



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

REGION V  
Illinois, Indiana,  
Michigan, Minnesota,  
Ohio, Wisconsin

200 West Adams Street  
Suite 320  
Chicago, IL 60606-5253  
312-353-2789  
312-886-0351 (fax)

December 4, 2023

Charlotte O'Donnell Obodzinski, AICP  
Pace Suburban Bus  
550 W Algonquin Road  
Arlington Heights, IL 60005

**RE: Environmental Review Approval for Pace Pulse 95<sup>th</sup> Street Line Project, Chicago, IL**

Dear Ms. Obodzinski:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has evaluated environmental review documents submitted by Pace Suburban Bus (Pace) for the proposed Pulse 95<sup>th</sup> Street Line project (the "Project") in Chicago, IL. FTA finds that the Project meets the criteria for a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) categorical exclusion in accordance with 23 CFR § 771.118 (c)(8) *Maintenance, rehabilitation, and reconstruction of facilities that occupy substantially the same geographic footprint and do not result in a change in functional use, such as: Improvements to bridges, tunnels, storage yards, buildings, stations, and terminals; construction of platform extensions, passing track, and retaining walls; and improvements to tracks and railbeds.*

The proposed Project by Pace is to provide faster, more frequent, and higher-quality bus service along the 95<sup>th</sup> Street corridor. The environmental records reviewed by FTA consisted of a Documented Categorical Exclusion (DCE) checklist dated November 2023, and additional supporting information. On August 23, 2022, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. Part 800 – Protection of Historic Properties and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the FTA provided the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA) with the Area of Potential Effects (APE) determination and received concurrence from IHPA on October 4, 2022. On February 22, 2023, FTA provided IHPA with the following determinations: historic districts and properties eligible for the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP) within the Project APE; and a finding of no adverse effect. The IHPA provided its concurrence in correspondence on May 15, 2023.

This NEPA determination applies only to the proposed project as described in the DCE checklist and supporting materials. Any changes to the proposed project which could result in significant environmental impacts not outlined in the DCE checklist, including the disclosure of new information or previously unidentified environmental concerns, will require a re-evaluation of this proposed project under NEPA.

This confirmation of a categorical exclusion does not provide FTA commitment that future Federal funds will be approved for this proposed project. Any costs incurred under FTA pre-award authority must meet all Federal requirements prior to those costs being incurred in order to retain eligibility of those costs for future FTA grant assistance.

If you have further questions regarding this determination, please contact Cecilia C. Godfrey at 312-705-1268 or [cecilia.godfrey@dot.gov](mailto:cecilia.godfrey@dot.gov) .

Sincerely,

Anthony W. Greep  
Director, Office of Planning & Program Development

cc: Cecilia C. Godfrey, FTA  
Jocelyn Hoffman, FTA  
John Carlisle, Pace