

SUMMARY

Illinois Route 31 Phase I Study:
Illinois Route 176 to Illinois Route 120
McHenry County

McHenry County College Shah Center
4100 W. Shamrock Lane
McHenry, Illinois 60050
Thursday, September 1, 2011
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #1

The purpose of the CAG meeting was to introduce CAG members and the project team, present and obtain concurrence on CAG ground rules, review the project development and public involvement processes, and summarize results from Public Meeting #1, as well as develop a list of key transportation issues / concerns and a Project Problem Statement.

Invited participants included stakeholders who attended the Public Informational Meeting and/or interested local groups or agencies. A total of 26 volunteers were identified and invited to this CAG meeting, and to participate in all CAG meetings throughout the duration of the project. Invitation letters were mailed to home or business addresses.

This meeting was attended by **19** invited CAG members or other interested project stakeholders; and **9** members of the project study group were present to facilitate the meeting and answer any questions (See attached sign-in sheet).

The meeting began with a 30 minute PowerPoint presentation providing project information and an overview of the project development and public involvement process to be followed on this project; a summary of the results from Public Meeting #1; an introduction to the Project Workshop session; and an overview of project next steps and future meetings.

Introductions and Presentation (Jean-Alix Peralte – STV Inc.)

- **Welcome**
 - Mr. Peralte introduced the project team including IDOT, STV Inc., and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. (CBBEL) and briefly explained their role on the project.
 - CAG and project team members introduced themselves – name, whom they represent, and why they volunteered to join the CAG.
 - All members were given a copy of the meeting agenda and a binder with the presentation and exhibit materials to be maintained throughout the study.
 - The ground rules to be followed by the CAG were introduced and approval sought. *No objections to the project CAG Ground Rules were expressed, therefore these ground rules have been considered as approved by the CAG.*

- **Project Development and Public Involvement Process (PowerPoint)**
 - IDOT Project Development and Phase I Study Process

- Phase I Study Schedule. *Mr. Peralte noted that the schedule has been revised since the first Public Meeting to include an additional Public Meeting, tentatively scheduled for the summer of 2012.*
 - What is Context Sensitive Solutions
 - Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP). Latest copy is included in CAG binder and available for download on the project website: www.ILRoute31.com
 - National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
 - Public Involvement Opportunities
 - Project Study Group (PSG)
 - Community Advisory Group (CSG)
- **Summary of Public Meeting and Questionnaire Responses (PowerPoint)**
 - Participants asked to refer to Public Meeting #1 Summary document and Summary of Public Meeting #1 comments document in CAG binder.
 - Primary Issues / concerns from Context Audit Form: Pedestrian/Bicycle Accessibility, Traffic Safety, Traffic Congestion, Residential Property Impacts, Business Impacts / Access.
 - A participating CAG member stated that she doesn't believe the issues shown on the slide represent all primary issues along the project corridor that were expressed by participants at Public Meeting #1. *Mr. Peralte noted that the issues shown on the slide are those that came up most on the Context Audit Forms that were submitted by stakeholders after the public meeting; not necessarily all project issues. The list of issues shown on the slide is to spark conversation during the workshop portion of today's meeting. During the workshop, other issues will be noted and considered.*
- **Introduction to the Workshop: Project Problem Statement (PowerPoint)**
 - What is a Project Problem Statement?
 - What will be accomplished during this workshop? Identify key transportation issues / concerns and use these issues / concerns to develop a Project Problem Statement. Project Alternatives will not be discussed during this workshop.
 - Group Exercise Introduction and Group Assignments. To break out into 3 small groups of 6-7 to work on 2 different group exercises (Part A: Brainstorming Key Transportation Issues / Concerns & Part B: Developing Draft Project Problem Statement). Group assignments based on color on name tag and name plates. If you don't have color, please see STV representative. Each group to select Spokesperson to report results of small group discussions to large group.
 - Large group to develop single Project Problem Statement
- **Next Steps and Future Meetings (PowerPoint)**
 - Next Steps: Ongoing Engineering Project Development Activities and Development of Project Purpose and Need Statement per NEPA requirements.
 - Future Meetings: CAG Meeting #2 set for September 22, 2011, CAG Meeting #3 in October, and Public Meeting #2 in November.

There were no questions at the end of the presentation.

