

KARL F. DEAN
MAYOR



METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY

June 15, 2009

Rick Bernhardt, Executive Director
Metro Planning Department
800 Second Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37210

Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission
Sunnyside in Sevier Park
3000 Granny White Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37204
Telephone: (615) 862-7970
Fax: (615) 862-7974

Dear Mr. Bernhardt,

The Metro Historical Commission staff is concerned that the proposed May Town Center development in Bells Bend will have an adverse impact on the area's historic resources. Through discussions with State Archeologist Michael Moore, we have learned of 60 recorded archaeological sites in Bells Bend to date and as the area has not been comprehensively examined there are likely more. The site was inhabited by Native Americans from roughly 10,000 BC to AD 1500, and a number of these sites contain intact human burials.

The proposed bridge(s) associated with the May Town development will require a federal permit and come under federal review, regardless of its crossing location. The potential effect (APE) for the bridge permit(s) would include the development footprint, as described in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Our office strongly recommends that as part of the approval process of the development there be a condition requiring a comprehensive archeological survey of the proposed footprint and the potential bridge crossing(s) by a certified archeologist who will work closely with the MHC, SHPO, and the State Archeologist. This should be conducted prior to the approval of a final site plan by the Planning Department and include a conservation/mitigation plan for the development.

This archaeological survey should be performed as early as possible to allow for consideration of the project's impact upon significant archaeological resources. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "W. Tim Walker".

W. Tim Walker
Executive Director
Metropolitan Historical Commission
Metropolitan Historic Zoning Commission