

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Notice of Solicitation of Public Comment State Route (SR) 343 Complete Streets and Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Traffic Signal Improvements (12 locations) Project Morristown, Hamblen County, Tennessee, PIN 133677.00**

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), herein issues a public notice of their intent to file a Determination of Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Use regarding the use of land associated with Fulton-Hill Park for the State Route (SR) 343 Complete Streets and ITS (Intelligent Transportation Systems) Traffic Signal Improvements (12 locations) Project in Morristown, Hamblen County, Tennessee, PIN 133677.00.

The Build Alternative that is currently being considered for the proposed project includes a Complete Streets element that would reduce the existing 4- to 5-lane typical section to a 3-lane section between SR 160 and US 11E (Morris Boulevard). This proposed typical section includes two 12-foot travel lanes (one in each direction), one variable width center two-way left-turn lane, curb & gutter, a 5- to 6-foot sidewalk on the eastern side of the road (with buffers), and a 10-foot multi-use path on the western side of the road. The proposed alignment will stay the same as the existing alignment. The other component of the project includes ITS intersection improvements at 12 locations between Lincoln Avenue and N. Liberty Hill Road. Improvements include upgrading the traffic signals, installation of mast arms, signal retiming, ramps, pedestrian signals, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance, and crosswalks.

#### **Section 4(f) Resource Description**

Within the project area east of the intersection of SR 343 and Cherokee Drive lies the Fulton-Hill Park. This park, owned by the City of Morristown, features a paved walking trail (0.40 miles), wooded hiking paths (1.31 miles), great lawn area, and colonnades. It is accessible off of E. 6<sup>th</sup> North Street. The Fulton-Hill Park has been identified as having a primary use as recreation and is protected under the provisions of Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 (49 USC 303) and is the subject of this public notice. TDOT has identified the City of Morristown as the Official with Jurisdiction (OWJ) over Fulton-Hill Park.

#### **Section 4(f) Impact Description**

To complete these improvements, TDOT will be impacting the Fulton-Hill Park (owned by the City of Morristown). The Build Alternative would use 467 square feet (SF) of right-of-way (ROW), 802-SF of permanent slope easements, and 884-SF of construction easements.

It is important to note that no recreational features, parking areas, or access points exist within the limits of the Build Alternative. Use of Fulton-Hill Park would not be restricted and the park would remain open and accessible during construction of the proposed project.

This notice is in accordance with Title 23 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Section 774.5(b)(2), which requires public notice and concurrence in writing from the OWJ over the Section 4(f) resources that the project will not adversely affect activities, features, or attributes that make the property eligible for Section 4(f) protection. In the case of this project, City of Morristown has been identified as the OWJ over Fulton-Hill Park.

**Written statements should be submitted by 21 days from ad appearing to the following address:**

Section 4(f) De Minimis Comments  
Attn: SR 343 Project, Hamblen County, Tennessee, PIN 133677.00  
Tennessee Department of Transportation  
Suite 700, James K. Polk Building  
505 Deaderick Street  
Nashville, TN 37243-0332

Project Location Map