Workshop: Project Problem Statement (lead by Mike Matkovic – CBBEL)

After the presentation, CAG members were broken up into groups of 6 to 7 to brainstorm key transportation issues / concerns along Illinois Route 31 from Illinois Route 176 to Illinois Route 120, and to develop a project problem statement based on the 4 to 5 most important issues for the group. Below is summary of the group assignments and results of the workshop exercises:

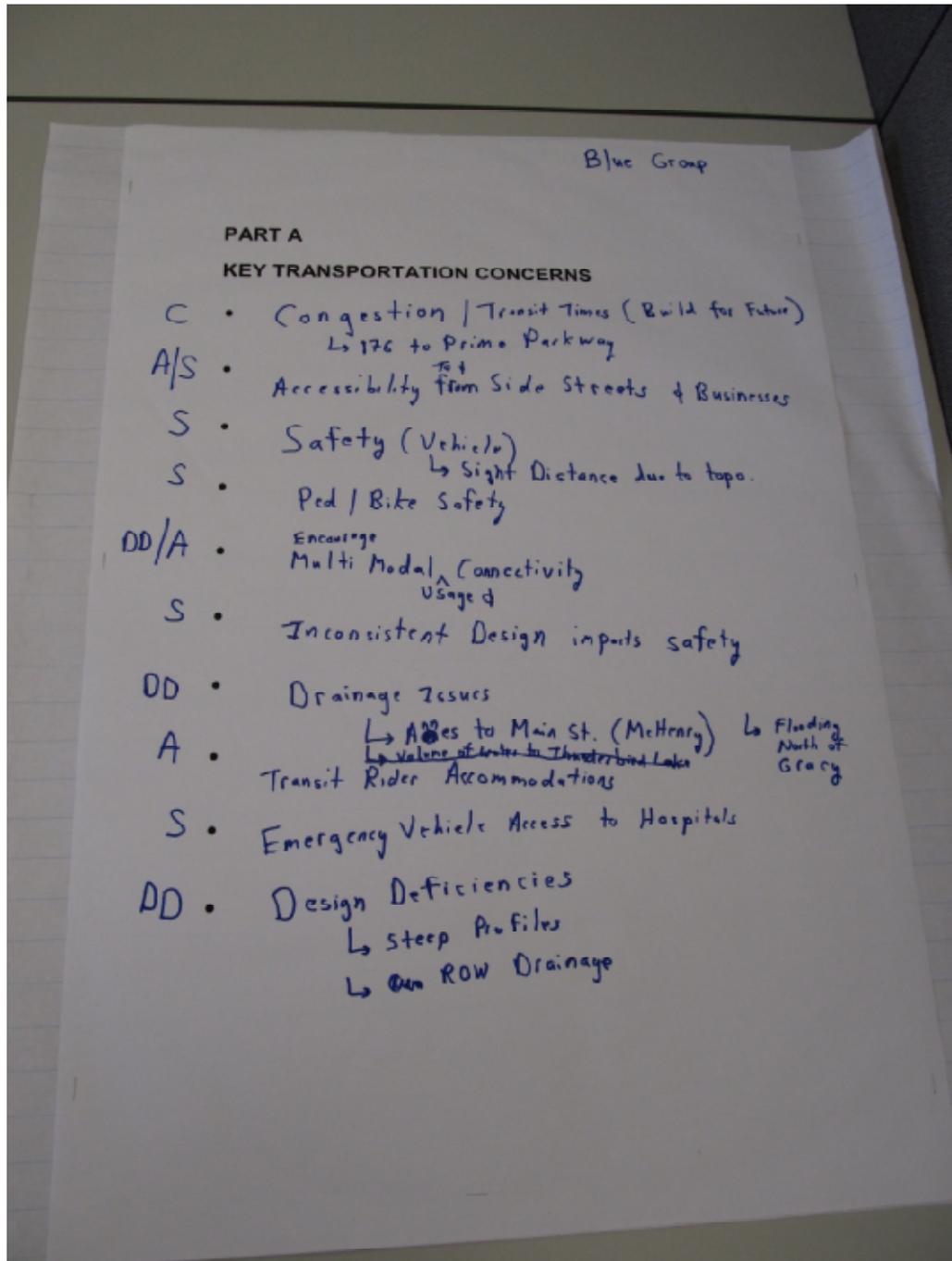
BLUE GROUP

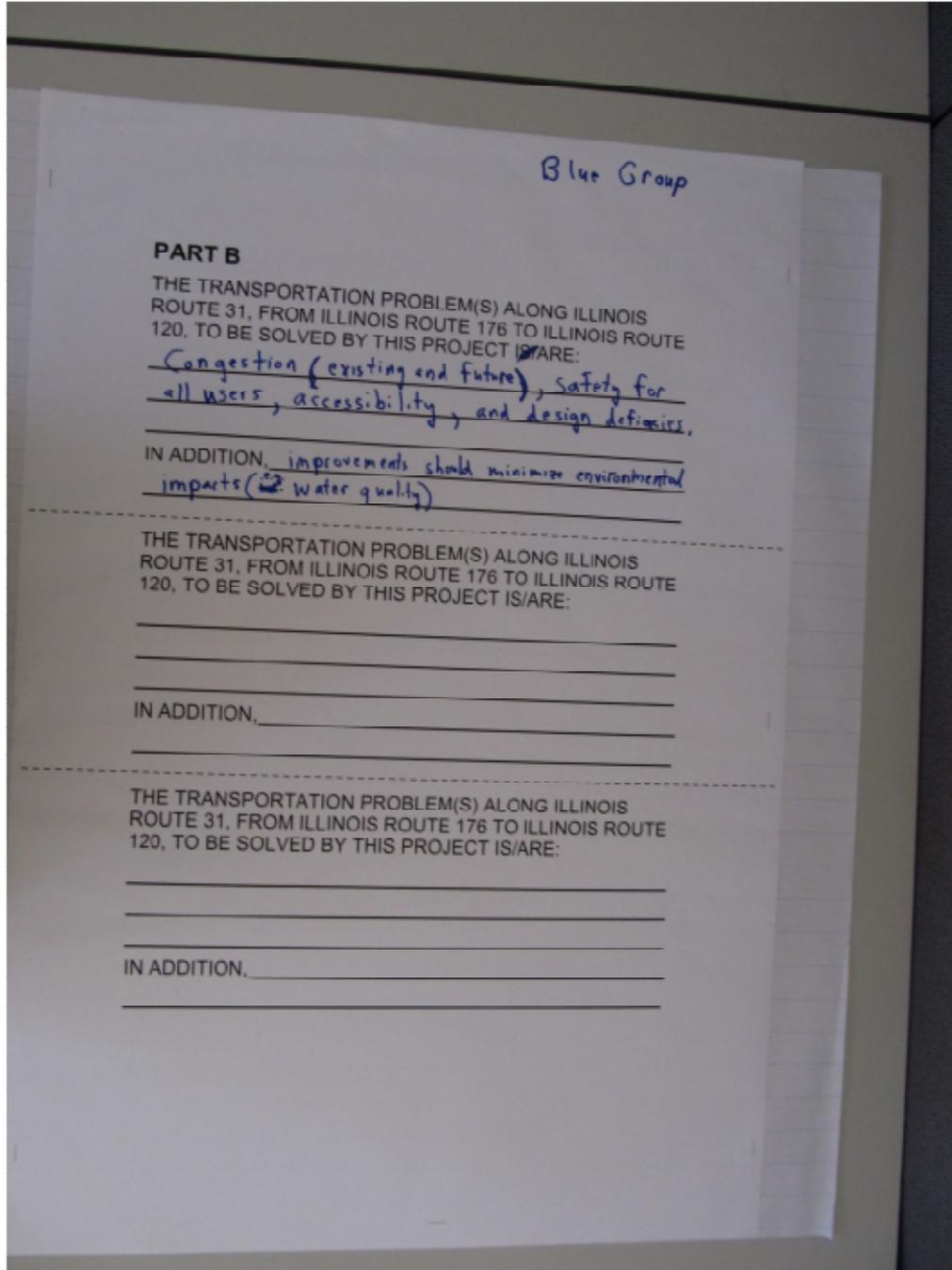
CAG Participants: Jeannine Smith, Jon Schmitt, Eberhard Veit, Lori McConville, Catherine Jones, Jim Hicks, William Busse;

Facilitator: Mike Matkovic (CBBEL); Scribe: Sanjay Joshi (STV); Observer/Support: Scott Czaplicki (IDOT)

Flip Chart Page #1 – Workshop Exercise Objective (Same page for all 3 groups)

