



Potential I-55 Improvements
at Airport Road and at IL 126/Essington Road
Community Advisory Group Meeting #3
September 21, 2011

Summary

The third Community Advisory Group meeting for the potential I-55 improvements at Airport Road and at IL 126 was held on September 21, 2011 at the Plainfield Village Hall, 24401 W. Lockport Street, Plainfield, IL from 9:30 am to 11:30 am.

To announce the September 21st meeting, e-mails were sent to all CAG members on September 6, 2011. The CAG members who did not provide an e-mail address received phone calls alerting them of the meeting. The e-mail invitation was followed up with a mailing providing the meeting information as well as materials to review prior to the meeting. The materials included copies of the draft Problem Statement, draft Purpose & Need Statement and the I-55 Engineering Tool Box which outlined some typical interchange layouts. CAG members were asked to sketch improvement alternatives to discuss at the meeting.

The following CAG members attended:

1. Kim Allen – Romeoville Resident
2. Suzanne Benedetto – Plainfield Resident
3. Cameron Bettin – Plainfield Park District
4. Greg Bott – Plainfield Park District
5. Kevin Calkins – Plainfield Resident
6. Nathan Darga – Planner, Village of Romeoville
7. Andi French – Plainfield Township Official
8. Dr. Bernice Holloway – Romeoville Village Clerk
9. Don Hornig – Romeoville Resident
10. Randall Jessen – Plainfield Superintendent of Public Works
11. Brad Johnstone – Plainfield Resident
12. Ronda Klocko – Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital
13. Bill Lamb – Lakelands Community, Plainfield Trustee
14. George M. Milton – Plainfield Resident
15. Tom Mooney – Plainfield Resident
16. John Noak – Romeoville Mayor
17. Eric Olson – Romeoville Resident
18. Thomas Pawlowicz – Bolingbrook Assistant Village Engineer
19. Garrett Peck – Plainfield Trustee
20. Barb Poma – Plainfield Resident
21. Dennis Poma – Plainfield Resident



22. Jim Sanders – Plainfield Resident
23. Ron See – Bolingbrook Resident
24. Kimberly Sharp – Plainfield Resident
25. Dave Sniegowski – Property owner at IL 126 & Essington
26. John Zabrocki – Romeoville Village Engineer
27. Tom Gename – Plainfield Resident

Also present at the meeting were ten members of the general public and a representative from Clark Dietz, the consulting firm that is conducting a Phase I study on behalf of IDOT for improvements at the Weber Road interchange with I-55. Steve Schilke, Patrick Rinosa and Justin Romeo from IDOT were present. Dave Heslinga, Mike Rechterik, Eric Lindemann, Elora Ibay and Heidi Voirol of V3 Companies and Mark Dwiggin from the Upchurch Group presented the meeting and facilitated the small group exercises. Clarita Lao from Huff & Huff was present as the environmental subconsultant for the V3 project team.

Summary of Activities

Introductions

The meeting began with a welcome and introductions of the project team members and CAG members. CAG members were divided into five groups for group discussions and workshops. The Phase 1 study process, project schedule and CAG meeting #2 were briefly reviewed.

Problem Statement

The presentation reviewed the development of the problem statement. The revised draft problem statement was mailed to CAG members prior to the meeting and was available at the meeting. Dave Heslinga presented the changes made to the draft statement. CAG members were invited to make comments on the draft problem statement. No further revisions to the problem statement were requested.

Purpose & Need Statement

A revised Purpose & Need Statement was also distributed for review. A summary of the P&N was presented. The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved access to Interstate I-55. The needs identified include improved regional connectivity and accommodation of future growth. A review was made of the regional connectivity including a ramp Level of Service discussion and projected 2040 Average Daily Traffic numbers. Also presented was demographic information prepared by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) to highlight the future growth expected in the region. The small groups convened to discuss the Purpose & Need statement. The following comments were made:

- The percentage of trucks in the ADT should be presented.
- Crest Hill and Joliet should be mentioned in the P&N as communities benefiting from access improvements
- A request that the phrase “growth rate” be revised to “growth”
- East-west connector roads crossing I-55 are needed in the study area



Alternative Development

The second half of the meeting was devoted to alternative development. To facilitate discussion, the engineering tool box was presented. The toolbox is a handout created to demonstrate typical intersection and interchange concepts that may be applied as potential improvements along I-55. Also listed were potential non-motorized improvements such as sidewalks, paths, ADA compliant facilities and pedestrian signals.

The small groups convened to discuss CAG members' ideas for possible improvements. CAG members worked individually and at tables. At the end of the workshop, CAG members presented 21 separate sketches for potential improvements to the project study team.

It was announced that the next CAG meeting will be held in January 2012. The purpose of this meeting will be two-fold. In the first half of the meeting, the range of alternatives developed in this CAG meeting with refinements based on IDOT's design criterion and standards for roadway and interchange design will be reviewed. V3 will also add alternatives that have been developed by the project team. The second part of the meeting will be review and discuss evaluation factors that will be used as a basis for selecting a recommend preferred alternative for access improvements.

The CAG meeting was closed and opportunity was provided for public comments. The following comments were received.

- I have concerns about the existing infrastructure that is in place to support the additional traffic. *Reply: The existing roadway will be evaluated for the projected ADT and capacity.*
- I am encouraged by some of the ideas presented at the CAG meeting for possible improvement alternatives.