

Will County Elwood Hoff Road Grade Crossing Improvements High-Speed Rail – Chicago to St. Louis IDOT Sequence #19003C ISAS Log #15150 August 10, 2015

Federal - Section 106 Project

### ADVERSE EFFECT – PROPOSED MITIGATION

Dr. Rachel Leibowitz Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer 1 Old State Capitol Illinois Historic Preservation Agency Springfield, Illinois 62701

Dear Dr. Leibowitz:

In coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) proposes to make improvements to the Hoff Road grade crossing in Will County. Please find attached copies of the IDOT Environmental Survey Request form, photo documentation, and the Phase I Survey Report completed by Illinois State Archaeological Survey personnel concerning archaeological and historical resources potentially impacted by the above referenced High-Speed Rail (HSR) project.

The proposed Hoff Road crossing work is required to improve safety at this wellused crossing, which provides access to the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and to the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Despite efforts to avoid and minimize impacts, the proposed improvements will cause an Adverse Effect to IL 53, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as an alternate alignment of Route 66.

The archaeological survey resulted in the identification of two recorded sites (11WI2377 and 11WI3678) that fall largely outside the project limits and were previously determined ineligible for the NRHP. No other resources that warrant NRHP consideration were identified by IDOT's cultural resources staff.

Your concurrence with this letter will document an Adverse Effect finding caused by the planned improvements to the Hoff Road intersection with IL 53/Route 66. Safety improvements will add a traffic signals and turn lanes to IL 53/Route 66. The current pavement of IL 53/Route 66 is asphalt, which will be replaced in-kind. The proposed Route 66 mitigation measures in accordance with the HSR Programmatic Agreement (III, A.3), ratified January 24, 2014, include:

- IDOT will ensure sufficient temporary signage is installed to give the traveling public on IL 53 advanced information about construction schedules and detour routes. Detour routes will be clearly marked and will include Route 66 signs and information about distance to be traveled to rejoin Route 66.
- IDOT will ensure information about construction schedules and detour routes are provided to communities and organizations to avoid or minimize disruptions to tours and festivals. Construction schedules will also be coordinated with other affected parties, such as Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, to avoid or minimize disruptions.
- 3. In coordination with Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byways, IDOT will develop a cell phone application for enhancing Route 66 travel and interpretation in Illinois. Development of a cell phone application is currently underway. IDOT will provide construction schedules, detour routes, and related information to the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byways for posting on its website and for distribution to other organizations, communities, tour groups, and other interested parties. IDOT will also provide this same information to Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, and other related interest groups, like funeral homes.

On behalf of the FRA, and in accordance with the HSR Programmatic Agreement, we request your review of the proposed mitigation measures for planned impacts to IL 53/Route 66 at Hoff Road. Please provide comments within 30 days.

If you have no comments, then we request the concurrence of the State Historic Preservation Officer regarding the proposed mitigation measures.

Sincerely,

Bral Kollehoff

Brad H. Koldehoff, RPA Cultural Resources Unit Bureau of Design & Environment

Cc: Andrea Martin (FRA), Chris Wilson (ACHP), and concurring parties



## District 1 Complex Crossing: Hoff Road Cultural Resources Review









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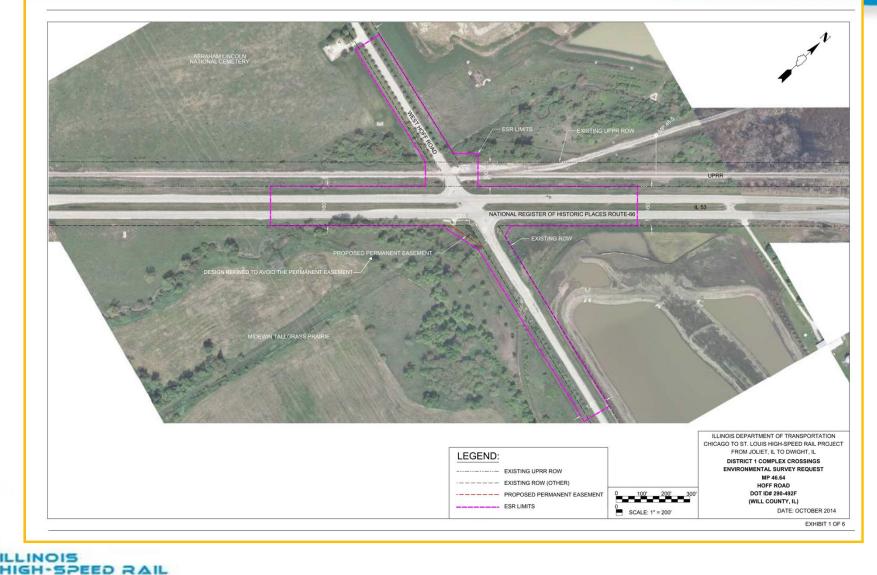