<p>BLUE GROUP</p> <p>PROJECT PROBLEM STATEMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concise statement of the transportation problem to be solved by the proposed project based on stakeholder knowledge and user experience• Key stakeholder input into the purpose and need statement as required by NEPA prior to consideration of improvement alternatives		
<p>THE TRANSPORTATION PROBLEM(S) ALONG ILLINOIS ROUTE 31, FROM ILLINOIS ROUTE 176 TO ILLINOIS ROUTE 120, TO BE SOLVED BY THIS PROJECT IS/ARE:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>IN ADDITION, _____</p> <p>_____</p>		
<p>CITED ISSUES/CONCERNS IN THE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING QUESTIONNAIRE</p> <table><tr><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traffic Congestion• Traffic Safety• Pedestrian/Bicycle Accessibility</td><td><ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residential Property Impacts• Business Impacts / Access</td></tr></table>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Traffic Congestion• Traffic Safety• Pedestrian/Bicycle Accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Residential Property Impacts• Business Impacts / Access
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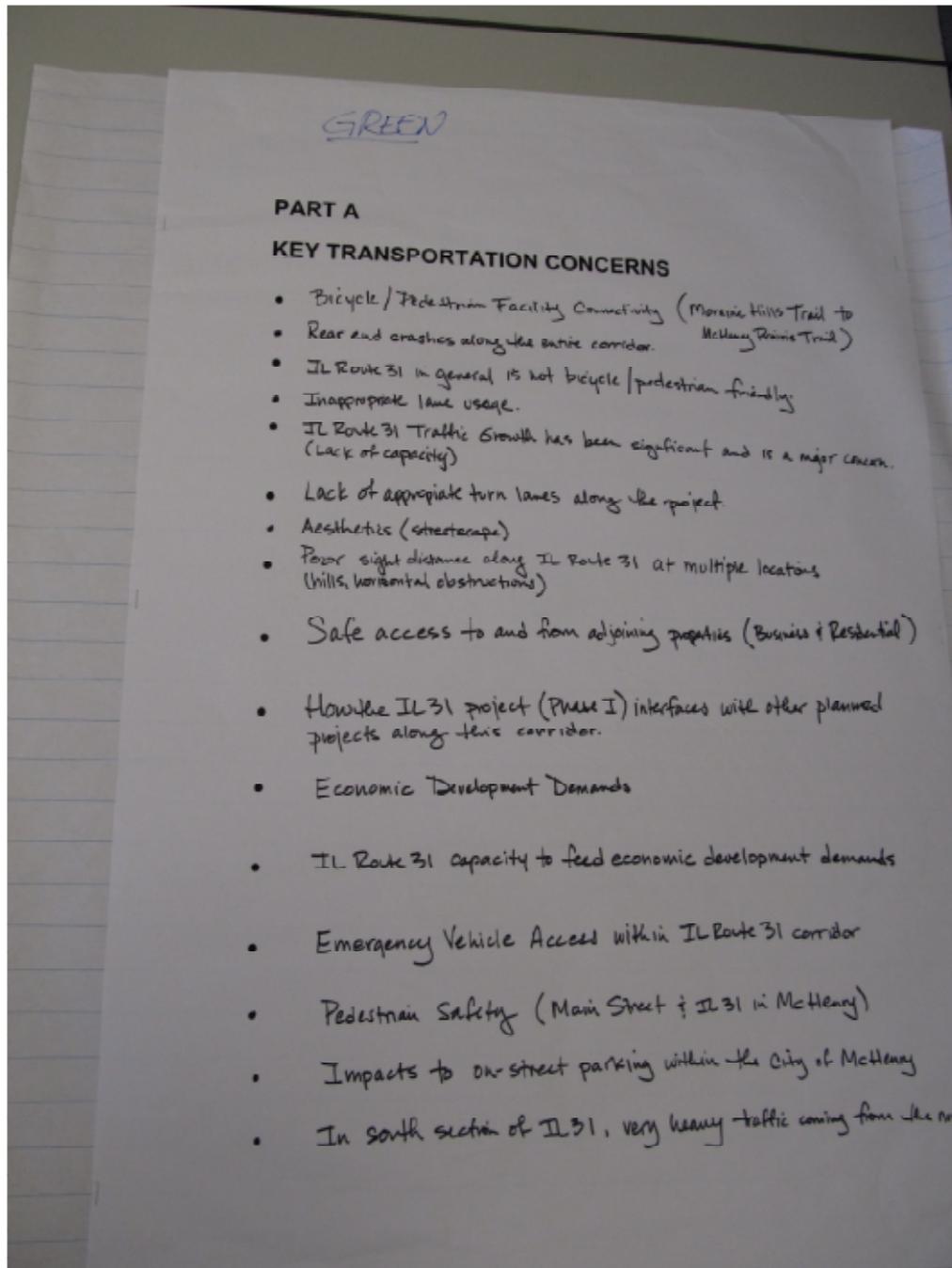
GREEN GROUP

