

Mr. Duane Castaldi  
Regional Environmental Officer  
FEMA Region 5  
536 South Clark Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60605-1521

Re: Alton Floodwall (Project LPDM-PJ-05-IL-2002-007)

Dear Mr. Castaldi,

The Alton Historical Commission is in receipt of your correspondence and accompanying attachments dated August 8, 2025 in connection with the Alton floodwall.

Brittani Smith and I are listed as the contacts for the Alton Historical Commission. Ms. Smith no longer is employed by the City of Alton. Would you please substitute Christine Little for Ms. Smith. Her email is [clittle@cityofaltonil.gov](mailto:clittle@cityofaltonil.gov) and her phone number is 618-463-3532.

The Alton Historical Commission reviewed this material at its regularly scheduled meeting on September 2, 2025. The Commission provides these comments.

First, we were glad to see that the permanent flood wall has been reduced to 3.5" at its highest level. This was a big change and one we agree with. We believe that design change does reduce the impact on the two national historic districts.

Secondly, the 75% drawings do not reflect what the floodwall will be faced with. Of the options being considered as reflected in Figure 12, the Commission felt that the one in the upper right-hand corner was the best one as it would be most

consistent with the many limestone walls in the city. If actual stone is used to face the floodwall, rather than just stamping concrete we do understand that there could be long term maintenance issues with that choice. And, if that choice is made, it is the Commission's hope the final plans will deal with that issue.

Third, to an outsider the course of the wall starting at Broadway and US 67 and wandering north then west across the street, then south and then west again may look haphazard. Of course, if you know it is a floodwall, then it makes more sense. Would it be possible to erect some signage explaining the purpose of the wall and showing what it might look like during a flood event.

Fourth, we support the sewer improvements. They are an extremely important part of the flood mitigation. However, In the material, the pump station is described as "mainly subsurface" which sounds like some portion of it may be above ground, But, we don't understand how much or whether it might need to be disguised, Consequently, we will have to reserve comment on the pump station until the next drawings are available. But, we hope it will be as unobtrusive as possible. One minor issue. The location of the pump station is identified on page 14 as 200 West Broadway which is the address for the Riverbender Building on the north side of the street. Figure 4 identifies the location of the pump station as the parking lot next to Catdaddy's whose address is 203 Broadway. The parcel ID number is correct.

Thank you for making us a consultant to this project and considering our comments.

Douglas Bader  
Alton Historical Commission – Chairman