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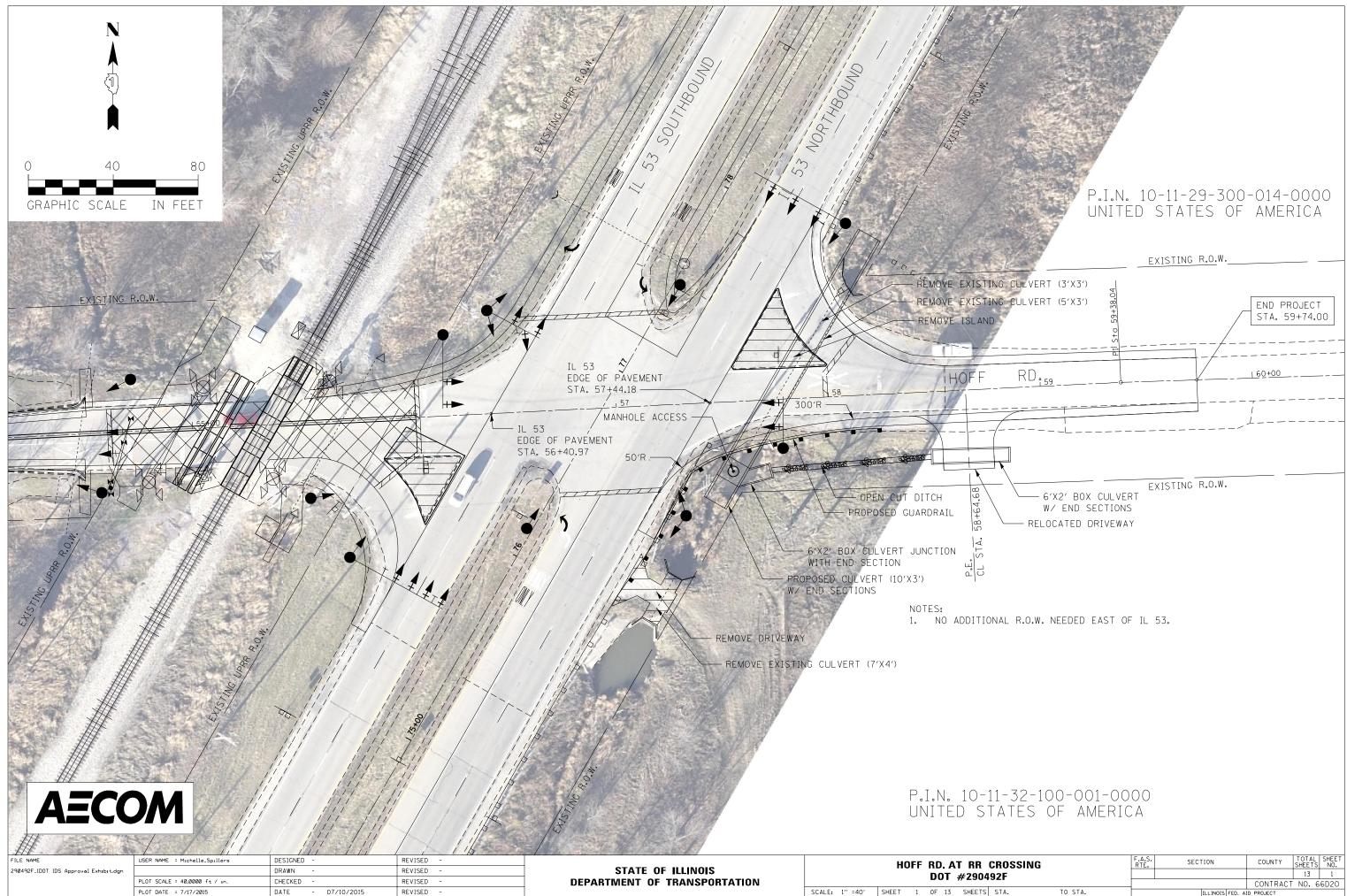
