



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**  
Great Lakes Agency  
916 West Lakeshore Drive  
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Natural Resources

Date: May 1, 2018

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY**

**Education Access Road Project, located in Isabella County, Michigan, near the City Mt. Pleasant, in a portion of Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 3 West**

**Introduction:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Branch of Roads, Midwest Region, in conjunction with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, is proposing to utilize federal assistance to facilitate the road construction project identified above. A finding of no significant impact (FONSI) is available for public review and comment, in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**Brief Description of Proposed Federal Action/Undertaking:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Branch of Roads, Midwest Region, is proposing to provide federal financial assistance for a road construction project, identified as the Education Access Road Project, located in Isabella County, Michigan, near the City Mt. Pleasant, in a portion of Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 3 West, Chippewa Township. The proposed project would involve the construction of a new roadway and adjacent pathway running from Broadway to High Streets. The proposed project would also involve the crossing of a county drain that would require water conduits to maintain hydrology and an authorization from the Army Corps of Engineers or applicable permitting authority. The planned project would also include the approval of a new right-of-way by the BIA. Installation of "green" infrastructure such as rain gardens, bio-swales, and bio-filters are also envisioned for the proposed project. The planned roadway is in conjunction with the proposed construction of a Tribal School/Recreation Center for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, with funding for this part being provided by another federal Agency.

**Environmental Review:** Based on an environmental assessment, information provided to the BIA by project personnel, and overall NEPA review, no effects to historic properties, Federally-listed threatened and endangered species, water resources including wetlands, or any other federally regulated resources are anticipated. If any adverse impacts to, or inadvertent discoveries of, historic/cultural resources, Federally-listed species, and/or any other regulated resources are made, the project shall be suspended and the Tribe and the BIA promptly notified. Proposed project operations are expected to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, codes, ordinances, permits, permissions, authorizations, stipulations and best management practices. Authorizations and permits shall be obtained prior to commencing construction activities. If these conditions are met, the proposed project as described in the preferred alternative would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be required.

**Document Availability and Comments:** Interested parties can obtain copies the FONSI, Notice of Decision to proceed (NOD) and related NEPA documents from the above address in care of the Branch of Natural Resources. **Comments regarding the proposed project may also be presented within 15 days of the above date.** Contact Fred Vande Venter, Environmental Protection Specialist, BIA, Great Lakes Agency, at (715) 685-2379 with any questions, requests, or comments regarding this matter.



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**Finding of No Significant Impact**

**Education Access Road Project, located in Isabella County, Michigan, near the City Mt. Pleasant, in a portion of Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 3 West**

**Introduction:** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Branch of Roads, Midwest Region, in conjunction with the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, is proposing to utilize federal assistance to facilitate the road construction project identified above. A finding of no significant impact (FONSI) has been prepared and is available for public review and comment, in compliance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Based on an environmental assessment, information provided to the BIA by project personnel, and overall National Environmental Policy Act review, no effects to historic properties, Federally-listed threatened and endangered species, water resources including wetlands, or any other federally regulated resources are anticipated. If any adverse impacts to, or inadvertent discoveries of, historic/cultural resources, Federally-listed species, and/or any other regulated resources are made, the project shall be suspended and the Tribe and the BIA promptly notified. Project operations are expected to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, codes, ordinances, permits, permissions, authorizations, stipulations and best management practices. Authorizations and permits shall be obtained prior to commencing construction activities. Any mitigation measures must be undertaken, if identified. If these conditions are met, the proposed project as described in the preferred alternative would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement will not be required.

**This determination is supported by the following findings:**

1. This action would not have significant adverse effects on public health or safety, unique geographical features, wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands.
2. The action will not have highly controversial environmental effects or any highly uncertain environmental impacts or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.
3. This action will not establish a precedent for future actions and is not related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant environmental effects.
4. This action will not affect properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places or affect a species listed, or proposed to be listed, as endangered or threatened.
5. This finding is predicated on the project conforming to all applicable laws and regulations, permits and permissions, codes and standards, and best management practices.
6. This action will not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations and will not limit access to, or the ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.
7. This action will not contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area and will not promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species.
8. The proposed action would improve the economic and social conditions of the subject Indian Tribe, Tribal community, and/or individual Indians.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Superintendent, Great Lakes Agency



5/1/18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date





United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Great Lakes Agency  
916 West Lakeshore Drive  
Ashland, Wisconsin 54806

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Executive Direction

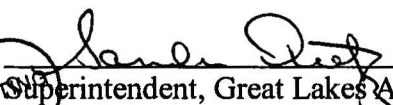
**Notice of Decision**

To proceed with the

**Education Access Road Project, located in Isabella County, Michigan, near the City Mt. Pleasant, in a portion of Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 3 West**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Branch of Roads, Midwest Region, is proposing to provide federal financial assistance for a road construction project, identified as the Education Access Road Project, located in Isabella County, Michigan, near the City Mt. Pleasant, in a portion of Section 17, Township 14 North, Range 3 West, Chippewa Township. The proposed project would involve the construction of a new roadway and adjacent pathway running from Broadway to High Streets. The proposed project would also involve the crossing of a county drain that would require water conduits to maintain hydrology and an authorization from the Army Corps of Engineers or applicable permitting authority. The planned project would also include the approval of a new right-of-way by the BIA. Installation of "green" infrastructure such as rain gardens, bio-swales, and bio-filters are also envisioned for the proposed project. The planned roadway is in conjunction with the proposed construction of a Tribal School/Recreation Center for the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, with funding for this part being provided by another federal Agency.

An environmental assessment of the project has been prepared, pursuant to provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). It has been determined that this is not a major federal action, either individually or cumulatively, that will affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a finding of no significant impact was prepared and an environmental impact statement will not be required. The project is expected to comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, Executive Orders, policies and procedures, permits and permissions, codes and standards, and best management practices. All required rights-of-way, easements and landowner approvals required to facilitate the project shall be obtained. **Based on these circumstances, it is my decision to proceed with the project.**

  
AC Superintendent, Great Lakes Agency

5/1/18  
Date

This decision is subject to appeal within 30 days of the above date pursuant to 25 CFR Part 2. Instructions regarding the filing of an appeal are provided in 25 CFR Part 2, and include, but are not limited to, the following general requirements. An appellant must file a written notice of appeal in the Office of the Superintendent, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Great Lakes Agency, at the above address, and must also send a copy to the Office of the Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Regional Office, Bishop Henry Whipple Building, One Federal Drive, Ft. Snelling, MN 55111, and to all known interested parties. The notice of appeal shall include the name, address, and phone number of the appellant, be clearly labeled or titled with the words "NOTICE OF APPEAL", have on the face of any envelope in which the notice is mailed or delivered, in addition to the address, the clearly visible words "NOTICE OF APPEAL", must contain a copy or a sufficient statement of the decision being appealed, and certify that copies of the notice of appeal have been served on interested parties. A written statement of reasons shall be submitted by the appellant explaining why the decision is being appealed. The statement of reasons may be included in or filed with the notice of appeal. If the statement of reasons is not filed with the notice of appeal, the appellant shall file a separate statement of reasons within 30 days of the above date. It should be clearly labeled "STATEMENT OF REASONS" and have on the face of any envelope mailed or delivered, in addition to the above address, the clearly visible words "STATEMENT OF REASONS". An appeal document is considered properly filed with the Great Lakes Agency by personal delivery during regular business hours or by mail. A notice of appeal that is sent by mail is considered filed on the date it is postmarked. No extension of time shall be granted for filing a notice of appeal and untimely appeals shall not be considered.