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# Public Notice

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**US ARMY CORPS  
OF ENGINEERS  
St. Louis District  
Gateway to Excellence**

**Reply To:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833**

**Public Notice for:  
MVS-2021-387**

**Public Notice Date:  
March 17, 2022**

**Expiration Date:  
April 6, 2022**

**Postmaster: Please Post Conspicuously Until:**

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**File Number: MVS-2021-387**

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States, as described below and shown on the attached maps. The purpose of the public notice is to inform you of a proposal for work in which you may be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting public interest. This public notice is being issued using information furnished by the applicant.

**APPLICANTS:** St. Clair County Transit District  
27 North Illinois Street,  
Belleville, Illinois 62220

Bi-State Development  
211 North Broadway, Suite 700  
St. Louis, MO 63102

**PROJECT NAME:** MetroLink Extension: Shiloh-Scott Station to MidAmerica St. Louis Airport

**LOCATION:** The MetroLink light rail transit (LRT) extension (hereinafter referred to as the Project) will begin at its current terminus at Shiloh-Scott Station (Latitude 38.539°, Longitude -89.879°) and continue north and east before terminating at the MidAmerica St. Louis Airport (Latitude 38.549°, Longitude -89.813°). The Project is depicted in the attached mapping exhibits (see Figure 1 – Overview Map).

**REGULATORY AUTHORITY:** Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1344)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** St. Clair County Transit District (SCCTD) and Bi-State Development propose to extend the existing MetroLink light rail transit (LRT) line in St. Clair County, IL from its current terminus at Shiloh-Scott Station (Scott Air Force Base) to the MidAmerica St. Louis Airport (Mascoutah, IL). The project will also include an adjacent public access road and a multi-use path as part of the regional MetroBikeLink system. Existing utilities within the Project area, including an electric transmission line and high-pressure gas line, will be relocated to the southern limits of the project through the Silver Creek floodplain. The proposed action is needed to support the growing MidAmerica St. Louis Airport and complement adjacent existing and planned land development. Between 2015 and 2019, the airport grew from a yearly total of 63,000 passengers to more than 300,000, and it is building a new 98,599-square foot terminal to be completed by 2023. In addition to increasing passenger totals pre-Covid-19, the airport is home to several aviation-related or aviation-dependent businesses, that would be served by the Project. The Project aligns with needs identified by the county and the airport as part of their planning work. MidAmerica St. Louis Airport's FAA-approved 2010 Airport Layout Plan shows the LRT extension to the proposed MidAmerica St. Louis Airport MetroLink station in its ultimate layout. As part of its transportation

summary analysis, St. Clair County’s 2011 Comprehensive Plan (link in Additional Information section below) also projects the completion of the extension from the Shiloh-Scott station to MidAmerica St. Louis Airport station to complete an airport-to-airport transit system. The MetroLink extension to MidAmerica St. Louis Airport was temporarily removed from regional planning documents due to funding constraints, notably in *Moving Transit Forward*, St. Louis’s 2010 long-range regional transit plan. However, the project was revived in 2019, when the Illinois legislature passed Rebuild Illinois. The plan devoted more than \$355 million to downstate transit agencies like SCCTD. Of this, \$96 million will support the proposed extension (link in Additional Information section below).

**This Public Notice has been issued for the review of the Standard Individual Permit associated with Crossing 6.** As summarized in Table 1 below, the Project will cross and/or impact 25 water features identified as waters of the United States (WOTUS), which include 11 streams, 13 wetlands, and 1 open waterbody. Due to the location and nature of the Project, the project cannot be implemented without impacting areas identified as WOTUS. As such, the Applicant(s) has attempted to avoid and minimize these impacts during the design phase of the Project by reducing the Project footprint to the minimum necessary to successfully construct the Project. All routing alternatives evaluated had to consist of the same beginning and end locations to tie into the existing Shiloh-Scott Station and MidAmerica St. Louis Airport.

**Table 1. Permit Type and Impact Summary (Estimates)**

Crossing #	Permit Type*	Impact Type	Feature Type	Permanent Conversion Impacts	Permanent Fill
Crossing 1	NWP/GP	Culvert Placement (x3)	Emergent Wetland	-	0.072 acre
Crossing 2	NWP/GP	Culvert Placement	Perennial Stream	-	0.111 acre (293 feet)
Crossing 3	NWP/GP	Culvert Placement	Perennial Stream	-	0.149 acre (381 feet)
Crossing 4	NWP/GP	Culvert Placement	Perennial Stream	-	0.205 acre (400 feet)
Crossing 5	NWP/GP	Fill/Culvert Placement	Emergent Wetland	-	0.350 acre
			Forested Wetland	-	0.175 acre
			Perennial Stream	-	0.209 acre (463 feet)
Crossing 6**	IP	Fill/Conversion/Culvert Placement	Emergent Wetland	-	5.871 acre
			Open Water	-	2.912 acre
			Forested Wetland	-	12.292 acre
			Forested Wetland	4.086 acre	-
			Perennial Stream	-	0.293 acre (576 feet)

\*Nationwide Permit (NWP) OR General Permit (GP), Standard Individual Permit (IP)

\*\*This public notice has been issued for the Standard Individual Permit review associated with Crossing 6

The applicant proposes to fulfill compensatory mitigation requirements to offset unavoidable adverse impacts to WOTUS through in-kind credit purchases from an approved mitigation bank and/or in-lieu fee program.

**WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION:** Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) requires that all discharges of dredged or fill material must be certified by the appropriate state agency as complying with applicable effluent limitations and water quality standards. This public notice serves as notification to the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) pursuant to section 401(a)(2) of the Clean Water Act for neighboring jurisdiction review and begins the 30-day clock for USEPA to notify affected states.

This public notice provides documentation 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 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. The water quality standards provide for the IEPA to review individual projects 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/](http://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 specifically concerning possible impacts to water quality should be addressed to: Illinois Environmental Protection Agency Bureau of Water Watershed Management Section 1021 N. Grand Avenue East P.O. Box 19276 Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276. A copy of all written comments should also be provided to the Corps of Engineers. If you have any questions, please contact the IEPA at (217) 782-3362.

**HISTORIC AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES:** The St. Louis District is currently consulting with the appropriate federally recognized Native American tribes (Tribes) pertaining to the region, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and the Applicant(s) concerning potential effects to historic properties, pursuant to its responsibilities under the National Historic Preservation Act. The St. Louis District will evaluate information provided by the SHPO, Tribes, Applicant, and the public in response to this public notice. Cultural resource surveys were completed along the designated route, between October and December 2021, to identify historic properties that may be affected by the proposed Project. The USACE is currently reviewing survey results providing information on known cultural resources and/or historic properties within and adjacent to the Project area and will determine the potential effects of the USACE permit action on those properties in consultation with the SHPO and consulting Tribes. The USACE will continue to coordinate with SHPO and Tribes as appropriate.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:** The Applicant has consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding federally-listed threatened and endangered species potentially occurring within the Project area. The Official Species List that was generated for the Project using the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system, included the following five (5) federally listed species: Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), Decurrent false aster (*Boltonia decurrens*), and the Illinois Cave Amphipod

(*Gammarus acherondytes*). The Corps is the lead Federal agency for Section 7 and is evaluating all information submitted by the applicant to inform our determination of effects to listed species. Habitat assessment reports, evaluations of listed species and anticipated impacts associated with the Project have been provided by the Applicant. The USACE is coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, taking measures to minimize potential effects of project construction on the species. In order to further complete our evaluation, written comments are solicited by this public notice from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, other interested agencies, and individuals.

**FLOODPLAIN:** This activity is being reviewed in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, which discourages direct or indirect support of floodplain development whenever there is a practicable alternative. Additionally, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Water Resources (IDNR/OWR) is a participant in the joint application process and requires that IDNR/OWR permits be obtained for construction within floodways; construction and other activities within public bodies of water; and construction, operation, and maintenance of dams pursuant to the State of Illinois Rivers, Lakes, and Streams Act (615 ILCS 5). Inquiries concerning IDNR/OWR jurisdiction and/or review of the activity should be directed to the OWR at [dnr.dwrn@illinois.gov](mailto:dnr.dwrn@illinois.gov) or 217/782-3863. Information on the IDNR/OWR Regulatory and other programs can be found at <http://dnr.state.il.us/owr>.

**SECTION 404 (b)(1) EVALUATION:** The impact of the activity on the public interest will be evaluated in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency guidelines pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. The applicant submitted an alternatives analysis in conjunction with the permit application.

**PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the described activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit that may reasonably be expected to accrue from the described activity must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the activity described, will be considered including the cumulative effects. Among factors considered are: conservation; economics; aesthetics; general environmental concerns; wetlands; historic properties; fish and wildlife values; flood hazards; flood plain values; land use; navigation; shoreline erosion and accretion; recreation; water supply and conservation; water quality; energy needs; safety; food and fiber production; mineral needs; consideration of property ownership; and in general the needs and welfare of the people.

**SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS:** The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**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 hearings shall state, in detail, the reason for the hearing, and must be based on issues that would warrant additional public review. A request may be denied if substantive reasons for holding a hearing are not provided or if there is otherwise

no valid interest to be served.

**LOCATION MAPS AND DRAWINGS:** See enclosed attachments. In addition, the project plans may be viewed by visiting the Public Notice section of our website at:

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/PublicNotices/OpenNotices.aspx>

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. Kamren Metzger, Regulatory Specialist, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, by phone at (314) 331-8574 or by e-mail to [Kamren.Metzger@usace.army.mil](mailto:Kamren.Metzger@usace.army.mil).

St. Clair County's 2011 Comprehensive Plan: <https://www.co.st-clair.il.us/webdocuments/departments/econdev/docs/StClairCountyComprehensivePlan.pdf>

SCCTD Press Release:

<https://scctd.org/il-infrastructure-bill-passes-with-funding-for-metrolink-expansion/>.

**CLOSE OF THE COMMENT PERIOD:** All comments pertaining to this public notice must reach this office on or before 6 April 2022. Comments on the described work should reference the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) File Number shown above and must reach this office no later than the above expiration date of the Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Comments should be mailed to the following address:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Regulatory Branch  
1222 Spruce Street  
St. Louis, Missouri 63103-2833  
ATTN: Kamren Metzger

Robert S. Gramke  
Chief, Regulatory Branch

Attachments

**NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS:**

It is requested that this notice be conspicuously and continually placed for 30 days from the date of this issuance of this notice.