

## **Illinois Route 47 Phase I Study Public Meeting #2 Summary – September 15, 2010**

### **Overview:**

The Illinois Route 47 study area is located in the City of Woodstock and McHenry County, extending approximately 5 miles from US Route 14 on the south to Charles Road on the north. The Phase I Study will take a detailed look at the current and future transportation needs of the corridor. The project will include an analysis of the existing roadways, drainage, intersection deficiencies, and an examination of the impacts that any proposed improvements will have on the community and environment. It is anticipated that Phase I will take approximately 36 months to complete, and will strive to develop a long term improvement that will benefit motorists, residents, businesses, and economic development in the region.

### **Identification of Stakeholders:**

Per IDOT's CSS procedures, a stakeholder is anyone who could be affected by the project and has a stake in its outcome. Stakeholders are identified as all residents of the study area and those interested parties that help IDOT understand the needs for, and concerns about, the transportation system. IDOT can take this input, along with all of its other work and analysis, and use it to make planning and design decisions.

The identification of stakeholders was done through a combination of desktop searches and input from local community leaders. Stakeholders were categorized by specific area of interest such as regional planning, transit and transportation agencies, Chambers of Commerce, business/economic development, civic and activist groups, county, municipal and elected officials, legislators, libraries, media, school and park districts, property owners, public safety and utility agencies providers. The initial list contained approximately 604 stakeholders.

New stakeholders will be added to the initial stakeholder list throughout the project. All stakeholders expressing interest in the project will continue to be added to the project mailing/e-mailing list and will be able to participate in the process through various public outreach opportunities. As of August 31st, 833 individuals were on the IL Route 47 stakeholder list.

## Display Ad:

Below is the display ad notifying the public of the September 15, 2010 Public Meeting. The ad includes the project tag line and logo, a brief explanation of what the project is about, and the opportunity to comment on the current and future needs and conditions along the study area.

Illinois Department of Transportation  
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

*Partnering for Progress*

The Illinois Department of Transportation continues to seek public input on the current and future transportation issues and needs for the Illinois Route 47 Preliminary Engineering and Environmental (Phase I) Study, and has scheduled a second Public Meeting. The Illinois Route 47 study area is located in the City of Woodstock and McHenry County, extending approximately 5 miles from US Route 14 on the south to Charles Road on the north.


**The Public Meeting will be held:**  
 Wednesday, September 15, 2010  
 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
 Challenger Learning Center  
 222 Church Street, Woodstock, Illinois 60098

The purpose of this meeting is to present a general overview of the project Purpose and Need as well as solicit public input and ideas in order to begin the development of potential project alternatives.

The meeting will be presented in an open house format. Interested persons may visit anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to view a PowerPoint presentation, review exhibits, provide comments, aid in the development of project alternatives, and meet with IDOT and study team representatives on a one-on-one basis.

This meeting will be accessible to handicapped individuals. Anyone needing specific assistance should contact Mary Rose Donahue of Images, Inc. at (630) 510-3944. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844/or 711; TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/or 711; and for Telebraille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.

For more information, contact:  
 Mr. Mir Mustafa, P.E., Project Manager  
 Illinois Department of Transportation  
 201 W. Center Court, Schaumburg, Illinois 60196  
 (847) 705-4477



**ILLINOIS ROUTE 47**  
 US Route 14 to Charles Road  
[www.IL47woodstockstudy.com](http://www.IL47woodstockstudy.com)

The display ad ran twice in two different publications running a total of four times. The size of the display ad was two columns by five inches and was placed in the Main News section of the publication.

### September 15, 2010 Public Meeting Ad Placements

Publication	Type	Run Date	Run Date
The Northwest Herald	Daily	W, Sept. 1	W, Sept. 8
The Woodstock Independent	Weekly	W, Sept. 1	W, Sept. 8

## PERSPECTIVES Newsletter:

The PERSPECTIVES Newsletter is a publication that provides a format to keep the stakeholders informed about new project developments. The second project newsletter focused on summaries of the first public meeting and first two Citizen Advisory Group meetings, the existing corridor conditions and deficiencies within the study area, an explanation of the project Purpose and Need, and next steps. The Issue No. 2 September 2010 Newsletter was mailed to all 833 stakeholders on August 31, 2010. The Newsletter also acted as the formal invitation to Public Meeting #2 on September 15, 2010.