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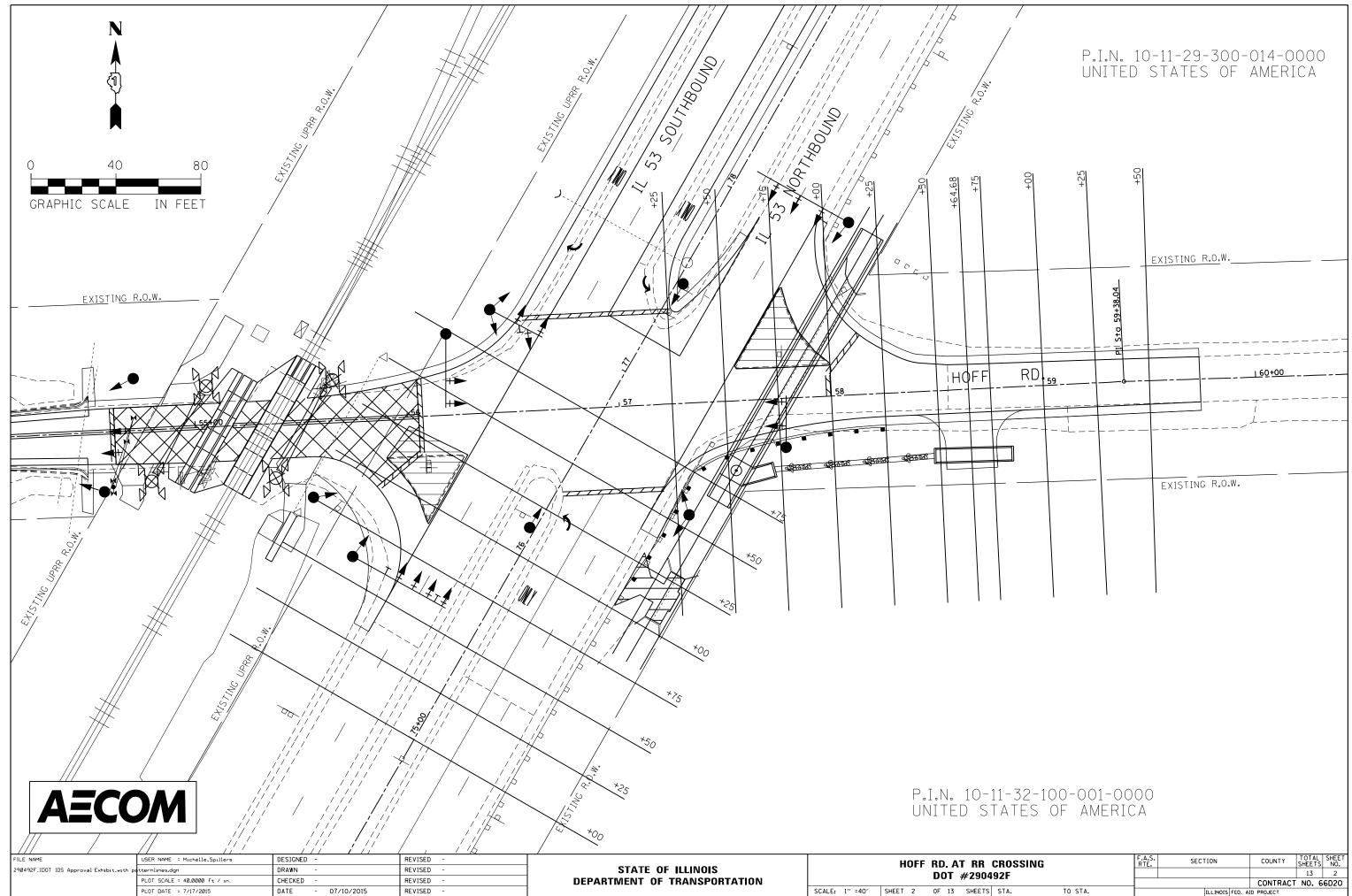
# Concept Roadway Drawing



