

Stakeholder Meeting Summary

Tuesday, August 28, 2007

Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Morrison Rockwood State Park, Township Highway Commissioners, Wal-Mart Distribution Center, and Prairie Hills Recycling and Disposal Center Morrison, Illinois

Project: FAP 309 (US 30)
Section (20-1, 17R, 16, 15, 110) PE 1
Whiteside County
Job No. P-92-107-07

Attendees:

Harlan Vegter (Township Highway Commissioner – Union Grove)
Arnold Vetger (Employee, Union Grove Township)
David J. Dykstra (Township Highway Commissioner - Mt. Pleasant)
Bill Koziol (Employees, Mt. Pleasant Township)
Mike Challand (IDNR-Morrison Rockwood State Park)
George Bellovics (IDNR Region I)
Jim Modglin (Manager - IDNR Region I)

Absent:

Wal- Mart Representative
Prairie Hills Recycling & Disposal Facility

Project Study Group:

Dawn Perkins (IDOT)
Rebecca (Becky) Marruffo (IDOT)
Mark Nardini (IDOT)
Gil Janes (HR Green)
Jon Estrem (HR Green)
Mike Walton (Volkert)
Bridgett Jacquot (Volkert)
Shelia A. Hudson (Hudson and Associates, LLC)

Handouts (see attachment):

Power Point- US 30 Environmental Impact Statement and
Phase I Design Report

Meeting Purpose

Members of the US 30 Project study team met with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Morrison-Rockwood State Park, and Township Highway Commissioners representatives to present a project update.

The presentation included results from the feasibility study; an outline of the next Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Design Report phase. In addition, the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) policy and process was explained, as well as other public outreach activities.

Listed below is an outline of the power point presentation:

- Results from the Corridor Feasibility Study
- Federal Requirements for the Next Phase (NEPA, EIS and CSS Policies)
- Project Timeline
- Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)– PSG Role and CAG Role
- Other Public Outreach Activities
- Stakeholder Briefing Highlights
- Public Information Meeting (PIM) Overview
- PIM Interest, Issues, and Comments

A map was also presented that highlighted some of the environmental issues already identified within the project study area.

Study Team Presentation

Becky opened the meeting by introducing the new US 30 study team and thanking the officials for agreeing to meet with the team. She went on to highlight IDOT's new approach to EIS and Design reports as required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Illinois' CSS policy.

Gil Janes, Mike Walton, and Bridgett Jacquot presented a US 30 power point presentation. Shelia Hudson closed the meeting by thanking the officials again for their time and on-going commitment to support the project.

Comments/ Issues/ Questions

Comment:

IDNR representatives expressed concerns that a new study was beginning and the appearance of disregarding alignments identified in the Feasibility Study. They went on to state that starting over would only delay the process. George (IDNR) stated that an average of 425,000 attendees visit the park annually. He went on to explain the patterns of how visitors access the park; stressing that the majority of their visitors access the park at the main gate. George felt it was important for the study team to know this information when determining a new alignment.

Becky explained the purpose of the Feasibility Study. She emphasized that the Department had to do the Feasibility Study first to determine if there was a need before going to the next phase. She went on to highlight several major milestones the study team must accomplish in Phase I before going to the next step, Phase II, Final Design. In closing, Becky explained that the process will take years before anyone see a final product; however the Department must adhere to the process as required by federal and state laws.

Many Highway Commissioners expressed concerns about the project potentially impacting local roadway plans. They stressed their desire to see better coordination efforts between the County Highway Engineers' office, and the study team to avoid possible situations that would impact local planning initiatives. The Commissioners also offered assistance in providing the study team with copies of local plans that focused on roadway, utilities, and land-use planning in the study area.

Gil explained to the audience that all information presented and/or gathered will be beneficial and considered when the engineers begin their assessments. He went on to stress how important it was for individual stakeholders to provide the study team with any current and proposed data they deem important for the team to consider during the study period.

Questions:

Q: IDNR – Will the study team be vacating any roads?

A: Team Response - Mike responded, it's too early to determine what roads will be vacated.

Q: Highway Commissioner/IDNR – We've seen maps and read where roads have already been determined so why are we going through this process again?

A: Team Response - Gil responded the Feasibility Study was done to determine if there was a need based on preliminary findings. It was a step in the federal process the Department had to adhere to as required by law. The next step is a more in-depth process. The study team will begin analyzing environmental and engineering data for reporting as required by NEPA to get a Record of Decision (ROD).

Q: Highway Commissioner – Could the recommended alignment go outside the three study bands identified?

