

The preliminary Section 4(f) approval would be subject to a re-evaluation if new or more detailed information becomes available in Tier Two. The final Section 4(f) approval may be made in the Tier Two Final EIS.

4.7 Non-Section 4(f) Special Lands and Section 6(f) and OSLAD Considerations

As mentioned in Section 4.6, the Elk Grove Detention Pond is noted as a special land, but does not qualify as a Section 4(f) property. The property would be impacted by the proposed improvements included in Alternative 203, but is avoided by Alternative 402. The mainline alignment of Alternative 203 (O'Hare West Bypass, north section) is located diagonally across much of the southeastern part of the detention pond, with part of the northwest corner of the pond remaining. The size of the potential impact is 2.0 acres.

Section 6(f) of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA) also provides protection to properties purchased with LWCFA funds. No properties affected by the proposed improvements were purchased with funds allocated by the LWCFA (Nation, 2009a; 2009b); therefore, no Section 6(f) involvement exists in this project.

Additional protection is provided for properties purchased with OSLAD Act funds, a program overseen by IDNR. A review of relevant data showed that one property purchased with OSLAD funds (Medinah Wetlands Forest Preserve) could be affected by the proposed improvements (Nation, 2009a, personal communication; Nation, 2009b, personal communication).

4.8 Noise

4.8.1 Traffic Noise Impact Analysis

As noted in subsection 2.10.1, noise modeling to determine existing and design-year dBA at noise sensitive receivers was not undertaken during Tier One but will be during Tier Two. Rather, residential areas that could approach, meet, or exceed the NAC were identified using available information on the property types along the corridor. Noise-sensitive non-residential noise receptors within 500 feet of the proposed improvements, such as churches, schools, or parks, were also identified (see Exhibits 4-1A through 4-1E, Exhibit 4-9, and Table 4-24).³¹ Of the 49 noise-sensitive residential areas and 30 noise-sensitive non-residential receptors identified in the study area, 43 noise-sensitive residential areas and 26 noise-sensitive non-residential receptors were identified along Alternative 203. Alternative 402 has relatively fewer noise-sensitive residential areas (39) and noise-sensitive non-residential receptors (24) adjacent to the proposed footprint. These areas include both single- and multi-family residences, churches, and parks. Roselle, Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, Medinah, Schaumburg, and Mount Prospect have the highest number of noise-sensitive residential areas for Alternatives 203 and 402. Schaumburg, Itasca, and Elk Grove Village have the greatest number of noise-sensitive non-residential receptors along both proposed corridors.

³¹ Other potential noise receptors near the proposed improvements include wildlife species (e.g., migratory birds). Refer to subsection 4.5.2.