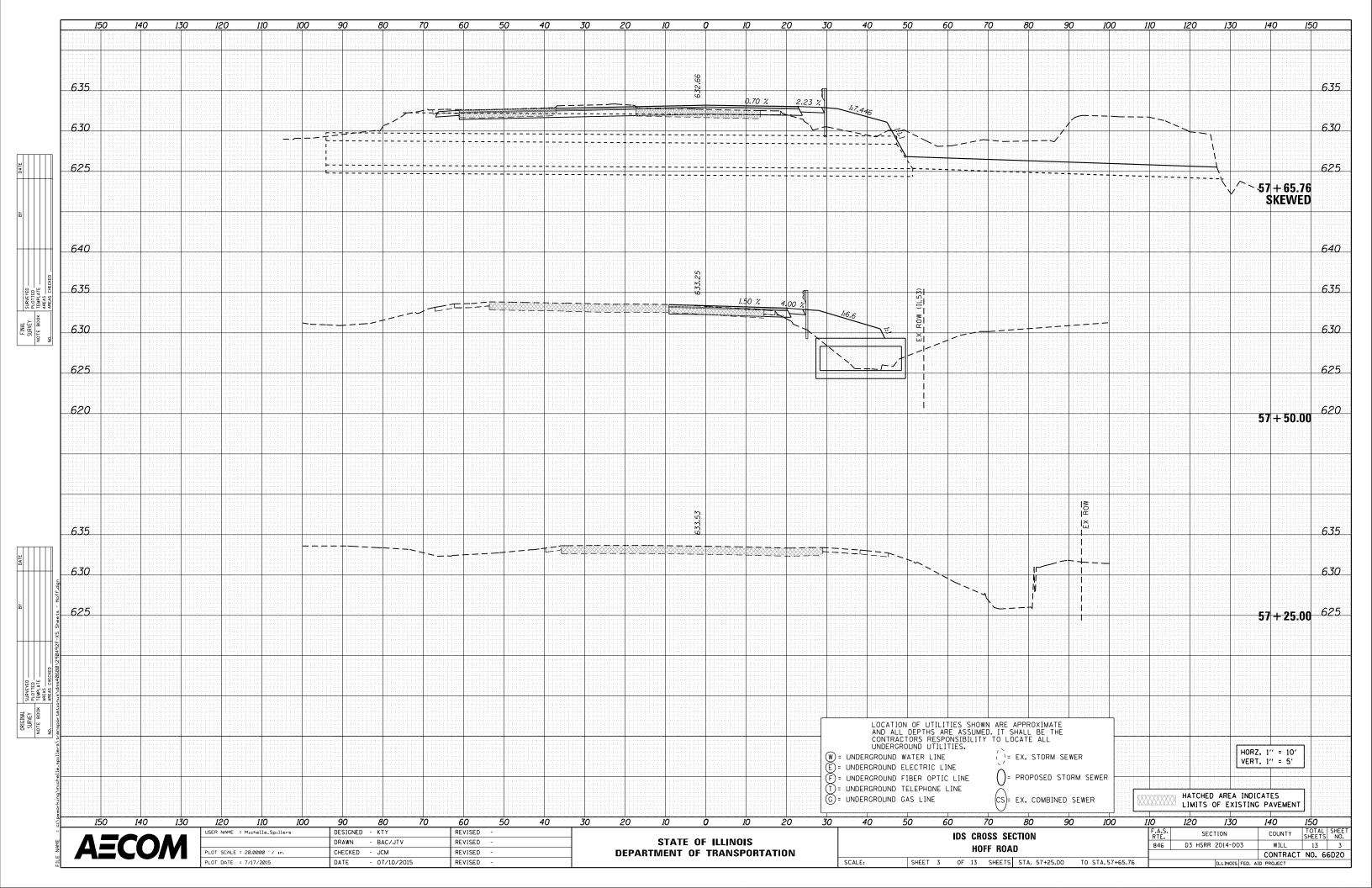


