

Chapter 6 Coordination and Public Involvement

6.0 Coordination and Public Involvement

Public outreach and coordination has been extensive on this project. Coordination meetings have been conducted with resource and regulatory agencies through regularly conducted NEPA/404 Merger Meetings. A copy of minutes from these meetings can be found in [Appendix D](#). Public comments have been summarized in [Appendix E](#).

In addition, meetings have been conducted with the general public and the local communities. Five Stakeholder Workshops, and two Public Meetings were held during the course of the project. The following sections provide a summary of each of the public outreach meetings.

6.1 Open House Public Meeting #1 (September 30, 2008)

The first Public Informational Meeting was held on September 30, 2008 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Chesak Elementary School (10910 Reed Road). The purpose of the presentation was to introduce the Context Sensitive Solutions process and present existing road conditions and data that had been collected. Advertisements for the meeting were published in the *Daily Herald* and the *Northwest Herald* on September 9th and 23rd and approximately 350 meeting invitations and brochures were mailed to residents who live in and around the study area. One of the primary issues discussed at the meeting was traffic mobility. Residents were concerned about the amount of traffic currently present along the route and the potential effects the increase in traffic would have on mobility in the future. Another primary issue was traffic safety.

Two comments resulting from the public meeting were received via email; another 16 were obtained via notes at the public meeting. A community questionnaire was developed in support of this meeting, 10 comments were received as a result of this questionnaire. Comments were somewhat general as this was the initial Public Meeting. They included concern for safety, bicycle accommodations, building the road as soon as possible, and how many lanes it would be. All comments were responded to either by U.S. Postal Service mail or email depending on how they were received. For more information please see Appendix E.

6.2 Stakeholder Workshop #1 (February 13, 2009)

The first Stakeholder Workshop Meeting was held on February 13, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workshop was held at the Huntley Park District Recreation Center (12015 Mill Street, Huntley, IL). The purpose of the workshop was to introduce the Context Sensitive Solutions process and obtain public input for the project's purpose and need. A total of 28 stakeholders were identified and invited to the workshop, 19 attended. Invitation letters were mailed to home or business addresses and electronic invitation cards were sent by email.

The workshop obtained consensus on four project goals and objectives. The goals and objectives developed were:

- improve safety of IL 47
- improve mobility on IL 47
- protect the environment along IL 47
- accommodate economic development along IL 47

6.3 Stakeholder Workshop #2 (May 29, 2009)

The second Stakeholder Workshop Meeting was held on May 29, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workshop was held at the Huntley Park District Recreation Center (12015 Mill Street, Huntley, IL). Consensus was obtained on the Project Problem Statement and the stakeholders were encouraged to comment on the Project Purpose and Need. The meeting was attended by 17 stakeholders.

The workshop obtained consensus on the following four project elements:

- number of lanes - four lanes were preferred
- median type - barrier median or wide grass median was preferred
- edge treatment – paved shoulder with or without curb and gutter was preferred
- pedestrian/bicycle accommodations – a bicycle path was preferred

6.4 Stakeholder Workshop #3 (October 6, 2009)

The third Stakeholder Workshop Meeting was held on October 6, 2009 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workshop was held at the Huntley Park District Recreation Center (12015 Mill Street, Huntley, IL). Invitation letters were mailed to home or business addresses, electronic invitation cards were sent by email, and stakeholder volunteers were contacted by telephone to participate in the workshop. The meeting was attended by 19 stakeholders.

The stakeholder response to the alternatives was favorable and the preferred options identified. Five major categories of comments were received, including concerns related to accommodations for possible future bicycle overpasses, wetland impacts, reduced access, stormwater detention, or quality, and residential or business impacts.

6.5 Public Meeting #2 (November 19, 2009)

The second Public Informational Meeting was held on November 19, 2009 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Martin Elementary School (10920 Reed Road, Lake in the Hills). Advertisements for the meeting were published in the *Daily Herald* and the *Northwest Herald* on October 29th and November 12th and meeting invitations and brochures were mailed to public official, agencies, business owners, and residents who live in and around the study area. The meeting was attended by approximately 23 people.

The primary concerns of the stakeholders via discussion or in written comments were accessibility, providing bike paths, runoff water quality, wetland impacts, tree removal, general

geometric differences of the Public Meeting's two alternatives versus IDOT's Strategic Regional Arterial study, being a participant in further workshops, and right of way acquisition. Preferred alternatives were also identified.

Five comments resulting from the public meeting were received via email; another 16 were obtained via notes at the public meeting. Thirteen comments were received at the public meeting. Comments included the desire for separated pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, left turn access, and concern for a narrower right of way for less property take. All comments were responded to either by U.S. Postal Service mail or email depending on how they were received. For more information please see Appendix E.

6.6 Stakeholder Workshop #4 (August 23, 2011)

The fourth Stakeholder Workshop Meeting was held on August 23, 2011 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workshop was held at the Huntley Park District Recreation Center (12015 Mill Street, Huntley, IL). Electronic invitation cards were sent by email to stakeholder volunteers to participate in the workshop. The meeting was attended by 17 stakeholders.

The workshop consisted of a power point presentation and a group exercise. The power point presentation included an overview of the project progress and presentation of the concepts being utilized to reduce impacts. Exhibits were available for stakeholders to review, including a roll plot of the project showing the alternatives over an aerial background, renderings of the typical sections, and charts summarizing the impacts.

6.7 Stakeholder Workshop #5 (March 5, 2014)

The fifth Stakeholder Workshop was held on March 5, 2014 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The workshop was held at the Huntley Park District Recreation Center (12015 Mill Street, Huntley, IL). Electronic invitation cards were sent by email to stakeholder volunteers to participate in the workshop. Invitation letters were mailed to home or business addresses for those stakeholder volunteers who had not previously provided an e-mail address. Twenty-two stakeholders attended the meeting.

The workshop included a power point presentation and exhibit boards. The power point presentation consisted of an update on the project progress and next steps, description of the Preferred Alternative and an overview of the proposed BMPs. The exhibits included a roll plot of the proposed improvements over an aerial background, renderings of the proposed cross sections, and exhibit boards showing the project purpose and need, crash data, and traffic volume data.

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