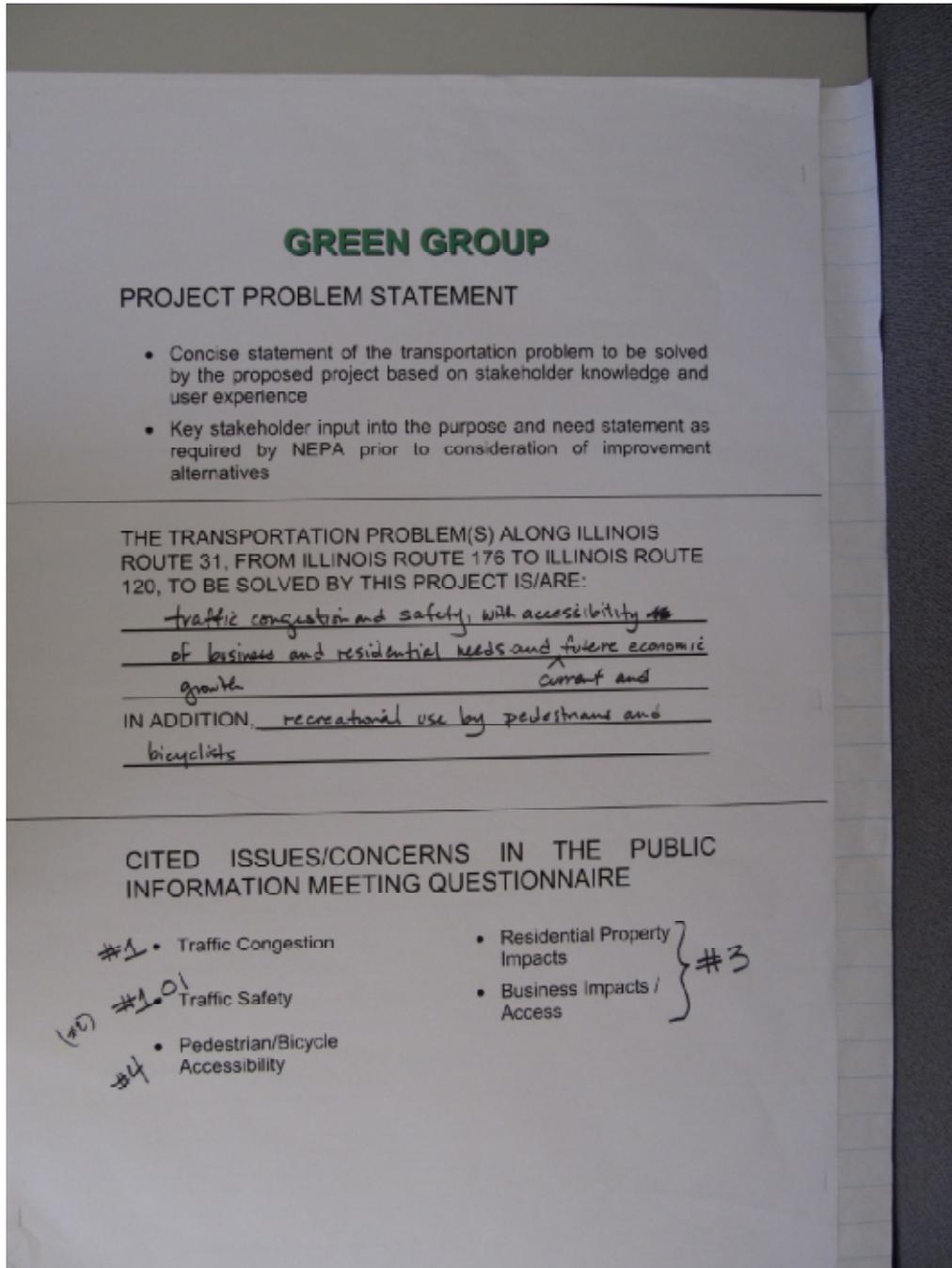
CAG Participants: Doug Martin, Abigail Wilgreen, Herb Burnap, Bev Moore, James Howell, Tamara Howell;

