

September 30, 2015

I do hereby certify that in accordance with the requirements of 23 CFR 635.411(a)(2), no equally suitable alternate exists for this patented or proprietary item.

Mr. Chad Zickefoose, P.E.
Missouri Department of Transportation
3025 E. Kearney
Springfield, MO 65803

State Design Engineer

Subject: Request for Public Interest Finding
Main Avenue Streetscape Phase 1 – TAP-5901(805)

Dear Mr. Zickefoose:

The City of Springfield requests approval of a finding in the public interest for Silva Cells, as listed on the drawings and within the contract documents, to be used on the above mentioned project for the following reasons:

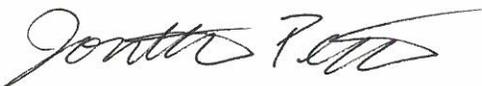
Silva Cells provide a structural framework that supports the sidewalk, proper soil volume for trees but only requires a small opening for the tree to grow through. The Silva Cells provide an area for the roots of a tree to grow downward and to flourish beneath hard surfaces. Without this area for roots to grow, trees tend to grow upwards and cause damage to sidewalks and roadways. Silva Cells also allow municipalities to grow a longer living urban tree which benefits the city and citizens in a number of ways. To name a few; reduced cooling costs for nearby buildings, improved air and water quality, and stormwater management benefits. Silva Cells also provide stormwater management to the project due to the water holding capacity of the soil and water quality improvement to the water that drains through the soil.

The City of Springfield recently installed Silva Cells in our Mill Street project. The Mill Street project is a more recent project and the lasting effects are yet to be determined, however we have seen great success in tree growth thus far. The City of St. Louis and Brightside St. Louis are other local examples of projects where Silva Cells have been used. The City of St. Louis had previously submitted a Public Interest Finding in 2010 for Federal Project Number ARRA-DP-5603 (602).

To our knowledge there are not any comparable products available at this time.

We request a public interest finding for the Silva Cells so that this item may remain eligible for federal reimbursement.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Peitz, EIT
Project Engineer