A: Team Response - Bridgett responded that FHWA requires IDOT to define a study area from one state route to another state within boundaries where the actual communities are impacted. Of course suggestions can be made, however through the EIS process an alignment proposed outside the study area could potentially be a fatal flaw.



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**Whiteside County Highway
Department
& Township Road Commissioners**

Whiteside County Highway Dept. Office

Tuesday, August 28, 2007



US 30 Project

This project proposes 4 lane improvements to US 30 in Whiteside County Illinois, from the junction of IL 136 near Fulton to the junction of IL 40 in Rock Falls.



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The US 30 Corridor Feasibility Study determined there was a need to:

- ❑ *Improve Regional Mobility*
- ❑ *Accommodate Land Use Planning Goals*
- ❑ *Address Local System Deficiencies and Safety*



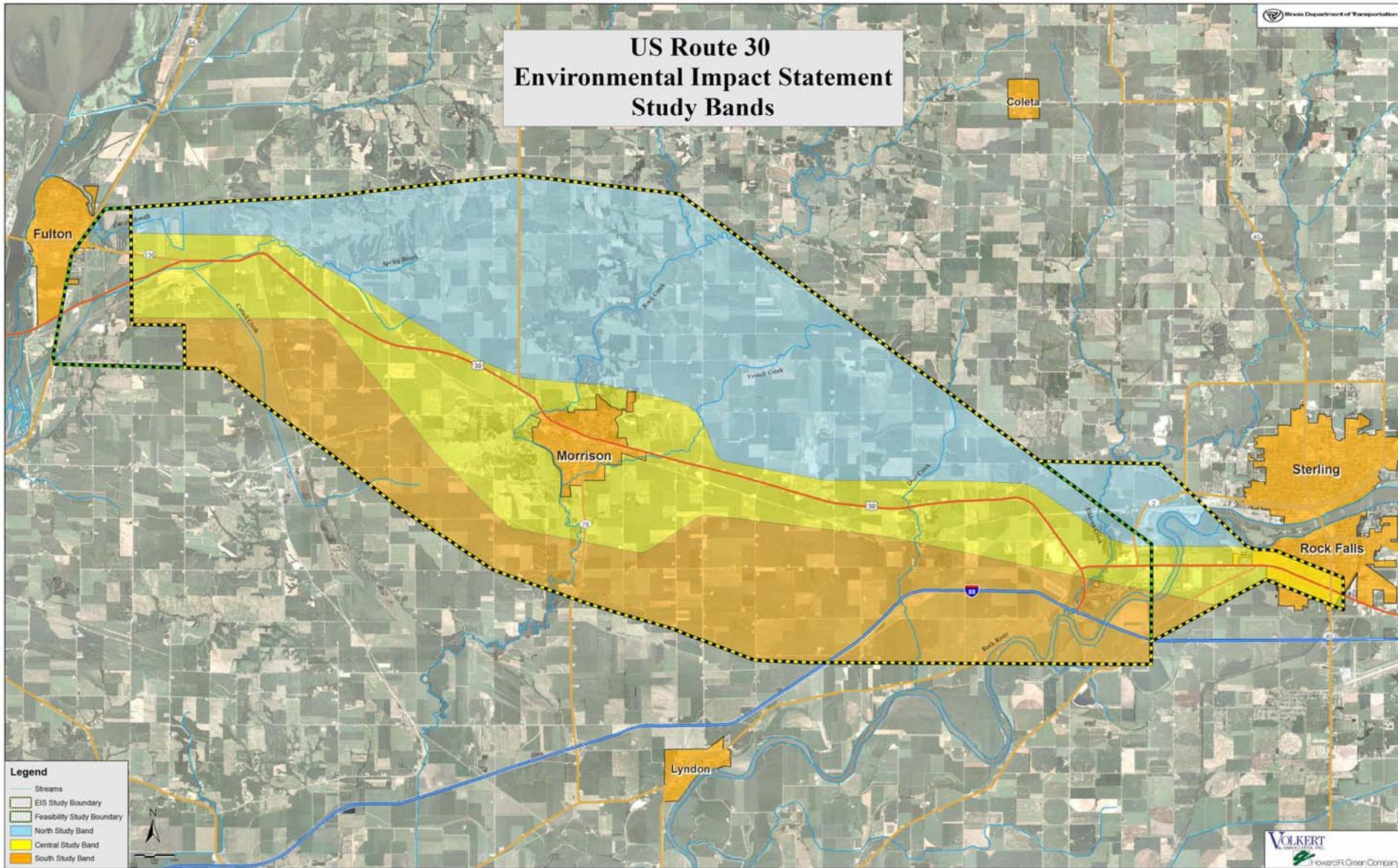
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**NEXT STEP
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT
AND PHASE I DESIGN REPORT
Using Context Sensitive Solutions
Process**



