



MEETING NOTES

Project: East Side Highway Environmental Assessment
Subject: Focused Working Group – Land Use and Access Management #1
Date: March 14, 2012, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Location: Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, Bloomington, IL

Minutes of this meeting were prepared by Jamie Bents of Huff & Huff, Inc. (H&H). Please inform her of corrections or modifications.

Project Team Attendees: Jerry Payonk (CDI), Antonio Acevedo (CDI), John Lazzara (HDR), Jamie Bents (Huff & Huff) and Eric Schmitt (McLean County), and Gene Brown (Town of Normal).

1. Introduction

- FWG members, PSG members, project team members, and other attendees introduced themselves and stated how they have been involved in the East Side Highway (ESH) project.

2. Purpose of Meeting and Agenda

- Jerry Payonk welcomed the attendees and stated that the purpose of this FWG was to identify land use and access management issues for the ESH.
- Jerry reviewed the meeting agenda.

3. Ground Rules

- Jerry presented the FWG ground rules to the group. These ground rules are similar to those used at the Community Working Group and are the same for all of the FWGs. These include:
 - All input from all participants in the process is valued and considered.
 - All participants will come to the process with an open mind and participate openly and honestly.
 - All participants in the process will treat each other with respect and dignity.
 - The project must progress at a reasonable pace based on the original project schedule.

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- Project milestones (Purpose and Need, Range of Alternatives) will not be altered once concurrence has been granted unless substantial new information becomes available.
- The role of the FWG is to advise the PSG. A consensus FWG concurrence is sought prior to project decisions. The PSG will fully consider all FWG and stakeholder input when making project decisions.
- All decisions of the joint lead agencies must be made in a clear, transparent manner and stakeholders should agree that their input was duly considered.
- The list of FWG members is subject to change at any time as events warrant.

4. Project Background

- Jerry reviewed the status of the ESH project.
- The alternatives to be carried forward for study in the Environmental Assessment were recently approved by FHWA and other Federal agencies (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Department of Agriculture). Jerry presented the alternatives to the FWG.

5. Review of Land Use and Access Management Concepts

- Meeting participants received a handout on design concepts; these concepts were reviewed.

6. Consensus Workshop

- The FWG participated in a consensus workshop, where they developed answers to the consensus question “In what ways do you think an ESH will affect land use and access?”
- The FWG was split into three groups. Each group had a table facilitator, and Jerry facilitated the overall discussion.
- At the end of the consensus workshop, the FWG agreed upon the following list of ten items answering the question “In what ways do you think an ESA will affect land use and access?” Please see the attached photo of the result of the consensus workshop for the subcategories for each.
 - Ag Mobility
 - Emergency Response Times

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- Farmland and Operation Impacts
 - Local Mobility
 - Residential Barriers
 - Noise
 - West Side Business Impacts
 - Watersheds
 - Safety
 - Planned Growth
- At the conclusion of the consensus workshop, Jerry asked if the FWG had additional items or issues.

7. Concluding Remarks

- At the next meeting, the FWG will begin discussing the ten items developed at the first meeting and identify related issues for specific alignments.
- The next meeting will be scheduled with respect to the local farmers' planting schedule as much as possible so that the farmers in the FWG will be able to attend.
- The group decided to plan for the next meeting to occur in the second week of April, weather permitting.