Facilitator: Marty Worman (CBBEL); Scribe: John Clark (STV); Observer/Support: Steven Schilke (IDOT)

Flip Chart Page #1 – Workshop Exercise Objective (See Page 1 for Blue Group)

Flip Chart Page #2 – Key Transportation Concerns





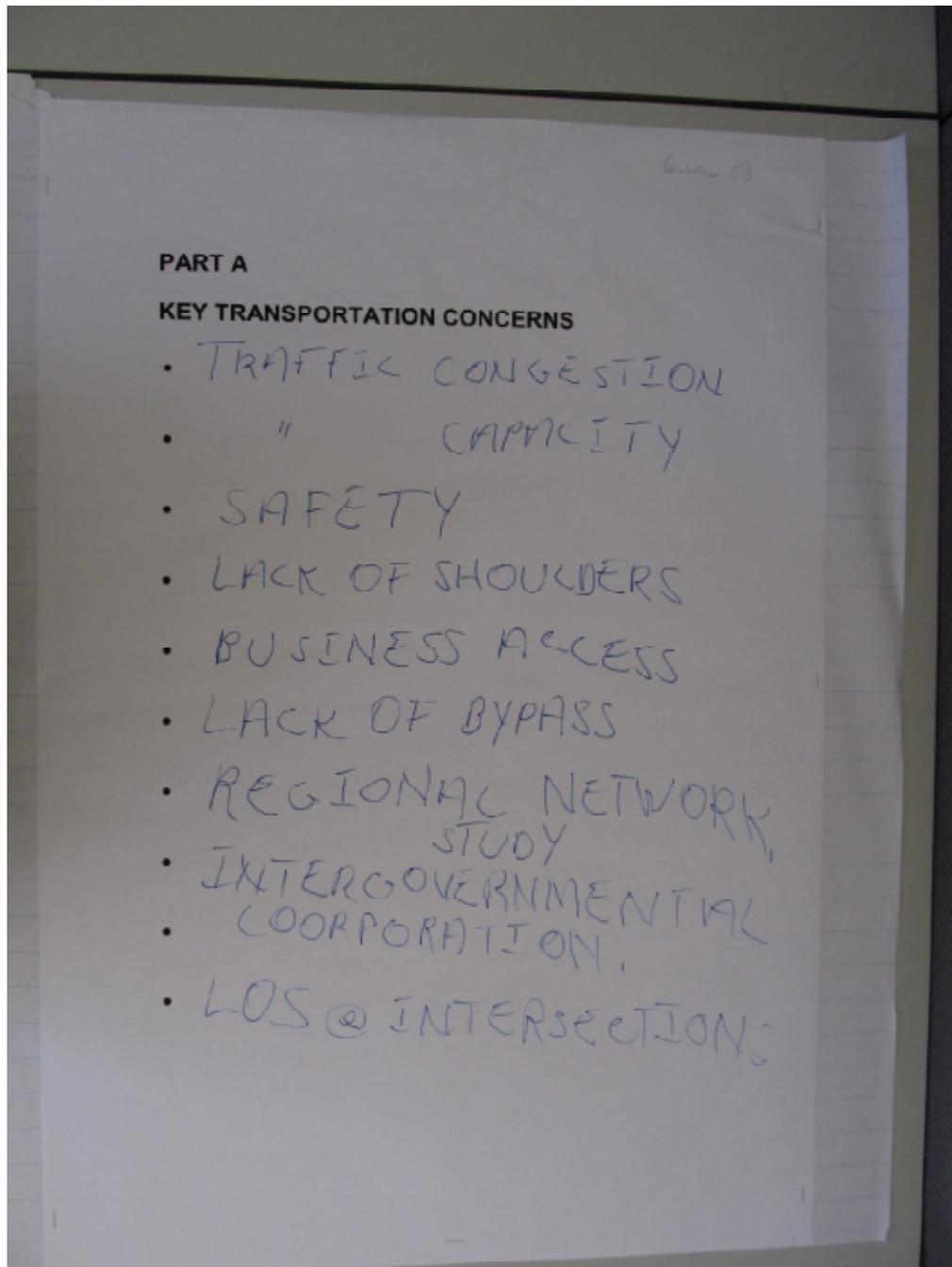
YELLOW GROUP

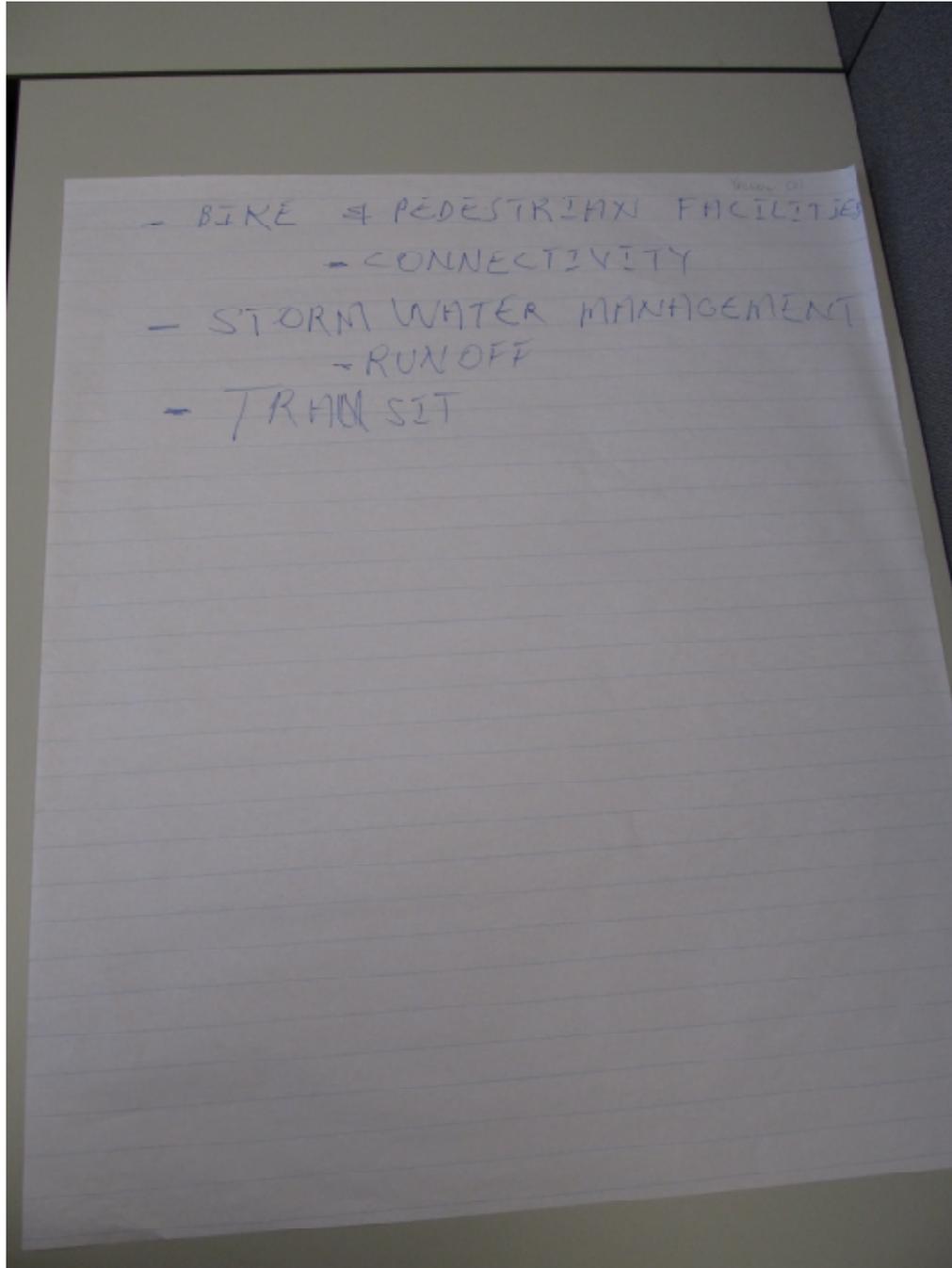
CAG Participants: Brittany Graham, Steve Carruthers, Vicky Smith, Rosemary Swierk, Brucie Chapman, Chalen Daigle;