PARTNERING FOR PROGRESS US Route 14 to Charles Road

# PERSPECTIVES

## Public Meeting Well Attended

VALUABLE INPUT RECEIVED

**T**he Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) hosted the first Public Meeting for the Illinois Route 47 Phase I Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study on Wednesday, February 3, 2010. The study includes an analysis of existing roadway deficiencies, safety and capacity issues, drainage concerns and future transportation needs. The Illinois Route 47 study area is located mainly in the City of Woodstock and in McHenry County, extending approximately five miles from US Route 14 on the south to Charles Road on the north.

The Public Meeting was an open house format from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and was held at the Challenger Learning Center in the City of Woodstock. IDOT provided information regarding the study schedule and process, study area characteristics, opportunities for public involvement and basic information regarding the current conditions along the corridor. Attendees were given the opportunity to view a PowerPoint presentation, view exhibit boards with basic project information, and place comments on a large scale aerial of the study area to identify issues and concerns with the corridor. IDOT representatives and project study team members were available to answer questions and address project concerns. *(Continued on p. 2)*



**ILLINOIS ROUTE 47**  
US Route 14 to Charles Road

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Participate in the Identification of Solutions! p4

## CITIZEN ADVISORY WORK Continues

In order to provide a forum for meaningful local participation and ensure that potential alternatives are consistent with community goals and objectives, IDOT created a Citizen Advisory Group (CAG) for the Illinois Route 47 Phase I Study. The CAG consists of community leaders such as the Mayor or Manager and the County Board Chairman or their representatives, who have the authority to speak on behalf of their organization. In addition, the CAG also includes stakeholders with technical expertise in the areas of transportation, land use, environment, and economic development, as well as property owners in the corridor who have expressed an interest in participating on the CAG.

The first CAG meeting was held on January 21, 2010 at the Bull Valley Country Club in Woodstock. Members engaged in a hands-on workshop to identify corridorwide transportation issues and concerns, and then used those issues to develop goals and objectives for the project. A variety of topics emerged, resulting in the identification of the following six primary themes of goals and objectives:

- 1) *Reduce congestion*
- 2) *Increase mobility*
- 3) *Improve safety*
- 4) *Consider economic development impacts*
- 5) *Promote sense of urgency*
- 6) *Consider quality of life*

IDOT used this feedback, along with the stakeholder input received at the first public meeting, to generate a project Problem Statement (see p. 2). This statement, along with technical data and analysis, was used to develop the project Purpose and Need.

[www.dot.il.gov](http://www.dot.il.gov)



The study team then met with the CAG a second time on March 18, 2010. The draft Problem Statement was e-mailed prior to the meeting, and then presented for discussion. After several changes, the CAG was in general agreement for approving the Problem Statement.

The CAG also viewed and commented on a detailed presentation of the existing conditions and deficiencies in the corridor, which was also used to assist with the development of the project Purpose and Need.

*(Continued on p. 2)*

[www.IL47woodstockstudy.com](http://www.IL47woodstockstudy.com)


Issue No. 2 | September 2010

## Press Release:

The press release announcing the September 15, 2010 Public Meeting was written and approved based on IDOT's communications guidelines. The press release was issued to the following media outlets and posted to the project website, [www.il47woodstockstudy.com](http://www.il47woodstockstudy.com), on August 31, 2010.

- ABC 7 News
- CBS 2 News
- Chicago Public Radio
- Chicago Sun Times
- CLTV
- Copley News Service
- Crain's Chicago Business
- Dodge Construction News
- ENR
- Fox 32 News
- NBC 5 News
- Northwest Herald
- The Chicago Tribune
- The Daily Herald
- Tribune Broadcasting
- WBBM FM/AM Radio
- WFXW Radio
- WGN 9 News
- WGN Radio 720
- WLS Radio
- WLS TV
- Woodstock Independent
- WXT The Score 670

## Transportation News



Contact: Josh Kauffman (217) 558-0517

For Immediate Release:

**IDOT Schedules second Public Meeting concerning the Illinois Route 47 Phase I Study through the City of Woodstock In McHenry County**

Schaumburg, IL – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will conduct the second Public Meeting for the Illinois Route 47 Preliminary Engineering and Environmental (Phase I) Study. The study area is located in the City of Woodstock and McHenry County, extending approximately five miles from U.S. Route 14 on the south to Charles Road on the north.

