U.S. Department
of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Indiana Division

575 North Pennsylvania Street, Room 254
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

In Reply Refer To:
HDA-IN

July 21, 2011

Dr. James Glass, Deputy SHPO
Indiana State Historic Preservation Office
Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street, W 274
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2748
ATTN: Mr. John Carr and Dr. Rick Jones

RE: Area of Potential Effect Consultation
Louisville-Southern Indiana
Ohio River Bridges Project

Dear Dr. Glass:

The Federal Highway Administration, in cooperation with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet and the Indiana Department of Transportation, is examining the potential for changes to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the Ohio River Bridges Project (Project) resulting from proposed revisions to several elements of the Selected Alternative identified in the September 6, 2003 Record of Decision (ROD). Those changes will be evaluated in a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) being prepared for the Project later this year.

In order to ensure that we account for all potential effects of the modified Project on historic resources, the Project team has been reconsidering the extent of the APE as it was defined in 2003. As discussed during the July 14, 2011 webinar, the Project team developed a draft methodology to identify geographic areas which could experience different effects than those identified in the 2003 Final EIS (FEIS) because of proposed design changes or the introduction of tolling on the Downtown (I-65) and East End Bridges. The Draft Methodology and APE provided via Wilbur Smith Associate's e-mail of July 12, 2011, and all additional information presented in our meeting on July 14, 2011, outlines our approach and recommended areas for expansion of the APE. We anticipate a meeting with Section 106 consulting parties in late August 2011 (1) to identify historic resources within the expanded APE; and, (2) to discuss Project effects on identified resources. Invitations will be extended to this meeting once of it has been finalized.

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We request that you provide comments on the methodology and proposed APE by no later than Friday, August 12, 2011. If you have any questions concerning the project or upcoming Section 106 coordination effort, please contact me at (317) 226-7486 or Janice.Osadczuk@dot.gov.

Very truly yours,

Janice Osadczuk
Engineering Services Team Leader
Federal Highway Administration