Public Notice

Pursuant to Title 17, Chapter 1, Section 1080 of the Illinois Administrative Code, notice is hereby given that Kane County Division of Transportation, of 41W011 Burlington Road St. Charles, IL 60175, has submitted a Conservation Plan to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to apply for authorization for the taking of the Iowa Darter (*Etheostoma exile*) incidental to the Harmony Road over Harmony Creek Culvert Replacement.

The project is located in Kane County, Illinois. The affected area is located at Harmony Road over Harmony Creek, which is approximately 3.25 miles north of the town of Hampshire. The project is 0.09 miles south of Stoxen Road and 0.41 miles north of Higgins Road along Harmony Road (See attached map).

The project consists of the removal of the existing 10'x5' box culvert and the construction of a new double 8'x6' cast-in-place, reinforced box culvert as well as roadway resurfacing, shoulder widening, and guardrail improvements. Harmony Road will be overlaid with a hot mix asphalt (HMA). Stone riprap will be placed at both ends of the structure for stabilization. Take of Iowa Darters may result during the project as a result of this work. The Iowa Darter is protected under the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act (520 ILCS 10) and is known to occur within the vicinity of the project.

In order to minimize and mitigate for the take of Iowa Darters incidental to the Harmony Road over Harmony Creek Culvert Replacement, Harmony Creek will be diverted around the work area to the north instead of blocking flow completely. This will allow work to be done in dry conditions and will maintain the flow of Harmony Creek during construction. In-stream work will be done outside of the spawning season (April 1 – May 31) and will be completed in 8-9 weeks to minimize impacts, weather permitting. The road will be closed during construction for increased safety and to accelerate the construction process. The limits of construction are the minimum necessary to complete the work. Construction practices will be in place to minimize soil erosion, which will reduce the amount of soil and sediment that enters Harmony Creek and will maintain water clarity. The effects of construction on the Iowa Darter will be mitigated through post-construction monitoring of Harmony Creek for the presence of Iowa Darters and the payment of a mitigation fee of \$5,200.00 to the IDNR Wildlife Preservation Fund.

A copy of the project Conservation Plan and Public Notice is available for inspection by the Public at the following location(s) and date(s):

- Kane County Division of Transportation (KDOT office) 41W011 Burlington Road St. Charles, IL 60175 Hours: Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM Dates: February 27, 2020 – April 20, 2020
- Kane County Division of Transportation Website: <u>http://www.co.kane.il.us/dot/</u> Dates: February 27, 2020 – April 20, 2020
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Incidental Take Authorization website, access at: <u>http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/conservation/NaturalHeritage/Pages/Incidental-Take-Authorizations.aspx</u> (Reference ITA#201) Dates: February 27, 2020 – April 20, 2020
- 4. Ella Johnson Memorial Public Library 109 South State Street Hampshire, IL 60140 See website for hours: <u>https://ellajohnsonlibrary.org/</u> Dates: February 27, 2020 – April 20, 2020

Comments pertaining to the Conservation Plan should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Resource Conservation, Incidental Take Authorization Coordinator, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702 OR may be emailed to <u>DNR.ITACoordinator@illinois.gov</u>

Closing: Public comments will be accepted through April 20, 2020.

