



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT

Sunnyside Avenue Reconstruction and Bridge Replacement – Edmonston Road (Route 201) and CSX Railroad Crossing
10300 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, Maryland

SUBMITTED BY

United States Department of Agriculture,
Agricultural Research Service

NCPC FILE NUMBER

7645

NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER

3212.10(40.00)44106

ACTION TAKEN

Approve as requested

REVIEW AUTHORITY

Approval
per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), on behalf of Prince George’s County and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has submitted preliminary and final site development plans to reconstruct Sunnyside Avenue between its intersection with Edmonston Road (Route 201) and a CSX railroad track crossing. The project includes complete replacement of the Sunnyside Road bridge (Bridge P-0189) over Indian Creek and construction of two new stormwater management areas. The project is located on the campus of the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). The project will upgrade a two-lane segment of Sunnyside Avenue and its substandard bridge (constructed in 1946) crossing of Indian Creek to modern roadway/bridge design, stormwater management, and flood protection standards. The new roadway will accommodate two 12-foot lanes, two 5’-10” wide sidewalks, and two 15-foot shoulders along each side. The bridge, which currently measures 33-feet in length, will be heightened by approximately eight feet and lengthened to 385-feet to accommodate 25-year storm events.

The project will require removal of 1.92 acres of trees and increase impervious area by approximately 35,000 feet (0.8 acres). Tree removal will be mitigated by planting 1.92 acres of new trees in an official afforestation area near the site, which was decided in coordination with the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission – Prince George’s County. The project will increase impervious area. However, two new stormwater management areas will increase rainwater infiltration and reduce runoff, thereby improving water quality in Indian Creek. The project complies with State and federal stormwater management standards under the Energy and Independence Act (EISA), Section 438, and the new roadway/bridge design will improve driver, pedestrian, and bicycle safety.

With project funding through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), FHWA has determined that the project qualifies for the following three Programmatic Categorical Exclusions: (#22) “modernizations of a highway...”, (#23) “highway safety or traffic operations improvements...”, and (#24) “bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement...” The submission states that “the project is consistent with the Programmatic Agreement regarding the processing of certain Categorical Exclusions since no significant environmental impacts are expected to occur as a result of this project.” The Categorical Exclusion documentation further

states that the project fulfills the requirements of both NEPA and the Maryland Environmental Policy Act and as such, that no further environmental documentation is required. As this project is located outside of the District of Columbia, NCPC does not have an environmental review responsibility under NEPA.

The Applicant has satisfied its Section 106 responsibility for the project by transmitting project plans to the Maryland Historic Trust for review, which issued a finding that the project will not have an adverse effect on historic properties. As this project is located outside of the District of Columbia, NCPC does not have a Section 106 responsibility under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans and perpetual/construction easements for the Sunnyside Avenue roadway improvement and bridge replacement (Prince George's County Bridge P-0189) project, between Edmonston Road (Route 201) and CSX Railroad crossing, located on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Campus, in Prince George's County, Maryland.

// Original Signed //

December 29, 2016

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

Date