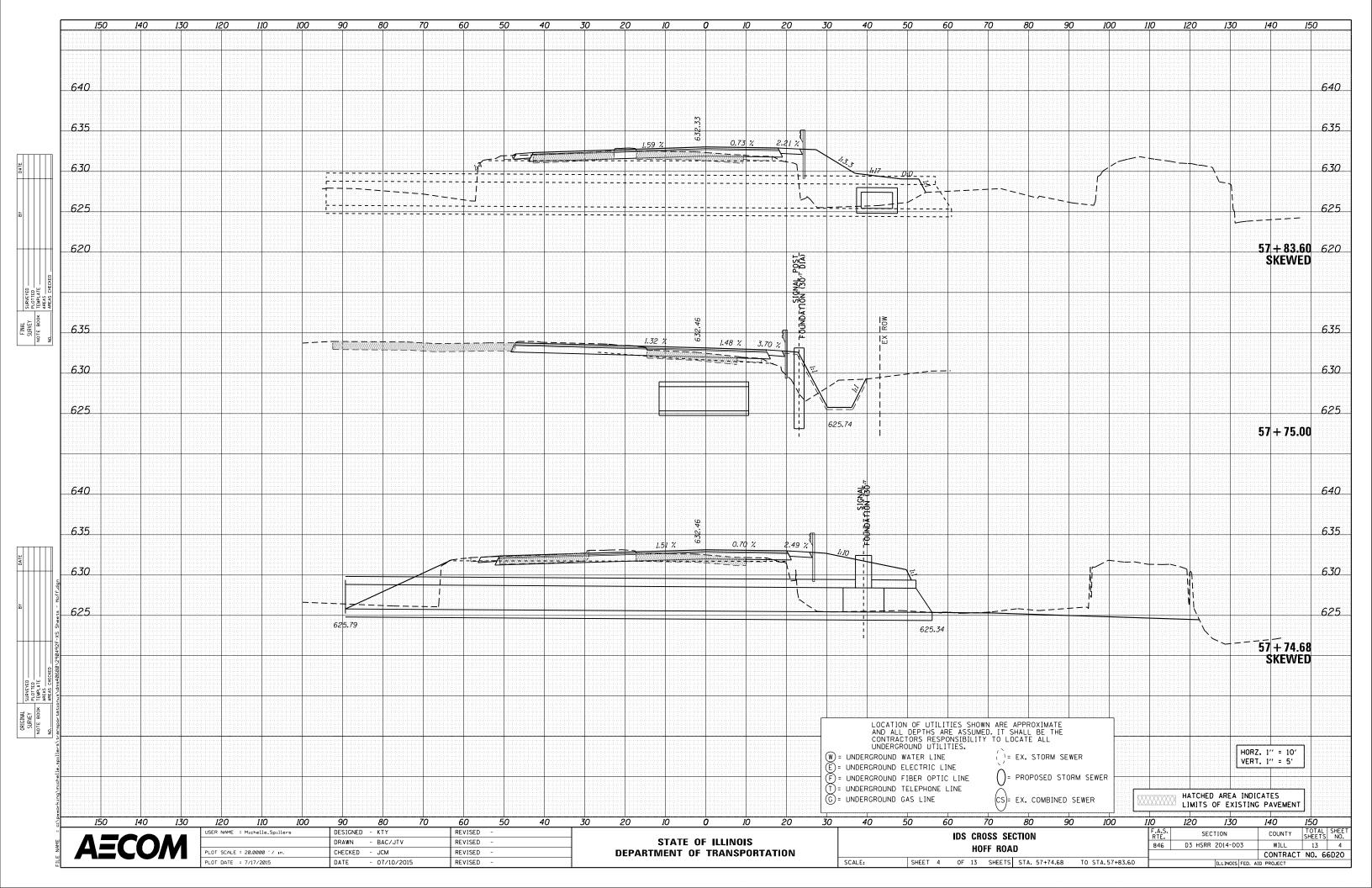


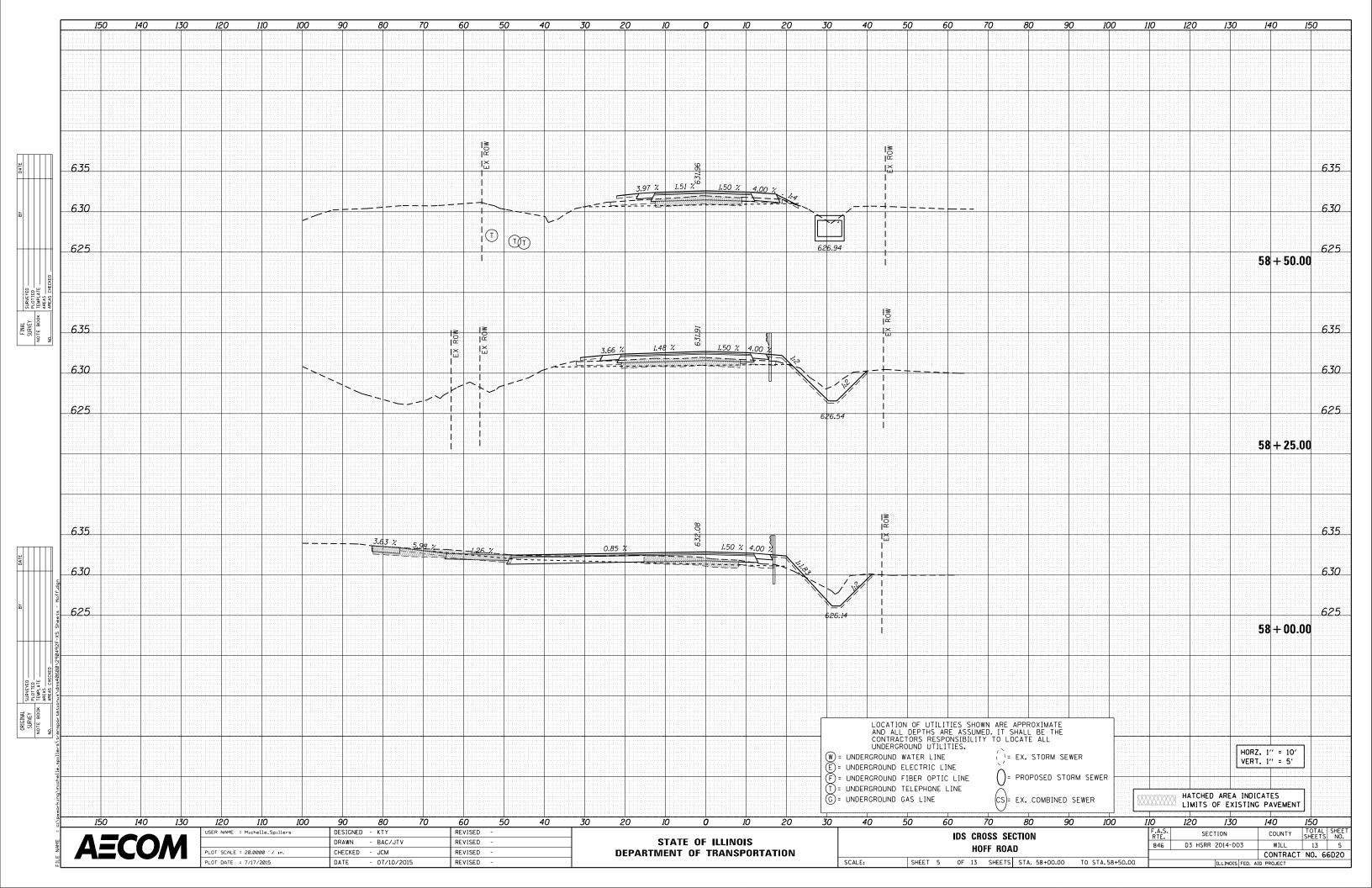