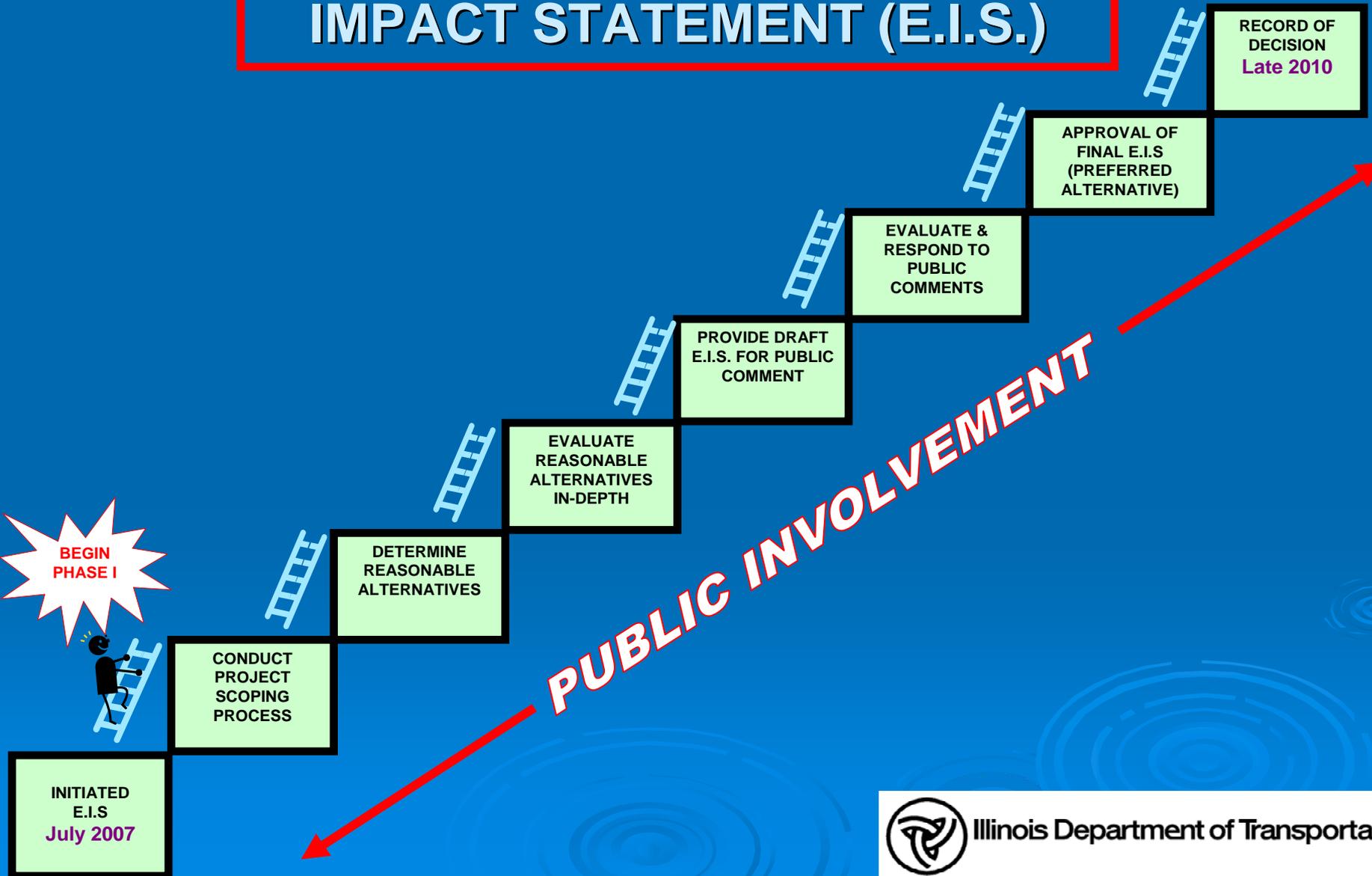
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US 30 Study Bands

