

Illinois Route 47 Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #2 March 18, 2010

CAG Meeting #2:

The second CAG meeting for the Illinois Route 47 Phase I Study was held on March 18, 2010 at Bull Valley Golf Club, 1311 Club Road, Woodstock, Illinois from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. The meeting included a PowerPoint presentation which recapped CAG Meeting #1 and Public Meeting #1, discussed the Draft Problem Statement created by using stakeholder feedback from CAG Meeting #1 and the Public Meeting #1 comment period, and reviewed the existing conditions and deficiencies in the corridor.

To announce the March 18, 2010 CAG Meeting #2, an E-invitation was created.

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ILLINOIS 47
US Route 14 to Charles Road

You're invited to the
Citizen Advisory Group Meeting #2

Illinois Department of Transportation


Meeting Topics:

- Citizens Advisory Group (CAG) #1 and Public Meeting #1 Summary
- What is a Problem Statement and How will it be used?
- Draft Problem Statement
- Existing Conditions and Identified Deficiencies
- Next Steps

One of the topics to be discussed is the Draft Problem Statement. The Draft Problem Statement was created using stakeholder feedback from CAG Meeting #1 and the Public Meeting #1 comment period.

Please review the transcribed feedback from the meetings and the Draft Problem Statement prior to our March 18, 2010 meeting. Feedback regarding the Draft Problem Statement is encouraged prior to March 18th.

Send comments regarding the Draft Problem Statement to mir.mustafa@illinois.gov



[View stakeholder feedback and the Draft Problem Statement](#)

You're Invited!
Citizen Advisory Group Meeting #2

Thursday,
March 18, 2010
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Bull Valley Golf Club
1311 Club Road
Woodstock, IL 60098

Please RSVP your attendance to Carrie Hansen of Images, Inc. at (630)510-3944, or via e-mail at carrie.hansen@imagesinc.net by March 15, 2010.

For additional project information, please check our website at www.il47woodstockstudy.com

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The above invitation was sent on March 4, 2010 to **41** CAG members; the meeting was attended by **24**. The following CAG members were in attendance:

TABLE 1

1. Susan Hudson, Woodstock Transportation Commission
2. Bob Pierce, Dorr Township Supervisor
3. Tim Clifton, City of Woodstock - Manager
4. Dick Ahrens, City of Woodstock - Councilman

TABLE 2

1. Andrew Celentano, Woodstock Transportation Commission
2. Terry Egan, Christian Life Services
3. Jeff Van Landuyt, City of Woodstock Asst. PW Director
4. Mayor Brian Sager, City of Woodstock
5. Milt Sees, City of Woodstock Consultant

TABLE 3

1. John Isbell, City of Woodstock PW Director
2. Linda Van Dyke, Woodstock School District 200
3. Dan Dembinski, Pace
4. Eberhard Veit, McHenry County Bicycle Advocates
5. Rick Mack, Metra
6. Randy Newkirk, HLR Engineering

TABLE 4

1. Cary Sue Lavan, Woodstock Transportation Commission
2. Barbara Klasen, Greenwood Township Supervisor
3. Jack Porter, Woodstock Plan Commission
4. Larry Piekos, Cycle Craft Yamaha
5. Maureen Larson, City of Woodstock – Councilman
6. R.B. Thompson, City of Woodstock - Councilman

TABLE 5

1. Jeff Young, McHenry County DOT
2. Sarah Lutz, McHenry County DOT
3. Sean Foley, McHenry County Planning and Development

Comments

The CAG members were invited to submit comment/feedback about the Draft Problem Statement sent with the E-Invitation from March 4, 2010 to March 17, 2010. No comments were submitted prior to the March 18, 2010 meeting. During the March 18, 2010 meeting, CAG members provided comment/feedback regarding the Draft Problem Statement to the Project Study Team as follows:

Draft Problem Statement Comment/Feedback

A variety of comments and feedback about the Draft Problem Statement were received at the March 18, 2010 CAG Meeting #2. After CAG member and Study Team discussion, five changes were considered:

- Remove “insufficient capacity” and replace with “The current roadways...”
- Add a statement on aesthetics/green space
- Remove “avoiding and/or minimizing” and replace with “improve”
- Add a statement on sense of urgency
- Remove “increased” and replace with “increasing”

It was decided the Draft Problem Statement would include a statement on sense of urgency and remove the word “increased” and replace with “increasing”. The other suggestions were not included for the following reasons: the removal of the word “insufficient capacity” was not agreed upon by other CAG members, the removal of the words “avoiding and/or minimizing” and replacement with the word “improve” was not applicable because the Study Team cannot guarantee the surrounding environment would be improved as a result of the study process, and the inclusion of a statement on aesthetics/green space was unnecessary because aesthetics/ green space are included under the elements of quality of life, community character of Woodstock, and current community land use plans.

Revised Problem Statement

The Illinois Route 47 (US 14 to Charles Road) corridor is a transportation network of roadway, freight and commuter rail, and non-motorized facilities and services. ~~Increased~~ **Increasing** travel demands on Illinois Route 47 are creating safety and operational deficiencies along the roadway and its intersections. The insufficient capacity of the roadway to manage travel demands creates congestion, limits mobility, hinders safe access of adjacent properties and businesses, and leads to safety issues for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Both pedestrian access to adjacent land uses, and bicycle accessibility through and across the corridor are limited.

The existing built environment along Illinois Route 47, including the constriction at the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge, presents challenges in improving the corridor's transportation elements. Solutions to the transportation deficiencies need to be developed while avoiding and/or minimizing impacts to the surrounding environment. The solutions should consider quality of life and the community character of Woodstock, while supporting economic development, and coordinating with current community land use plans. Stakeholder involvement in arriving at practical, effective, and **expedient** solutions is an essential part of the project process.

Mayor Sager's Comments

Mayor Sager made brief comments, thanking members for their participation and noting that the Woodstock City Council has heard loudly and clearly that the issue on IL Route 47 is congestion. If we don't continue moving forward with this process, it will be another 20 years before IL Route 47 is addressed. The Council is interested in moving forward with a comprehensive approach addressing traffic, bicycle/pedestrian needs, incorporation of aesthetics. The community must make this a priority with the appropriate decision-makers. The City is committed to establishing partnerships with the County, State and Federal governments to keep this project on the radar. To that end, the City has engaged the services of Milton Sees of Capital Infrastructure Group, and former State of Illinois Secretary of Transportation (introduced).

Milt Sees' Comments

Milt Sees explained his role as a City consultant, intending to use his institutional knowledge and credibility as a way to keep the urgency and need of the IL Route 47 project in front of legislators and their staffs throughout the Phase I process to ensure that they're prepped and ready when Phase II and III funding is requested. He reiterated that while there is a definite sense of urgency, there is a process that must be followed before approval is granted. It is important to follow the process and build consensus.

Next Steps

The study team will make the changes to the Problem Statement, and send the final to CAG members via e-mail. The next CAG meeting is anticipated for June, 2010 at which time the draft Purpose and Need will be presented for review and discussion, and members will participate in workshops to provide input on project alternatives.