

4.9 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources include historical items, places, or events and archaeological resources considered important to a culture, community, tradition, religion, or science. Recorded information on cultural resources in the study area was collected and analyzed to determine the build alternatives' potential impact on such resources. Surveys will be conducted in Tier Two to identify cultural resources that may not be apparent with available data. See subsection 4.14.12, Cultural Resources, for a description of likely actions that would be taken in Tier Two to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to cultural resources, as well as coordination activities, to ensure compliance with Section 4(f) of the USDOT Act of 1966 and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

A review of recorded information on historic resources resulted in the finding that no known historic structures would be affected by the build alternatives. A photo log of all structures affected by the build alternatives that are at least 50 years old was submitted to the Illinois SHPO with a finding of No Architectural Resources Affected. The Illinois SHPO concurred with this finding on July 22, 2009. Examination of catalogued archaeological information on historic cemeteries, mound sites, archaeological sites, sites previously surveyed for their archaeological potential, and locations with a high probability for finding archaeological resources resulted in the finding that some archaeological resources are within the build alternatives' footprints. The build alternatives would affect known archaeological sites and sites previously surveyed for their archaeological potential, but they do not affect historic cemeteries or mound sites. The build alternatives traverse locations with a high probability for archaeological resources. Table 4-26 summarizes the impacts to recorded archaeological resources in the study area.

TABLE 4-26
Impacts to Recorded Archaeological Resources per
Build Alternative

	Alt. 203	Alt. 402
Previously studied archaeological sites potentially affected	20	13
Known archaeological sites potentially affected	6	6
Potential impacts to locations with high probability for archaeological resources	4	4

Alternatives 203 and 402 would affect 13 common archaeological sites that were previously studied. They are mostly along Thorndale Avenue/Elgin O'Hare Expressway, near O'Hare Airport and the proposed I-90 interchange with Elmhurst Road. Seven other previously studied archaeological sites are located within the footprint of Alternative 203, mostly along I-90 where additional improvements are proposed.

All six known archaeological sites are within the section common to Alternatives 203 and 402 along the Elgin O'Hare Expressway. Two sites are along the Elgin O'Hare Expressway. The other four are within the footprint along Thorndale Avenue, where it would be expanded as an extension of the Elgin O'Hare Expressway, and where interchanges would be built at Prospect Avenue and Wood Dale Road.

Alternatives 203 and 402 also have common crossings of locations where there is a high potential for archaeological resources. Those high probability zones generally coincide with bodies of water and are crossed by the proposed improvements, where the build alternatives traverse or are near rivers and tributaries.

Alternative 203 has a slightly greater likelihood of affecting potential archaeological sites. Although Alternatives 203 and 402 would both affect the same known archaeological sites, including locations with a high probability of finding archaeological resources, Alternative 203 traverses more of the previously studied archaeological sites.

The potential effect the south bypass connection options may have on known archaeological resources is limited to one previously studied archaeological site.