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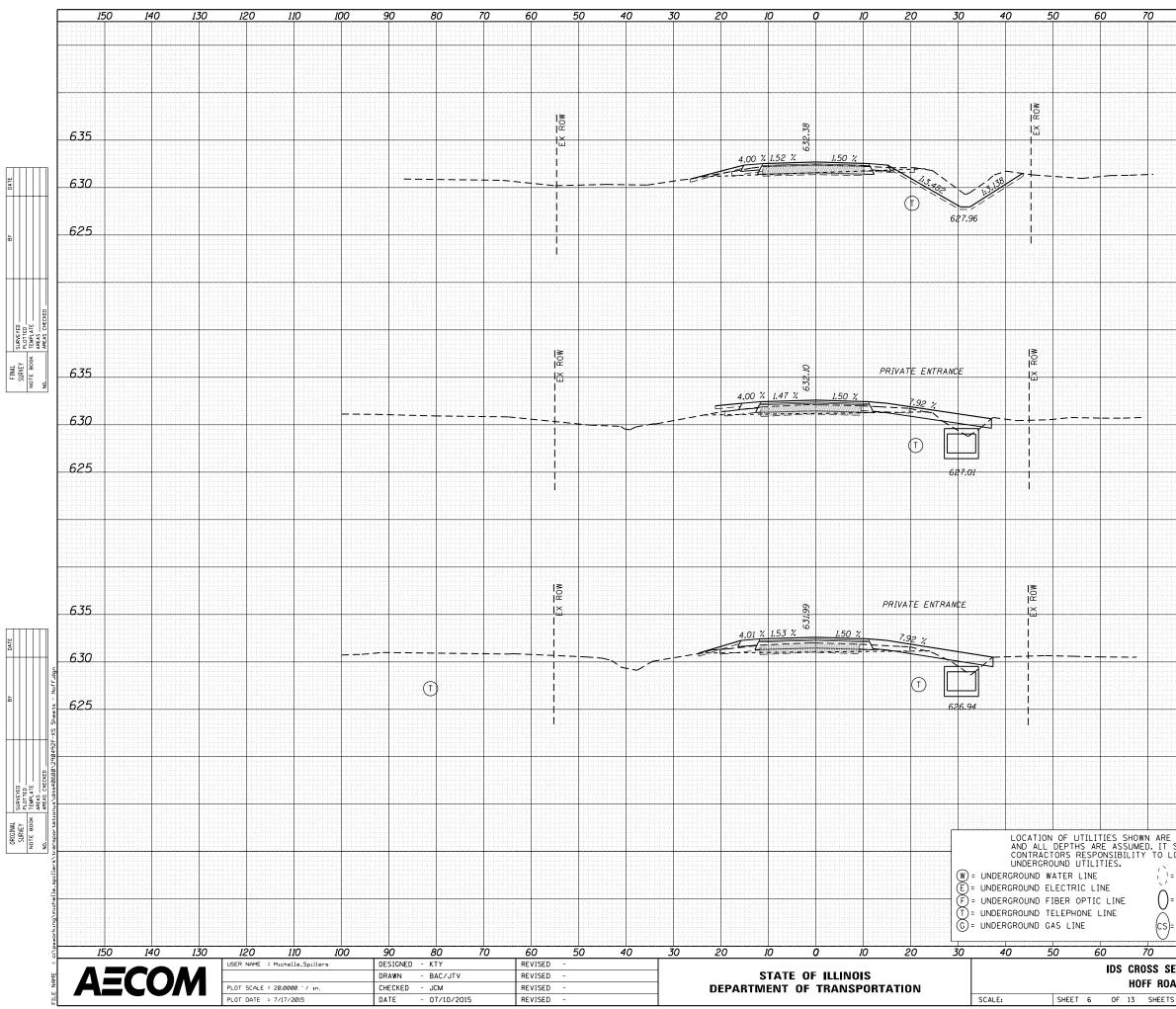


