



Iowa Department of Transportation

Sept. 25, 2012

Final Notice of De Minimis Impacts to Section 4(f) Resources and Opportunity to Comment

*Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements project in Pottawattamie County –
Indian Creek and Lake Manawa trails*

The Iowa Department of Transportation proposes to construct several projects as part of the Council Bluffs Interstate System Improvements (CBIS) project in Pottawattamie County. These projects will affect the Indian Creek and Lake Manawa trails.

During construction of the I-29/80 bridges over Indian Creek, the Indian Creek Trail will be reconstructed and approximately 715 feet relocated east of its current location. A portion of the city-owned property, adjacent to the north side of the I-29 northbound bridge, on which the trail is currently located, will be permanently acquired by the Iowa Department of Transportation.

The bridge's construction will also require several temporary closures of the trail. These short-term closures are expected to take place during separate years. The first closure is expected to occur as early as 2013, lasting approximately three and one half months during construction of the I-29 northbound bridge and construction/relocation of the trail. The second closure is expected to last four months during construction of the I-80 westbound bridge and while work is performed on the I-80 eastbound bridge. The final closure is expected to last two and one half months during completion of work on the I-80 eastbound bridge and construction of the I-29 southbound bridge.

Lake Manawa Trail will be affected in two locations. The first is a section of the trail under the I-29 bridges and east of the Amoco Oil Company, which will be relocated from its existing alignment, at the base of the Mosquito Creek levee, to the top of the levee. The new alignment will be approximately 50 feet west of the trail's current location. A portion of the city-owned land, underlying the existing trail, will be permanently acquired by the Iowa DOT. The trail will be closed for approximately two weeks during construction to connect the new trail section to the existing trail.

The second section of the Lake Manawa Trail that will be affected is located south of the Amoco Oil Company. This section will be relocated west of its current alignment. The existing trail is located on Council Bluffs Energy Center's (CBEC) property and the city of Council Bluffs has easement. The proposal is to relocate the trail onto additional CBEC property and the city will have an easement. The new trail section will be fenced and include a reinforced concrete box culvert, installed where the trail will cross under the CBEC railroad tracks. This section of the trail will be closed for approximately one week during construction to connect the new trail section to the existing trail.

The Indian Creek and Lake Manawa trails have been determined to be Section 4(f) resources and the proposed reconstruction or relocation of these trails is expected to have “*de minimis*” impacts on them.

Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966, was enacted as a means of protecting publicly owned parks, recreation areas and wildlife/waterfowl refuges, as well as historic sites of local, state or national significance, from conversion to transportation uses. *De minimis* impacts are defined as those that, after consideration of any measure(s) to minimize harm (such as avoidance, minimization, mitigation or enhancement measures), do not adversely affect the activities, features and attributes of the Section 4(f) resource.