

SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION NOTICE OF PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

On Draft Section 4(f) De Minimis Evaluation

Arrowhead Parkway Phase III Project

Minnehaha County

Project No. NH 0042(80)371 - PCN 06YP

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) and City of Sioux Falls (City) have proposed capacity improvements along Arrowhead Parkway/South Dakota Highway 42 (SD 42) between the entrance of the Willow Run Golf Course and South Dakota Highway 11 (SD 11), ending approximately 1,000 feet east of the Big Sioux River (Project) and west of Highway 11. The Project will include widening, curb and gutter, sidewalk, storm sewer, lighting, signals, and widening of the Big Sioux River bridge. The Project is the last phase of improvements along Arrowhead Parkway/SD 42 between Veterans Parkway and SD 11.

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 U.S.C. 303) requires a special effort be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites. In accordance with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) implementing regulations found at 23 CFR Part 774, comments are being solicited on the effects this project would have on the abutting recreation areas and incorporated trails: Arrowhead Park, Perry Nature Area, Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum (the Arboretum) and the City Canoe Launch and Overlook.

FHWA intends to make a Section 4(f) de minimis impact finding regarding the effects of the proposed Arrowhead Parkway/SD 42 improvements adjacent to Arrowhead Park, the Arboretum, Perry Nature Area, Canoe Launch and Overlook in Minnehaha County, South Dakota. The de minimis use would include permanent incorporation of small portions of the Perry Nature Area, Arrowhead Park, the Arboretum and the Canoe Launch into new Arrowhead Parkway/SD 42 right-of-way.

Access will be maintained to all 4(f) properties during construction of Arrowhead Parkway/SD 42. Access to Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum and Perry Nature Area shall be maintained via Riverview Road/Park Service Road while construction activities take place at the park entrance at S Perry Place. Construction of Riverview Road/Park Service Road is anticipated be constructed first and take 30-45 days. When construction takes place at Riverview Road/Park Service Road, S Perry Place entrance will be the main access point. Signage will be placed to alert drivers of detours. Within the Arboretum, portions of Rail Bed River Trail will be closed temporarily during construction and signage will alert users at the circle roundabout. Within the Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum and Perry Nature Area, signage will be posted along Quarry Trail so users do not enter the construction area to the southwest. All disturbed areas will be reseeded after construction is complete.

While an intersection modification at E 26th Street is occurring, access will be provided to Arrowhead Park via a temporary gravel entrance located east of E 26th Street. The temporary access is anticipated to be needed for 30-60 days until the E 26th Street reconfiguration is complete. A portion of Stairstep Quarry Primitive Trail will be closed temporarily during construction to accommodate blasting on Arrowhead Parkway and will be closed for approximately 30 working days. Temporary fencing and appropriate signage will be installed to alert users of construction activities and any access restrictions along the trail. Closures and detours will also be posted on the City of Sioux Falls website. All disturbed areas will be reseeded after construction is complete.

The canoe/kayak launch area is located within the southeast corner of the Arboretum, adjacent to the Big Sioux River to the west and north of Arrowhead Parkway/SD 42. Since Arrowhead Parkway/SD 42 expansion intersects the launch and gravel parking lot, improvements at this location will include relocating the launch and parking lot further north to allow for a pedestrian trail under the Big Sioux River bridge. Minor grading will occur at the new launch and the parking lot will be redone.

The canoe/kayak launch area will be closed temporarily but less than the duration of the Project. The overlook, just north of the launch area, is connected to the parking lot via a dirt path and will be temporarily closed while the parking lot and launch are relocated. Appropriate signage will be installed along Arrowhead Parkway to alert users of the canoe launch construction activities, access restrictions or closures, and to direct users to secondary access points. Signage at the canoe/kayak launch access point and parking lot at Riverview Road/Park Service Road will alert users of construction. Closures and detours will also be posted on the City of Sioux Falls website. No work is anticipated at the overlook. This portion of the Big Sioux River will be periodically closed to recreational users while work is done on the bridge.

For all recreational areas, the staging and/or storage of construction equipment or materials shall not take place outside proposed construction limits that are within the defined boundaries of the 4(f) property. The Contractor shall be required to coordinate the construction schedule with SDDOT, City of Sioux Falls Parks Department and recreational properties as appropriate prior to the start of construction activities that include the park entrance areas. Temporary construction fencing will be installed along proposed construction limits prior to the start of construction activities to protect the existing 4(f) property and the public.

Recreation areas and trail safety and usability were examined in the planning phases as part of the proposed improvements of Arrowhead Parkway. All possible planning to minimize harm has been incorporated into project development to assure that there will be no adverse effects to the protected recreational activities, features, or attributes associated with Arrowhead Parkway, Mary Jo Wegner Arboretum, Perry Nature Area, the Canoe Launch and Overlook, and associated trails.

Additional information pertaining to the Project is available online at <https://www.siouxfalls.org/public-works/special-projects/arrowhead-pkwy>. Comments will be accepted by email at Emily.Calhoun@state.sd.us or by postal service at:

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Comments must be received by September 22, 2023.

For further information please contact Emily Calhoun at, SDDOT at 605-773-3436