FYI

From: Fuller, Matt
Sent: Friday, February 04, 2011 8:10 AM
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Subject: IL 131 Alternatives Analysis - Response to 10-25-2010 letter

Kathy and Soren –

This is in response to your letter dated October 25, 2010 regarding the Alternatives to be Carried Forward for the preliminary engineering and environmental study of the improvement of Illinois Route 131 from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue in Lake County. Specifically, the letter requests that additional alternatives be developed that accommodates bicycle use via an off-road shared use path and also include an alternative with an open swale. In addition, you requested that any information related to wetlands be provided.

Per your comments, attached are the typical sections for refined Alternatives E1 and E2. Refined Alternative E1 proposes shoulders and an open ditch drainage system with the shared-use path on the top of the ditch backslope throughout the study area. Refined Alternative E2 proposes a closed drainage system of roadside curb and gutter, the shared-use path placed 5-ft from the face of curb, and a small swale near the right-of-way limits. Please note that while E2 shows a swale, further analysis will need to be completed if E2 is selected as the preferred alternative to determine if the swale is hydraulically required.

Also per your request, the wetland survey report is included in this package as requested. The total wetland impact of the alternatives varies from 1.8 to 2.67 acres over the 7.5 mile project length. Wetland Impact Evaluation (WIE) forms will not be completed until the preferred alternative is selected. Of the 57 onsite wetland determinations completed in the project area, 51 were determined to be wetlands and most are isolated and of fair or poor quality. One site requires "IEPA case-specific water quality certification" and three sites have "a surface connection to waters of the U.S." but are of poor natural quality. Fourteen of the sites were also identified on National Wetland Inventory (NWI) maps.

We believe the attached information addresses the comments provided in your October 25, 2010 letter. Please review and provide concurrence on the alternatives to be carried forward or let me know if you have additional questions.

Matt