

# Potential I-55 Improvements

## AT AIRPORT ROAD AND AT IL 126/ESSINGTON ROAD



### COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP?

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) is a small working group who will assist the Project Study Group in the identification of the context of the project's surrounding and help in formulating recommendations for characteristics that should be taken into consideration during the planning process. The CAG will include representatives from the community, local agencies, and key project stakeholders and will meet periodically over the course of the project.

#### WHAT IS THE PROJECT STUDY GROUP?

A Project Study Group (PSG) is a multidisciplinary team made up of member of the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Federal Highway Administration, the Village of Romeoville and Bolingbrook and consultant staff that will oversee the project from planning through construction.

#### WHAT IS THE CAG'S ROLE IN THE CSS PROCESS?

IDOT has identified this project as one that will utilize principles of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) during the study process. As defined by the Federal Highway Administration, CSS is "a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach which involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility."

The CAG will achieve several study objectives as defined in the CSS process. The main role of the CAG will be to provide detailed insight of community and stakeholder interests and assist the Project Study Group with building general agreement on project solutions. Each CAG meeting will have a specific project topic for consideration and discussion.

The consultant team will present detailed engineering and technical information throughout the study to the CAG as information is developed. In this way, the CAG will function as a community liaison or pipeline between the Project Study Group and the public. The CAG meeting format is not intended as a public forum or workshop; however the meetings will be open to the public. It is important to note that a general agreement will be sought for every issue. However, if a general agreement cannot be achieved, IDOT will document the objections and make a final decision allowing the process to move forward.

#### WHAT IS THE CSS PROCESS?

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) is a State of Illinois program that seeks effective, multi-modal transportation solutions by working with stakeholders to develop, build and maintain cost-effective transportation facilities that fit into and reflect the project's surrounding – its' "context". Consideration will be given to preserve scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources while maintaining and enhancing safety and mobility. Residents, business leaders and local representatives among others, will have opportunities to be engaged in the study through three public involvement meetings, one public hearing and a Community Advisory Group (CAG). For more information about the CSS process in Illinois visit <http://www.dot.stat.il.us/css/home.html>.

## **WHAT ARE THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CAG MEMBERS?**

1. Attend each CAG meeting and participate in group facilitated activities. If a member cannot attend a meeting, they should designate a representative to attend in their place.
2. Participate openly and honestly, respecting the opinions of all Group members.
3. Support the specific role of the Group in the study process.
4. Represent their organization and community interests.
5. Work to achieve general agreement among all interested parties and the public/community interests.

## **WHO SHOULD BE ON THE CAG?**

The CAG should be representative of the overall study area's interests including those that have a stake in the outcome. Therefore, the CAG membership will include individuals from a broad range of interest organizations. These may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Local Government and Planning Agencies
- Advocates of Community Interests
- Chambers of Commerce
- Transportation Organizations
- Environmental Coalitions
- School and local Religious Representatives
- Neighborhood Groups
- Area residents
- Utility Companies
- Local School District
- PACE
- Local Businesses
- Others that have and Interest in the Project

To foster an open and balanced community working group, it is recommended that community advisory groups be comprised of non-elected officials. Briefings will be conducted with local and regional elected officials regarding project updates and progress. These meetings may be held at major milestones in the project or as requested.

In order to be effective, the number of stakeholders on the CAG should be sufficient to ensure all potential social, economic, and environmental project issues, from both a local and regional perspective, are considered and evaluated throughout the project development process. The CAG must also be manageable in size and structure to ensure meetings are effective and productive to permit project progress.

## **WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?**

It is expected that the CAG will meet approximately 6 times over the course of the study period. They will be held at a location near the project. The time commitment is expected to be two hours per meeting.

