

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

ACTIVITY 1 – Stakeholder Identification

From the start of this project in August of 2005, the Project Study Team made a tremendous effort to identify as many of the stakeholders as possible for the Illinois Route 159 project. Project postcards were developed and sent to property owners, distributed to businesses along the route, and passed out at the Collinsville Halloween Walk. These postcards were used to establish a mailing list for the project newsletter which keeps stakeholders informed of the process. In addition to the mailing list and newsletter, IDOT established a project website which allows stakeholders to submit questions, learn about the project, and sign up for the electronic newsletter mailing list. This website was advertised on a billboard for six months near the Catsup Bottle. In February of 2006, the Project Study Team conducted a community wide public involvement meeting. This meeting was conducted to inform the public about the upcoming project and to further reach out to stakeholders. The Project Study Team also reached out to a number of stakeholder organizations to ask for their participation in the project. Stakeholder meetings have been conducted with 24 different organizations. These organizations represent all aspects of the community from neighborhood organizations to business development organizations to the City of Collinsville. From these organizations, the Project Study Team organized a Community Advisory Group to provide input and gain feedback for this project.

ACTIVITY 2 – Develop Purpose of the Project

The Community Advisory Group started meeting in July of 2006. The first task for this group was to develop a problem statement for the project. A problem statement is a concise narrative, prepared at the start of a project to define the problem to be solved. This statement was developed by the Community Advisory Group from their perspectives and from input received from the community through ongoing public involvement efforts. The problem statement developed by the CAG is as follows:

“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.”

The Project Study Team took this input and the results of the ongoing engineering and environmental studies and prepared a formal Purpose and Need Statement for this project. The Purpose and Need statement is available at tonight’s public involvement meeting or online at www.dot.il.gov/ilroute159/default.html.

ACTIVITY 3 – Development and Analysis of Alternatives and Selection of Preferred Alternative

The Community Advisory Group has met seven times since the problem statement was developed for this project. These meetings have been dedicated to the development of alternatives for the proposed improvement of Illinois Route 159. The Community Advisory Group spent time learning about how IDOT develops a project, design requirements for Illinois Route 159 project, and how IDOT acquires land for projects. The Community Advisory Group then provided input to the Project Study Team on what the roadway should look like so the design team could develop some preliminary alternatives. The Community Advisory Group reviewed the preliminary design alternatives and provided feedback for consideration. The culmination of the efforts of the Community Advisory Group and the Project Study Team is what is on display at tonight’s meeting.

After tonight’s meeting, the Project Study Team will continue to develop the preliminary alternatives and eventually screen the alternatives for their ability to meet the purpose of the project, their impact on a number of environmental and design considerations, and take into consideration the public’s input on the alternatives. At the conclusion of the screening process, the Project Study Team will select a “preferred” alternative. This preferred alternative will be presented back to the community at a final public involvement meeting currently scheduled for early 2008.

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ACTIVITY 4 – Approval of Final Alternative

After the final public involvement meeting is conducted, the Project Study Team will complete the environmental assessment, design report, and preliminary plans for the proposed improvement to Illinois Route 159. After the Final Alternative is approved, the Project Study Team will proceed with the final design plans. If funding has become available, IDOT will proceed with land acquisition and construction of the improvement on Illinois Route 159.