



MEETING NOTES

Project: East Side Highway Environmental Assessment
Subject: Community Working Group Meeting #1
Date: October 28, 2010, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Location: McLean County Government Center

Project Team Attendees: Jerry Payonk (CDI), Joyce Tanzosh (CDI), John Lazzara (HDR), Linda Huff (Huff & Huff), Eric Schmitt (McLean County)

Main topics discussed at the meeting are as follows:

1. Introduction (Jerry Payonk)

- a. The project team staff introduced themselves and briefly explained their roles in the project.
- b. An overview of topics to be discussed at the meeting was presented.

2. Environmental Assessment (EA) and the Public Involvement Process (Jerry Payonk)

- a. The EA process flow chart was displayed. The major milestones shown on the chart (Problem Statement, Purpose & Need, Define and Analyze Alternative, Preferred Alternative, and Federal Approval – FONSI) were briefly described.
- b. The EA process timeline showing expected completion dates for the process milestones was displayed and discussed.
- c. An overview of the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process was presented, including the purpose of CSS.
- d. The role of the CWG was discussed and the Advisory Group Hierarchy chart was displayed. The role of the CWG is to advise the Project study Group (PSG). The CWG members act as representatives of the stakeholders.
- e. The CWG meeting timetable was discussed. CWG meetings will occur on an as-needed basis, approximately every six weeks during the first part of the study, and less frequently as the project progresses.
- f. The CWG ground rules were presented and read aloud.

3. Selection Process (Jerry Payonk)

- a. The importance of having diversity on the CWG was discussed. The CWG members represented a wide range of stakeholders, such as agriculture, residential, emergency services, business, and environmental interests. The CWG members also represented a diverse geographic area; that is, members from the north, west, south, east, urban, and rural areas.

A spreadsheet listing CWG members and their affiliation was distributed. Those in attendance at the meeting and those who indicated they could not attend the meeting were

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included in the list. In addition, a large aerial map showing the Bloomington-Normal and surrounding area was displayed.

- b. Each CWG member introduced themselves, stated the interest area they represented, and explained how they represented that group. Each member stated where they live and work. Jerry placed a sticker on the aerial map representing these locations.
- c. The project team asked the CWG members if there were any other stakeholders who should be represented. Members indicated that representation for historic (from historic society or BarnKeepers), archaeological, fire, and small business interests should be considered. The project team stated they will look into these interest areas and determine if representation is warranted, and if so, attempt to find suitable representatives to join the CWG.
- d. The CWG members reviewed the aerial map and the stickers showing the member's work and home locations. The CWG members were asked if all geographic areas were represented. Members indicated that perhaps representatives from Towanda, Downs, and LeRoy should be considered. The project team stated they will look into these interest areas and determine if representation is warranted, and if so, attempt to find suitable representatives to join the CWG.

4. Interactive Survey (John Lazzara)

The CWG members participated in an interactive survey in which each person received an electronic responder, or clicker. Attendees were presented with multiple-choice questions through a slideshow. Each person responded to the question by pressing a button on the clicker that corresponded to their desired answer. Following each question, a chart showing how the group answered was displayed for the audience to provide immediate feedback. The members discussed the results of the questions.

The questions and results are as follows:

Question 1: As you may know, the East Side Highway concept has been studied since the 1990s. How much would you say you know about the history of the East Side Highway?

- | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----|
| a. A great deal | 4 responses | 20% |
| b. Some | 10 responses | 50% |
| c. Not that much | 6 responses | 30% |
| d. Nothing at all | 0 responses | 0% |

Question 2: Were you a member of the East Side Highway Community Advisory Group for the previous corridor study?

- | | | |
|--------|--------------|-----|
| a. Yes | 5 responses | 25% |
| b. No | 15 responses | 75% |

Question 3: Do you think that the population in Bloomington-Normal, over the past 25 years, has

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a. Decreased	0 responses	0%
b. Increased moderately	4 responses	20%
c. Increased greatly	16 responses	80%
d. Stayed the same	0 responses	0%

Question 4: Do you expect population and employment in Bloomington-Normal, over the next 25 years, to

a. Decrease	1 responses	5%
b. Increase moderately	14 responses	70%
c. Increase greatly	4 responses	50%
d. Stay the same	1 response	5%

Question 5: How often do you travel outside your hometown in an average 7-day week?

a. Only occasionally	9 responses	45%
b. 3 times/week	3 responses	15%
c. 5 times/week	3 responses	15%
d. Every day	5 response	25%

Question 6: When you travel for work, do you most often

a. Drive a car	17 responses	90%
b. Take public transit	0 responses	0%
c. Ride a bike	1 response	5%
d. Walk	1 response	5%

Question 7: When you travel for non-work purposes, do you most often

a. Drive a car	17 responses	85%
b. Take public transit	0 responses	0%
c. Ride a bike	3 response	15%
d. Walk	0 response	0%

Question 8: What specific change would you recommend to improve the quality of transportation in the McLean County Area?

a. Add/Improve alternate route options	5 responses	26%
b. Reduce congestion/delay	5 responses	26%
c. Improve safety	2 responses	11%
d. Improve public transit	4 responses	21%
e. Other	3 responses	16%

Question 9: If a transportation facility is constructed on the east side of Bloomington-Normal, do you feel that it will

a. Serve anticipated growth	7 responses	37%
b. Result in premature development	1 response	5%

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c. Not change existing roadway congestion	2 responses	11%
d. Improve travel for local/regional trips	8 responses	42%
e. Other	1 response	5%

Question 10: What would you consider to be the preferred method of informing all stakeholders about the project?

a. Email	3 responses	15%
b. Newsletter	2 response	10%
c. Newspaper	7 responses	35%
d. Website	2 responses	10%
e. Meeting	3 response	15%
f. Radio announcements	0 responses	0%
g. Other	3 responses	15%

5. Next Steps (Jerry Payonk)

The date of the next CWG meeting was discussed, to be held in December 2010. In the meantime, the project team will continue to develop CWG membership to ensure diverse representation. No new members will be accepted after the next CWG meeting, as the group will be too far along in the process to catch new members up.