April 13, 2015 on the proposed work, which will become part of the record and will be considered in the decision. A permit will be issued or denied under Section 404 Action of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Written comments shall be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Chicago District, Regulatory Branch
Attn: LRC-2014-00902, Mr. Soren Hall
231 South LaSalle Street, Suite 1500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1437
It should be noted that ALL comments received by this office (via hard copy or electronic) will only be accepted with the full name and address of the individual commenting, and must be received by the close of the public notice period. Electronic comments may be sent to the project manager at Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The project consists of the reconstruction and widening of Weber Road from Normantown Road to 135th Street/Romeo Road (IDOT Contract 60X11). Improvements to the interchange at Weber Road and Interstate 55 immediately north of this project are also planned, but these improvements are being completed under a separate contract (IDOT Contract 60X10). To date, no permit application has been submitted for Contract 60X10.

Under proposed Contract 60X11, the roadway would be expanded from two lanes to three lanes in each direction with a 30’ landscaped barrier median in most areas. The barrier median would be reduced to 6 feet at Lily Cache Slough to minimize wetland impacts. The intersection at North Carillon /Grand would be reconstructed but not widened. The intersection at 135th/Romeo will be reconstructed and widened.

Other proposed work includes dual left turn lanes for southbound Weber Road at both intersections, traffic signal modernization and lighting, a detention basin, an eight foot wide shared use path along the west side of Weber Road and a five foot wide sidewalk along the east side of Weber Road, both for the entire length of the project. Two noise walls are proposed along the west side of Weber Road, one south of 135th Street and one north of North Carillon Drive.

A total of 1.42 acres of fill in Wetland 1 is proposed for the widening of Weber Road in the northern end of the contract (additional impacts to this wetland are anticipated under Contract 60X10). The proposed fill is the result of widening the road from two to three lanes in each direction, raising the road to meet minimum freeboard requirements, the 6-foot barrier median, the 8-foot wide bike path and the 5-foot wide sidewalk. The side slope was steepened to 1:3 to reduce impacts.

The proposed mitigation ratio is 3:1, resulting in 4.26 acres of required mitigation. The applicant proposes to fulfill the mitigation requirement at an approved mitigation bank.

Native vegetated wetland buffers are proposed around the regulated wetlands. Native vegetated swales with permanent ditch checks are proposed to treat road runoff. However, as currently proposed in the drainage plans, most water is conveyed through the enclosed stormsewer system with only limited treatment in the vegetated ditches immediately prior to entering wetlands. Also, as shown in the plans, the proposed detention basin does not accept road runoff from within the project limits.

MITIGATION
If a permit is issued for the proposed project, the Corps will determine what is appropriate and practicable compensatory mitigation in accordance with 33 CFR Part 332. The amount of
compensatory mitigation to be determined shall be commensurate with the anticipated impacts of the project.

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY**
This proposed action will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972.

**JURISDICTION**
This application will be reviewed according to the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 due to placement of fill in waters of the US, including wetlands.

**EVALUATION FACTORS**
The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments.

All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. In addition, if the proposed activity involves the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, the evaluation of the impact on the public interest will include application of Section 404(b)(1) guidelines (40 CFR 230) promulgated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The Corps of Engineers is also soliciting comments from the public, Federal, state and local agencies, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed activity. Once this office completes a review of the comments received, it will be determined whether to issue, modify, condition, or deny a permit for this proposal.

To prepare this decision, comments are taken into consideration to assess impacts on the public interest factors listed above, as well as endangered species, historic properties, water quality, and general environmental effects. Comments will be used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. A determination concerning the need for a public hearing will also be based on the comments received.

**PRELIMINARY EVALUATION OF SELECTED FACTORS**

**WATER QUALITY:**
The applicant has applied to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for water quality certification, or waiver thereof, for the proposed activity in accordance with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Certification or waiver indicates that the IEPA believes the activity will
not violate applicable water quality standards. The review by the IEPA is conducted in accordance with the Illinois water quality standards under 35 Illinois Administrative Code Subtitle C by providing an antidegradation assessment, which includes an evaluation of alternatives to any proposed increase in pollutant loading that may result from this activity.

The "Fact Sheet" containing the antidegradation assessment for this proposed project may be found on the IEPA's web site, at www.epa.state.il.us/public-notices/. In the event that the IEPA is unable to publish the "Fact Sheet" corresponding to the timeframe of this Joint Public Notice, a separate public notice and "Fact Sheet" will be published by the IEPA at the web site identified above. You may also obtain a copy of the "Fact Sheet" by contacting the IEPA at the address or telephone number shown below.

Written comments concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to the following agency, along with a copy of the comments provided to the Corps of Engineers:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Watershed Management Section
1021 N. Grand Avenue East
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois  62794-9276

If you have any questions please contact the IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES:
The applicant has applied to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR-OWR) for a permit pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5). Comments concerning the IDNR-OWR permit should be addressed to the following agency, along with a copy of the comments provided to the Corps of Engineers:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Office of Water Resources
2050 West Stearns Road
Bartlett, Illinois  60103

If you have any questions please contact the IDNR at (847) 608-3100 extension 2025.

ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES:
The Corps of Engineers has not made a determination if the project will affect Federally-listed endangered/threatened species or designated critical habitat. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.) has been initiated.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES/CULTURAL RESOURCES:
Preliminary review indicates that the proposed activity is not likely to adversely affect any historic property which is listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic
Places. A clearance letter from the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency dated December 6, 2011 was provided with the application.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
A preliminary determination has been made that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed work.

PUBLIC HEARING
Any person may request in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearing shall state with particularity the reasons for holding a public hearing. A request for a hearing may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise no valid interest to be served.

It should be noted that materials submitted as part of the permit application become part of the public record and are thus available to the general public under the procedures of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). Individuals may submit a written request to obtain materials under FOIA or make an appointment to view the project file at the Chicago District Corps of Engineers Office of Counsel.

Interested parties wishing to comment on the proposed activity must do so in writing no later than April 13, 2015. It is presumed that all parties receiving this notice will wish to respond to this public notice; therefore, a lack of response will be interpreted as meaning that there is no objection to the project as described.

This public notice is not a paid advertisement and is for public information only. Issuance of this notice does not imply Corps of Engineers endorsement of the project as described.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Soren Hall of my staff by telephone at 312-846-5532, or email at Soren.G.Hall@usace.army.mil. **It should be noted that ALL comments received by this office (via hard copy or electronic) will only be accepted with the full name and address of the individual commenting.** You can also visit our website at [http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx](http://www.lrc.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx) for more information on our program.

FOR THE DISTRICT COMMANDER:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Kathleen G. Chernich
Chief, East Section
Regulatory Branch
FAI 55 (WEBER ROAD/CH 88)
FROM NORMANTOWN ROAD TO 135TH STREET/ROMEO ROAD
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Section 404 Permit Authorization