

Date: August 5, 2015
Time: 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Location: Leggee Elementary School
13723 Harmony Road, Huntley, IL 60142
Topic: US 20 at Harmony Road Phase I Study
Open House Public Hearing



Meeting Summary

The second public hearing for the preliminary engineering and environmental study (Phase I) of US 20 at Harmony Road was held on August 5, 2015 from 4 PM to 7 PM at the Leggee Elementary School. The purpose of the meeting was to present the updated roundabout preferred alternative and to obtain public input.

The hearing was an open house with IDOT and consultant team members available to answer questions. A continuous audio/visual presentation, exhibit boards, an informational brochure, and comment forms were available at the meeting. The exhibit boards included a location map, project schedule, existing conditions, crash data, level of service (LOS) description, planned/constructed roundabout locations in Illinois, large plots of the signalized alternative considered and the roundabout preferred alternative, alternative comparison table, a proposed detour map, a signage plan for the preferred alternative, and a breakdown of the land acquisition procedure.

Information from the public hearing, including the exhibits, presentation, brochure, and summary will be made available on the project website at www.US20atHarmony.com.

Comment Summary

The hearing was attended by 143 people. A total of thirty-three (33) comment forms were received during the three week comment period. At the meeting attendees were given the option to take comment forms home and mail them back by August 26, 2015 to be included as part of the public record for this hearing. In addition to the comment forms, attendees were informed that comments can be submitted via the project website at any point during the study. A court reporter was present during the hearing and attendees were encouraged to give verbal testimony. A total of five (5) comments were given to the court reporter.

Of the comments received, approximately twenty-seven percent (9) support the roundabout and the need for a safety improvement. Forty-six percent (15) supported the need for a safety improvement but preferred traffic signals or other geometric changes instead of a roundabout, and twenty-seven percent (9) did not state a preference for either the roundabout or a traffic signal.

Other comments include:

- Appreciate the effort to protect the school (1)
- Relocate school house (2)
- Project is a waste of money (3)
- Funding of construction cost (1)
- Purchase property on west side of 20 (1)
- Reduce speed limit /Speed Limit – enforce speed limits (2)
- Any changes on Getty Road? Will it be used during construction (1)
- Put the decision regarding the roundabout on a referendum vote for next election (1)
- Roundabout at Des-Plaines and Golf Road does not work (2)
- What is the problem with the skew angle, other intersections (20&23) have same skew angles and there is no roundabout (1)
- Don't understand the need of straightening US 20, Big Timber Road has the same problem and a traffic light was installed (2)
- I live near IL 23 and River Rd. When intersection was improved accidents decreased without traffic signals (1)
- Support the roundabout (7)
- Proposed roundabout should be bigger in diameter to accommodate large trucks/double lane roundabout – cheaper land acquisition now than in the future (2)
- Landscaping of the center or just green cement (1)
- Concerns: Drainage, rain, snow plow (2)
- Concern: does the cost analysis of takes into consideration the construction of the turn lanes (1)
- Concern: at which point will the intersection be widened (1)
- Roundabout is more dangerous than existing intersection (1)
- Too much traffic for a roundabout (4)
- Does not address traffic volumes/No need/ Roundabout does not fit in the area/No benefit obtained from roundabout (5)
- Back up with the 25 mph speed limit/Difficult to enter with RAB with truck traffic /trucks will have trouble staying in the proper lane/difficult to enter roundabout (6)
- Safety issues does not justify roundabout (1)
- Purpose of the roundabout is to keep traffic flowing, Does not address safety. (1)
- Sight issues will not be improved with the roundabout/Roundabout does not reduce accidents significantly (2)
- Roundabout is more expensive than traffic signal (3)
- Prefer a traffic light (11)
- No need to straighten the road (1)
- Straighten the road and keep the stop signs (2)
- Use format for traffic light and keep stop signs (1)
- Reduce hill/ add stop light & install turn lanes/install flashing signs before intersection(4)

Public Official and Agency Attendance

In addition to the general public, several of the 143 attendees were from local organizations and local government. These include the McHenry County Division of Transportation, City of Marengo, McHenry County Board, McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission, and the Huntley Historical Society. Members of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) were also present. The agency attendees are listed below.

Illinois Department of Transportation

Kimberly Murphy, Consultant Studies Unit Head
Jason Salley, Geometrics Studies Unit Head
Theresa Pelletier, Project Manager (Epstein)
John Baczek, Environmental Studies
Marnie Hooghkirk, Area Programmer
Philippe Victor, Contract Compliance
Pam Broviak, Land Acquisition
Mike Cullian, Land Acquisition

City of Marengo

Gary Boden, City Administrator
Scott Small, Assistant Fire Chief

McHenry County Division of Transportation

Wally Dittrich, Design Manager
Kirsten Mellem, Transportation Planner
Scott Hennings, Transportation Planner
Rebecca Brazas, Design Engineer

McHenry County Board

Joe Gottemoller, Chairman
Carolyn Schofield, Member
Mary McCann, Member

McHenry County Historic Preservation Commission

Steve Greeley, Vice Chair

Huntley Historical Society

Diane McGowan, Special Projects

Next Steps

The public comment period for the public hearing concluded on August 26, 2015. The Department is addressing the comments via newsletter, anticipated to be sent in October 2015. Public input received at the public hearing will be included in the project record for the Phase I study. The engineering and environmental studies are estimated to be completed by the end of 2015. After completion of Phase I, the Department will initiate the preparation of contract plans and land acquisition (Phase II), followed by construction (Phase III). This improvement is included in the Department's FY 2016-2021 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Our current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the middle years of our current multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through our future annual legislative appropriations.