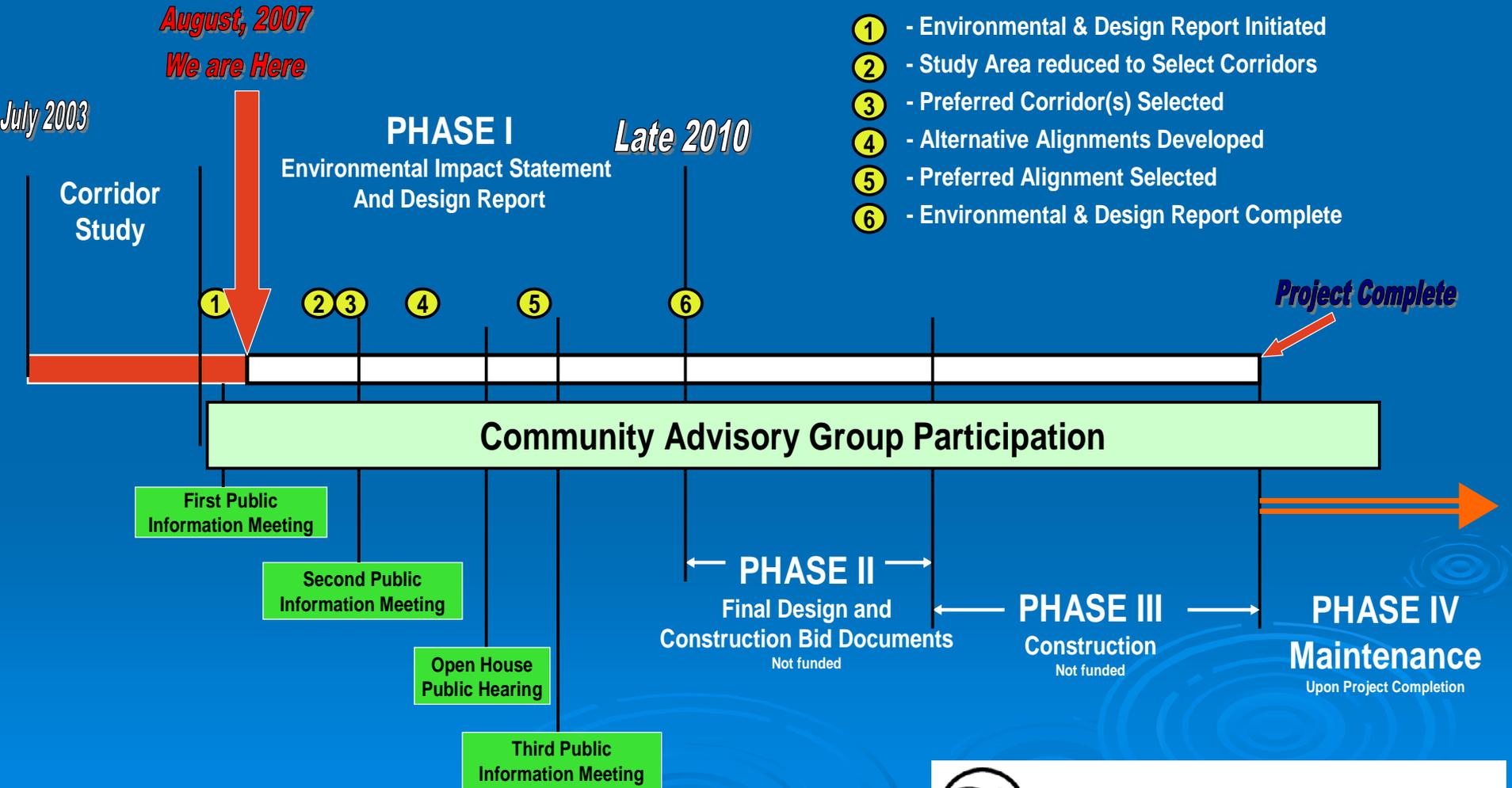


PHASE I ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (E.I.S.)

