



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

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SEP 16 2010

Mr. James Garrison
State Historic Preservation Office
1300 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Re: Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Extension
Project Evaluation of Potential Historic
Properties for Eligibility and Finding of Effect
Central Mesa Light Rail Transit Project
Archaeological Assessment

Dear Mr. Garrison:

This letter continues the Section 106 process for the proposed Central Mesa Light Rail Transit (LRT) Extension. In April of 2010, FTA submitted two documents: 1) the *Evaluation of Potential Historic Properties and Districts for National Register Eligibility and Potential Adverse Effect*; and 2) *An Archaeological Assessment for the Central Mesa LRT Extension* for your review and concurrence under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). We are now submitting for your review the following document: *Inventory and Evaluation of Potential Historic Properties and Districts, August 2010*.

The April 2010 historic properties evaluation document identified the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and 1 listed historic district; 1 listed building; 24 eligible buildings; and 10 eligible objects (signs). In addition, the document identified a finding of "adverse effect" to the Nader House and David Buck Auto, and a finding of "no adverse effect" to the Citrus Inn, all located west of Country Club Drive. Since April, Valley Metro Rail, Inc. (METRO) has refined the light rail alignment on Main Street avoiding impacts to these three properties resulting in a finding of "no effect". The alignment refinement has also resulted in a change of a finding from "no adverse effect" to "no effect" to an historic property within downtown Mesa (Duncan G. Graham Physician's Office); the Temple Historic District; and the LDS Temple. The attached document reflects these project refinements and changes to the findings. All other information regarding the APE, properties eligibility, and findings of "no adverse effect" remain the same as that reported in the April 2010 submittal.

In order to avoid adverse impacts to the eligible objects (signs) and eligible buildings the following treatment measures are proposed:

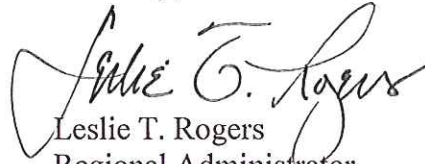
- The three eligible signs (Trava-Leer's Motel, Larada's Army Surplus, and Payless Car Sales) impacted would be relocated on the lot relative to the new right-of-way line. METRO will work with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the City of Mesa during final design to place the sign on the lot relative to the new right-of-way line where feasible. Feasibility will require consideration of other factors as well as whether the new location will obstruct views, compromise safety, or result in other major adverse impacts.
- Although the project would result in no adverse effect on Salsita's Mexican food and Mayday Janitorial Supply, METRO will work with SHPO and the City Historic Preservation Office during final design of the adjacent light rail station to develop and implement design strategies compatible with the surroundings of these two eligible properties. This treatment would be the same for both the build alternative 2-lane and 4-lane options.
- Impacts to Lamaze Childbirth Classes, American Chopper, Mickey's Downtown Barber, and Arizona Master Blind Corp from relocating the non-historic curb line back to its original location does not require treatment measures for these eligible properties.

The above referenced measures will ensure that the project will not adversely affect the eligible objects (signs) and/or buildings. As such, the proposed project will result in a finding of "no adverse effect" for above-ground historic properties.

In terms of archaeology, the refinement of the alignment on Main Street did not result in any changes to the assessment of archaeological sites; therefore, the *An Archaeological Assessment for the Central Mesa LRT Extension* report has not been revised from that submitted in April 2010 and is not being resubmitted. An archaeological survey was not possible within the APE as the project area is in a developed urban setting. A review of past archaeological studies in the area indicated that a few large Hohokam Village sites had been documented in the vicinity prior to development in Mesa and that the several prehistoric canals were observed crossing through the project area. The current condition and precise location of the canals are unknown. Based on the results of the records check, field survey, and Native American consultations, there is not sufficient direct evidence of known archaeological sites within the APE. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a finding of "no historic properties affected" for archaeological resources. However, should any unanticipated buried cultural resources be discovered during construction, including prehistoric canals, activities should cease immediately until a qualified archaeologist can be contacted to make an assessment for the proper treatment of those resources. While unlikely, if there are discoveries of archaeological materials, additional consultation with the SHPO will be required.

As a result, FTA is requesting your concurrence with the following: 1) Area of Potential Effects, 2) Historic Property Eligibility Evaluations, 3) Finding of “no adverse effects” to above-ground historic properties, and 4) finding of “no historic properties affected” for archaeological sites within 30 days of receipt of this letter. If we do not receive any correspondence within 30 days we will assume that your office is in concurrence with the findings. If you have questions, please contact Jerome Wiggins at (415)744-2819.

Sincerely,



Leslie T. Rogers
Regional Administrator

Attachments

Copy:

Robert Forrest, Environmental Planner, METRO

John Wesley, Mesa Historic Preservation Office, City of Mesa

John Wesley, City of Mesa
Historic Preservation Officer Recommendation

Date

David Jacobs, Compliance Specialist
SHPO Concurrence

Date