



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

REGION V  
Illinois, Indiana,  
Michigan, Minnesota,  
Ohio, Wisconsin

200 West Adams Street  
Suite 320  
Chicago, IL 60606-5253  
312-353-2789  
312-886-0351 (fax)

December 20, 2022

Charlotte O'Donnell Obodzinski, AICP  
Pace Suburban Bus  
550 W Algonquin Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

**RE: Environmental Review Approval for Pace/CTA's South Halsted Bus Corridor Enhancement Project, Chicago, IL**

Dear Ms. Obodzinski:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has evaluated environmental review documents submitted by Pace Suburban Bus (Pace) and the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) for the proposed South Halsted Bus Corridor Enhancement project (the "Project") in Chicago, Illinois. FTA finds that the proposed Project meets the criteria for a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusion in accordance with 23 CFR § 771.118(c)(9) *Assembly or construction of facilities that is consistent with existing land use and zoning requirements (including floodplain regulations) and uses primarily land disturbed for transportation use, such as: Buildings and associated structures; bus transfer stations or intermodal centers; busways and streetcar lines or other transit investments within areas of the right-of-way occupied by the physical footprint of the existing facility or otherwise maintained or used for transportation operations; and parking facilities.*

The proposed joint Project by Pace and CTA (the grantees) is to provide faster and higher-quality transit service to South Halsted Street corridor. The environmental records reviewed by FTA consisted of a Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) checklist dated December 5, 2022, and additional supporting information. On March 13, 2020, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the FTA provided the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) with the Area of Potential Effects (APE) determination and received concurrence from IHPA on May 8, 2020. On August 1, 2022, FTA provided IHPA with the following determinations: historic districts and properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) within the Project APE; and a finding of no adverse effect. The IHPA provided its concurrence in correspondence on August 24, 2022.

This NEPA determination applies only to the proposed Project as described in the DCE checklist and supporting materials. Any changes to the proposed Project that could result in significant environmental impacts not outlined in the DCE checklist, including the disclosure of new

information or previously unidentified environmental concerns, will require a re-evaluation of this proposed Project under NEPA.

This confirmation of a categorical exclusion does not provide FTA commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for this proposed Project. Any costs incurred under FTA pre-award authority must meet all Federal requirements prior to those costs being incurred in order to retain eligibility of those costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have further questions regarding this determination, please contact Mark Kane at 312-353-1552 or [mark.kane@dot.gov](mailto:mark.kane@dot.gov).

Sincerely,

Jay M. Ciavarella  
Director, Office of Planning & Program Development

cc: Mark Kane, FTA  
Jocelyn Hoffman, FTA  
Emily Drexler, CTA