The public meeting (open house format) will be held at the following time and location:

**Wednesday, September 15, 2010**  
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.  
Challenger Learning Center  
222 Church Street, Woodstock, Illinois 60098

The purpose of this meeting is to present a general overview of the project Purpose and Need as well as obtain public input and ideas on the development of potential project alternatives.

The meeting will be presented in an open house format. Interested persons may visit anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to view a PowerPoint presentation, review exhibits, provide comments, aid in the development of project alternatives, and meet with IDOT and study team representatives on a one-on-one basis.

\*This meeting will be accessible to handicapped individuals. Anyone needing specific assistance should contact Mary Rose Donahue of Images, Inc. at (630) 510-3944. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844/or 711; TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/or 711; and for Telebraille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Announcements:

In addition to the newsletter and display ad, an effective way to reach stakeholders is to announce the public meeting on various local websites. The display ad and the press release was emailed to the below locations for inclusion on their website home page, mention at board meetings, inclusion in local newsletters, or to forward onto co-workers.

- **City of Woodstock**
- **Woodstock Chamber of Commerce and Industry**
- **Woodstock Downtown Business Association**
- **McHenry County**
- **McHenry County DOT**
- **McHenry County Convention and Visitors Bureau**
- **McHenry County Economic Development Corporation**

## **Public Meeting #2 Summary**

The second public meeting for the Illinois Route 47 Phase I Study was held on Wednesday, September 15, 2010 at the Challenger Learning Center, 222 Church Street, Woodstock, Illinois from 4 – 7 PM. The meeting was an open house format with a continuous PowerPoint presentation, exhibit boards for review, and large scale aerials of the study area to which meeting attendees were encouraged to provide suggestions for the development of project alternatives, and also identify issues and concerns. The meeting was attended by **64 people**, and **9 comment forms** were received.

### **The following public officials were in attendance:**

-City of Woodstock:

- Mayor Brian Sager
- RB Thompson, City Council Member
- John Isbell, Public Works Director
- Jeff Van Landuyt, Asst. Public Works Director
- Joan Mansfield, Transportation Commission
- Andrew Celentano, Transportation Commission

-Dorr Township Supervisor Robert Pierce

-McHenry County Board Member Ersel Schuster

-McHenry County Planning & Development: Sean Foley

-State Representative Jack Franks

-Pace: Tim Dilsaver



ILLINOIS 47  
*US Route 14 to Charles Road*

**Additional agencies/organizations represented included:**

- McHenry County Bicycle Advocates: Joe Lewis
- Illinois Trails Conservancy: Bev Moore

**The following Media were represented:**

- Woodstock Independent Newspaper: Mike Neumann

**The Project Study Group Attendees included:**

IDOT:

- Steve Schilke
- John Baczek
- Rick Wojcik
- Sue Palmer
- Mike Cullian
- Cary Lewis
- Patrick Rinoso
- Mir Mustafa
- Ojas Patel

Strand Associates:

- Darcie Gabrisko
- Adam Moline
- Amanda Johnson

Images, Inc.

- Jennifer Diomar
- Mary Rose Donahue
- Carrie Hansen

The **9 comment forms** submitted covered a variety of topics, with the most predominant themes including:

**-Support for a western by-pass (in 4 comments)**

**-Inclusion of sidewalks and bike paths (in 3 comments)**

**-Widen Route 47 (in 2 comments)**

**-Support for an eastern by-pass using Zimmerman to Raffel (in 2 comments)**



Additional comment topics included property impacts, signal timing, consolidation of access points, the reconfiguration of the Calhoun intersection, the extension of McConnell Road over the UP RR tracks, keeping current Route 47 ROW but making a center continuous turn lane, making Route 47 a “business route” with traffic circles, maintaining a consistent number of lanes throughout the corridor, and making sure bicyclists in power point photos are wearing helmets.

The Public Meeting comment period ended Thursday, September 30, 2010.