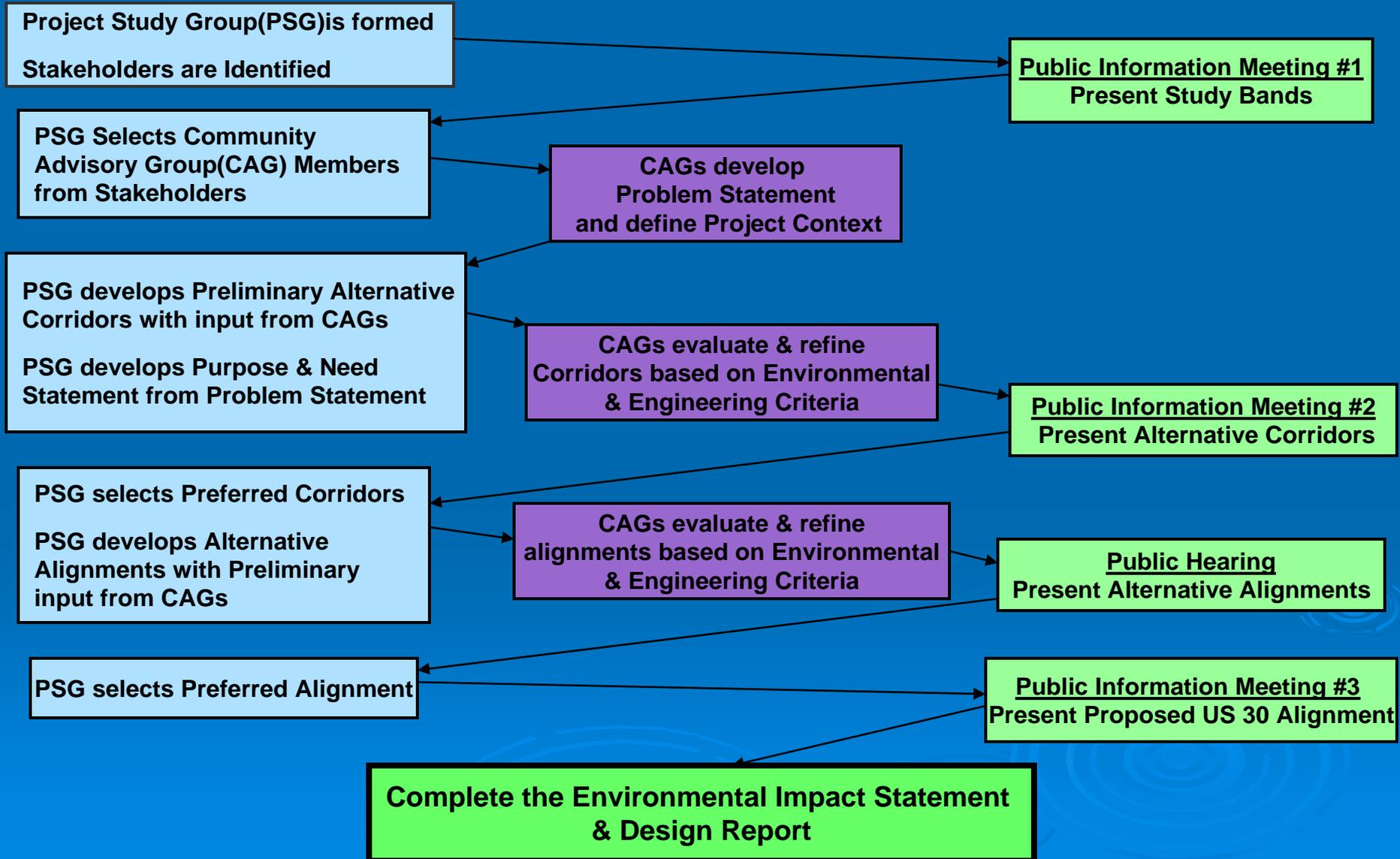
COMPLETE
DESIGN
REPORT



Project Timeline



CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PROCESS



Other Public Outreach Activities:

- *Stakeholder Meeting and Briefings*
- *Public Information Meetings*
- *New Project Web Site*
- *New Project Hotline*
- *Project Newsletters and Fact Sheets*



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STAKEHOLDER BRIEFING HIGHLIGHTS JULY and AUGUST 2007

- MEETING PURPOSE
- AUDIENCE
- FUTURE MEETINGS
- LEGISLATIVE BRIEFINGS
- INTEREST/ISSUES/CONCERNS



Public Information Meeting

OVERVIEW

Morrison, Illinois

Monday, July, 25, 2007

ATTENDANCE: 253

ATTENDEES: Business Leaders, Home Owners, Farmers, Political Officials, Media, Business Owners, Farm Bureau, Special Interest Groups, Roadway Commissioners, Chamber / Economic Development Agency Representatives

COMMUNITIES: Fulton, Morrison, Rock Falls, Sterling, Lyndon, Erie, Galesburg, Mt. Prospect, Clinton, Iowa, Davenport, Iowa



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INTEREST/ISSUES/COMMENTS:

- What are the property impacts?
- Is my property impacted?
- Where are the alignments?
- What happen to the preferred alignments identified in the feasibility study?
- How much is this project going to cost us?
- Who is funding this project?
- When will you build the highway?
- Will there be a by-pass in Morrison?
- Who is going to pay me for my property?



YOUR COMMENTS & CONCERNS



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**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
ONGOING SUPPORT !**

VOLKERT
& ASSOCIATES, INC.

 Howard R. Green Company