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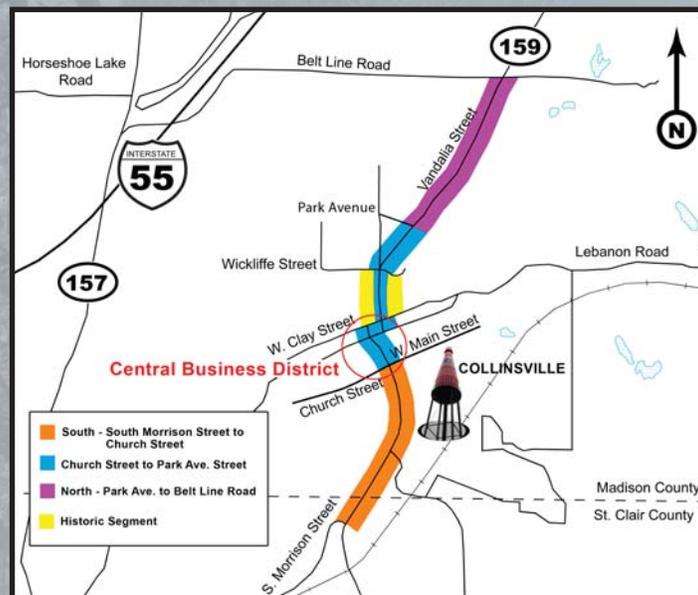
This newsletter provides an update on the results of the public involvement meeting conducted this summer.

IDOT CONDUCTS SECOND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

The second "open house" Public Involvement Meeting for the Illinois Route 159 Project was held on June 19, 2007 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm at the American Legion Post 365 in Collinsville. Attendance at this meeting was very good with 364 individuals or couples signing into the meeting and over 400 comment forms were handed out. The "open house" format facilitated an informal discussion between the public and the Project Study Team (PST) throughout the session. The purpose of the meeting was to share with the public the preliminary design alternatives for Illinois Route 159.

The project has been broken down into three segments:

- SOUTH SEGMENT** – South Morrison Avenue to Church Street
- CENTER SEGMENT** – Church Street to Park Avenue/Spring Avenue
- NORTH SEGMENT** – Park Avenue/Spring Avenue to Belt Line Road



PROJECT SEGMENT MAP

Alternatives for each of the segments were on display for review. Two alternatives were shown for the South Segment, one for the Center Segment, and two for the North Segment. Sub-alternates were also presented to address some areas of local concern within the segments.

Attendees were able to review the displays at their leisure and have members of the PST answer their questions. Comment forms were distributed to encourage the public to provide written feedback on the alternatives.

The PST has since reviewed all of the comment forms and written letters back to the attendees thanking them for their input and answering the questions or concerns raised on their comment forms. See Page 2 for a summary of the comment form feedback.

ILLINOIS ROUTE 159 PROBLEM STATEMENT

"The transportation problem in the City of Collinsville along Illinois Route 159 is the flow of vehicular and pedestrian traffic and safety within a highly urbanized and historically significant section of the community that promotes and sustains economic development and redevelopment of the Central Business District."



A MESSAGE FROM IDOT:

Attendance at the second public involvement meeting held on June 19, 2007 was very good. I would like to encourage those who were not able to attend this meeting to visit the project website to view the alternatives and to submit any questions or comments that they may have. In the next few months, the Project Study Team will be evaluating the various alternatives and select a preferred alternative for this project. Thanks to the members of the community for their efforts in helping us reach this significant step in the process.

Sincerely,
Mary C. Lamie, PE
Deputy Director of Highways
Region Five Engineer

IS IDOT LISTENING?

(Comment Form Feedback)

Over 400 comment forms were distributed at the Public Involvement Meeting and 118 were returned. All of the comments were reviewed by the Project Study Team (PST) and a letter was sent to each individual who provided an address was given. The comment forms included space to provide input on each segments' alternatives. Some people also chose to attach their own comments or write a letter regarding the project.

Comments covered a wide range of concerns. Common themes were:

- **Comments stated a preference for an alternative or sub-alternate**
- **Comments stated a preference to not use a median within the Historic Section**
- **Concerns were stated regarding pedestrian and student access**
- **Request were made for the use of excess property for parking or green space**
- **Concerns were raised about impacts to personal or business property**
- **Attendees were concerned about impacts to Saints Peter and Paul (SSPP) Church**

The last question on the comment form asked, "Do you feel that IDOT is coordinating with the public effectively?" Based on a tally of the responses to-date, IDOT received a 90% approval rating with regards to their public involvement efforts for the Illinois Route 159 project. The Project Study Team (PST) is proud of these results and will continue outreach efforts.



CITIZENS REVIEW EXHIBITS AT PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MEETING

PARKING IS GOLDEN

Parking is the lifeblood of a downtown business community. A common question from business owners in the project area is, "What impact will the project have on my available parking?" Residents have also voiced their concerns regarding the need for additional parking in the downtown area as well as for green space. The Project Study Team (PST) is considering ways to address these concerns within the project limits. The PST is looking at the potential use of excess right of way from this project to be used for parking and green space. Several concepts have been developed based on the proposed alternatives that could provide an increase of more than 30 parking spaces for the downtown area. The PST is considering not only an increase in parking, but the proximity of the spaces with regard to the businesses they serve. The PST will work with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) and City to determine a mix of parking and green space that will best serve the community as a whole.



SAINTS PETER AND PAUL PARISHIONERS GET INVOLVED

A large group of parishioners from Saints Peter and Paul (SSPP) Church and School attended the Public Involvement Meeting. Many of the SSPP representatives were there to show their support for the SSPP Church and School and to express their opinions on which alternative should be selected. Upon request, the PST presented the public involvement meeting exhibits after Sunday morning Mass. A significant number of comments received from the public expressed a desire to minimize impacts to the church and school. The PST has met with the church a number of times since the beginning of this project and understands the importance of maintaining this landmark's integrity. The communication between the PST and SSPP Church has been ongoing throughout the development process of the project and has covered a number of issues including student drop-off and safety, church access, and wedding and funeral processions. The PST will continue to work with SSPP Church throughout the project to achieve a final design that is conducive to church operations.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The next step in the project development process is for the Project Study Team (PST) to evaluate the alternatives based on how well they meet the project Purpose and Need, their potential effects on the environment, residences and businesses, how they improve the transportation system with regard to safety and mobility, utility impacts, constructability and taking into consideration feedback from the public. This public feedback will include the comments received from the citizens present at the public information meetings, the Community Advisory Group (CAG), and stakeholder meetings.

Once the PST selects the preferred alternative, it will then be carried forward through preliminary design and presented back to the public at the project's final Public Involvement Meeting scheduled for the Spring of 2008.



EXHIBITS ON DISPLAY AT SSPP CHURCH





1102 Eastport Plaza Drive
Collinsville, Illinois 62234



To view the exhibits from June's public involvement meeting visit the project website at www.dot.il.gov/ilroute159 and click "PI/Meeting Info". Exhibits from both public meetings can be downloaded in PDF format.



CONTACT INFORMATION

You may submit questions or comments on this project by writing us at:
Illinois Route 159 Project Team
c/o Volkert and Associates, Inc.
103 Lanter Court
Collinsville, IL 62234

Or you may submit questions or comments on the project website at:
www.dot.il.gov/ilroute159

