April 21, 2011 CTS-GEC-HPP-LTR0314

Consulting Party Addressee

RE: Louisville – Southern Indiana
Ohio River Bridges Project (Project)

Dear _____:

In September 2003, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was prepared by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to mitigate the adverse effects of the referenced Project on historic properties in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). During this process, your organization participated as a consulting party in the identification of resources, assessment of effects and development of the mitigation in the MOA. Since execution of the MOA, the FHWA, Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) have worked to satisfy various stipulations of the MOA.

The original Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the project was prepared between 1998 and 2003, and resulted in the issuance of a Final EIS on April 8, 2003 and a Record of Decision (ROD) on September 6, 2003. The project sponsors now propose to evaluate the environmental impacts of revising several elements of the Selected Alternative. A Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) was published in the *Federal Register* on February 15, 2011 by the FHWA. The SEIS will discuss the social, economic and environmental impacts associated with changes in the project area since the publication of the ROD in September 2003 and proposed modifications to the selected alternative (modified selected alternative). Additionally, federal-aid highway funds would be requested for the construction of the highway, bridges and approaches as toll facilities.

In association with preparation of the SEIS, we are reinitiating the Section 106 process for the project at this time. In our continuing effort to effectively incorporate consulting parties into the process in accordance with 36 CFR 800.2(c), you are hereby invited to join the Section 106 consultation as a consulting party. This process would involve efforts to identify any additional historic properties potentially affected by the undertaking and any modifications to existing historical propoerties, assess effects and seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate any additional adverse effects on historic properties. While FHWA, INDOT and KYTC are not proposing at this time to reopen the entire MOA for revision, the MOA may be amended to accommodate those changes that may occur due to the modified alternative or other changed circumstances resulting from the passage of time.

As the FHWA, INDOT and KYTC have worked to satisfy the stipulations of the MOA, some historic properties have undergone change or have been reevaluated. The Section 106

consultation will evaluate the area of potential effects to identify any additions or changes to the historic properties in this area. Consulting parties will be given an opportunity to submit information and provide comments on this assessment as part of the Section 106 consultation process.

If you want to participate in the Section 106 consultation process, please fill out the attached tri-fold mailer indicating your acceptance of being a consulting party. If you are aware of any historic properties beyond those already reviewed in the original EIS within the original area of potential effect that should be considered, please identify them in your reply.

An initial meeting of the Section 106 Consulting Parties will be held at 9:00 AM on June 1, 2011 in the Community Room at McCauley – Nicolas Center, 702 North Shore Drive in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

We hope that you will join the process as consulting party. If you have any questions, or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact this office. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Very truly yours,

Janice Osadczuk
Federal Highway Administration
Engineering Services Team Leader