

The logo for Baker, featuring the word "Baker" in white sans-serif font on a blue rectangular background.

April 15, 2014

Ms. Mary Conturo  
Executive Director, Sports & Exhibition Authority of  
Pittsburgh and Allegheny County  
171 10th Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

**Michael Baker Jr., Inc.**  
*A Unit of Michael Baker Corporation*

Airside Business Park  
100 Airside Drive  
Moon Township, PA 15108

(412) 269-6300  
FAX (412) 375-3994

Subject: Lower Hill Redevelopment Site Infrastructure  
New Interior Roadway/Sidewalk and Exterior Roadway/Sidewalk Improvements

Dear Ms. Conturo:

Michael Baker Jr., Inc. (Baker) has evaluated the Environmental Document prepared to date for the Lower Hill Redevelopment Infrastructure Project and has prepared this summary as to the status of the supporting environmental documents for the Sports & Exhibition Authority in pursuing a TIGER VI Discretionary Grant for proposed infrastructure improvements within the 28-acre site of the former Civic Arena including improvements to the roadways and sidewalks that ring the site.

Based on the Scoping Field View conducted on January 28, 2014 with the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) the proposed infrastructure improvement project is anticipated to be a Class II federal action requiring the preparation of a Level 1B Categorical Exclusion Evaluation (CEE), consistent with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500.1), Environmental Impact and Related Procedures (23 CFR 771.101), and Guidance Material for the Preparation of Environmental and Section 4(f) Documents (TA 6640.8A).

In support of the TIGER VI Grant application, the following assurance is provided that the CEE will be completed and approved by PennDOT no later than the June 2016 in anticipation of funding obligation deadline.

The CEE process requires the investigation and documentation of existing conditions, proposed impacts, and measures required to avoid or minimize project impacts. Environmental Evaluation subject areas include the consideration of project-related impacts (direct temporary and permanent impacts as well as secondary and cumulative impacts) to aquatic resources, terrestrial resources, wildlife resources, cultural resources, Section 4(f) resources, socioeconomic resources, and noise levels and air quality. The CEE approval process also requires providing the opportunity for public input on the project.

Based on the redevelopment nature of the project, its location within the urbanized downtown Pittsburgh, and the analysis conducted to date in the preparation of a CEE, and based on the Scoping Field View meeting, it is Baker's conclusion that the project will not result in impacts of potential significance or the need for measures to avoid or mitigate impacts. Based on this analysis, the CEE will require only qualitative levels of analysis for aquatic resources, terrestrial resources, wildlife resources, threatened and endangered species, historic structures, Section 4(f) resources, or air quality and noise levels. Additionally, the project is anticipated to be of a beneficial impact to the social and economic conditions of the city and region. A quantitative level of analysis has been completed for potential historic archaeological resources (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) anticipated at the site.

Baker's assessment of the environmental documents completed is as follows:

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**NEPA Assurance and Process Milestone Schedule**

1. Conduct Scoping Field View with PennDOT (meeting minutes attached with PennDOT Concurrence)
2. Draft Categorical Exclusion preparation (CEE entered into PennDOT's ECMS Expert System pending approval)
  - a. Prepare project description and plans (complete)
  - b. Prepare project need statement (complete)
  - c. Conduct qualitative analyses
    - i. Air Quality (complete)
    - ii. Noise Analysis (complete)
    - iii. Parkland / Section 4(f) Screening (complete)
    - iv. Environmental Justice Screening (complete)
    - v. Historic Above Ground Resources (complete)
    - vi. Threatened and Endangered Species (PNDI coordination completed)
    - vii. Aquatic Resource Analysis (complete)
    - viii. Terrestrial Resource Analysis (complete)
    - ix. Socioeconomic Analysis (complete)
    - x. Secondary and Cumulative Impact Analysis (complete)
  - d. Quantitative Archaeological Investigation - Archaeological investigations at the site, including the subsequent analyses and report, have been completed, satisfying both the Pennsylvania State History Code and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
    - i. Phase I Survey completed (complete)
    - ii. Phase II Survey
      1. Field work (complete)
      2. Report (complete)
      3. SHPO Review (complete )
      4. Section 106 (complete)
    - iii. SHPO Coordination for Interior and Exterior Roadway/Sidewalk Improvements
      1. Revise Area of Potential Effect to include exterior roadways/sidewalks (complete)
        - a. SHPO review and approval (complete)
      2. Determination of Effect of expanded Area of Potential Effect
        - a. Submit determination of archaeological "No Effect" for exterior roadways/sidewalks (complete)
      3. Section 106 Compliance (State Historic Preservation Office approval attached)
    - e. Prepare consistency determinations
      - i. Coastal Zone Management (no involvement)
      - ii. Wild and Scenic Rivers (no involvement)

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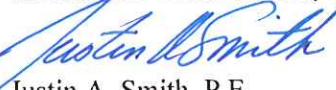
- iii. FEMA Floodplains (no involvement)
  - iv. Others (no involvement)
  - f. Identify required permits for to be acquired post-NEPA approval
    - i. Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan (being reviewed by the Allegheny County Conservation District)
    - ii. National Pollution Discharge Elimination Systems for on-site storm water control (being reviewed by the Allegheny County Conservation District)
    - iii. Water Quality Certificate (2) for sanitary sewers (submitted pending approval)
    - iv. Amendment for domestic water use (submitted pending approval)
  - g. Identify resources to be avoided or mitigation measures (none)
  - 3. Public Meeting
    - a. Public Involvement Program (Public Meeting Held March 26, 2014)
    - b. Advertise for public meeting (Advertised March 12<sup>th</sup> and March 19<sup>th</sup>)
    - c. Present the project to public and elected officials (Public Officials meeting and Public Meeting Held March 26, 2014)
    - d. Results are being documented for inclusion in CEE
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CEE review and approval (pending PennDOT review and approval)

If you have any questions, please call me at 412-269-6431.

Sincerely,

**MICHAEL BAKER JR., INC.**



Justin A. Smith, P.E.  
Project Manager

JAS:law