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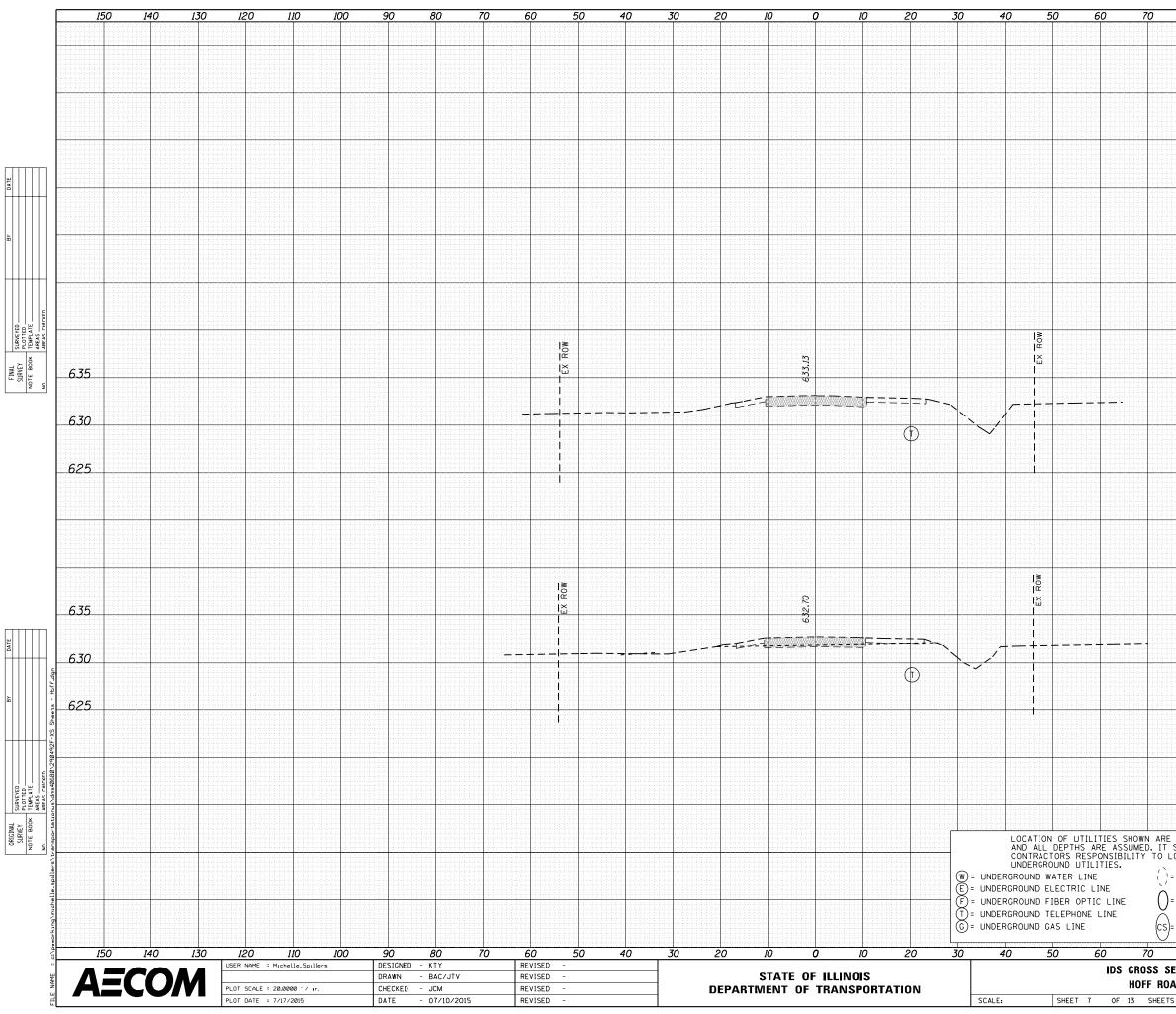








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