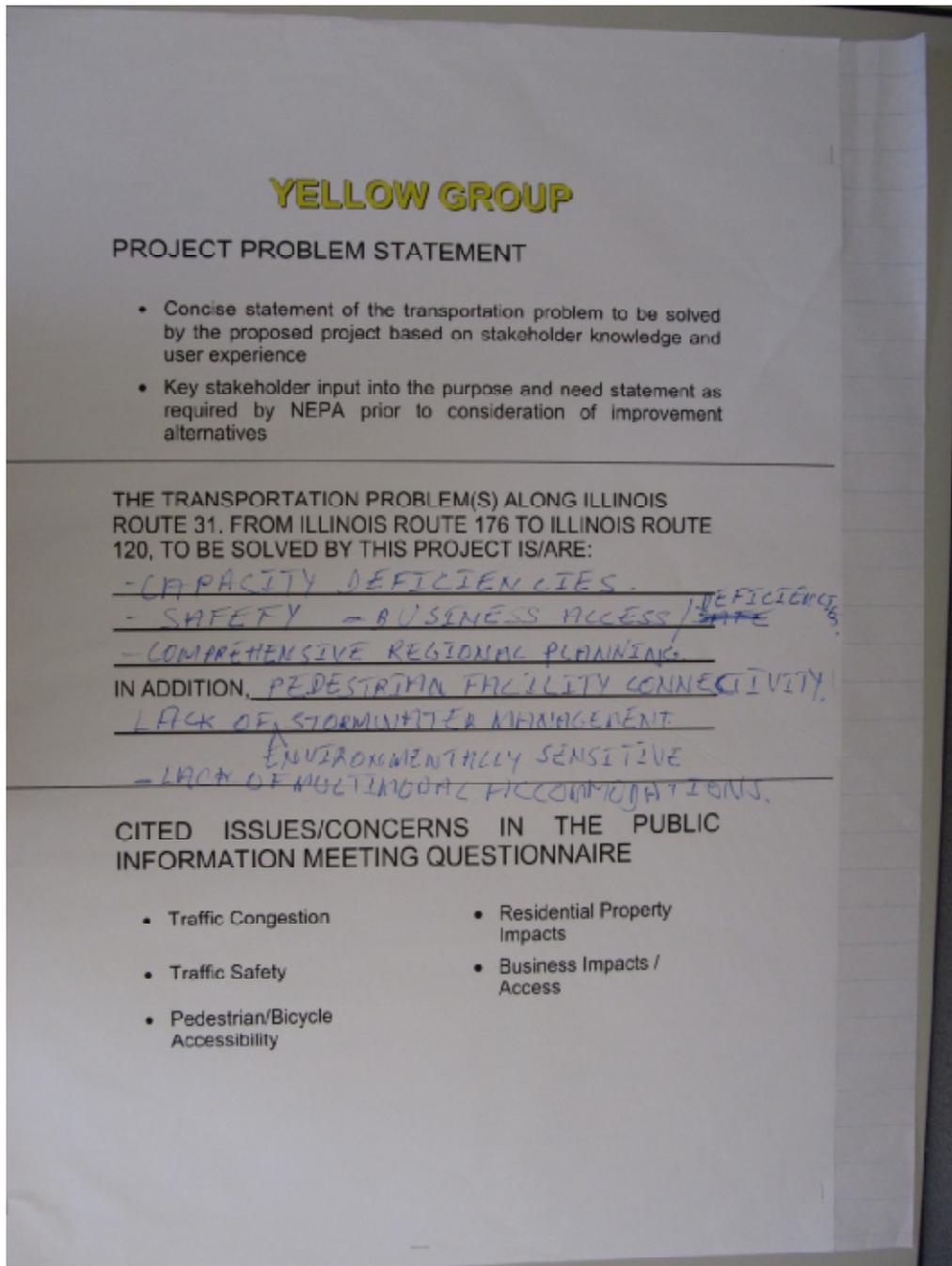
Facilitator: Matt Huffman (CBBEL); Scribe: Jean-Alix Peralte (STV); Observer/Support: Stephen Zulkowski (STV)

Flip Chart Page #1 – Workshop Exercise Objective (See Page 1 for Blue Group)

Flip Chart Page #2 – Key Transportation Concerns (Page 1 of 2)



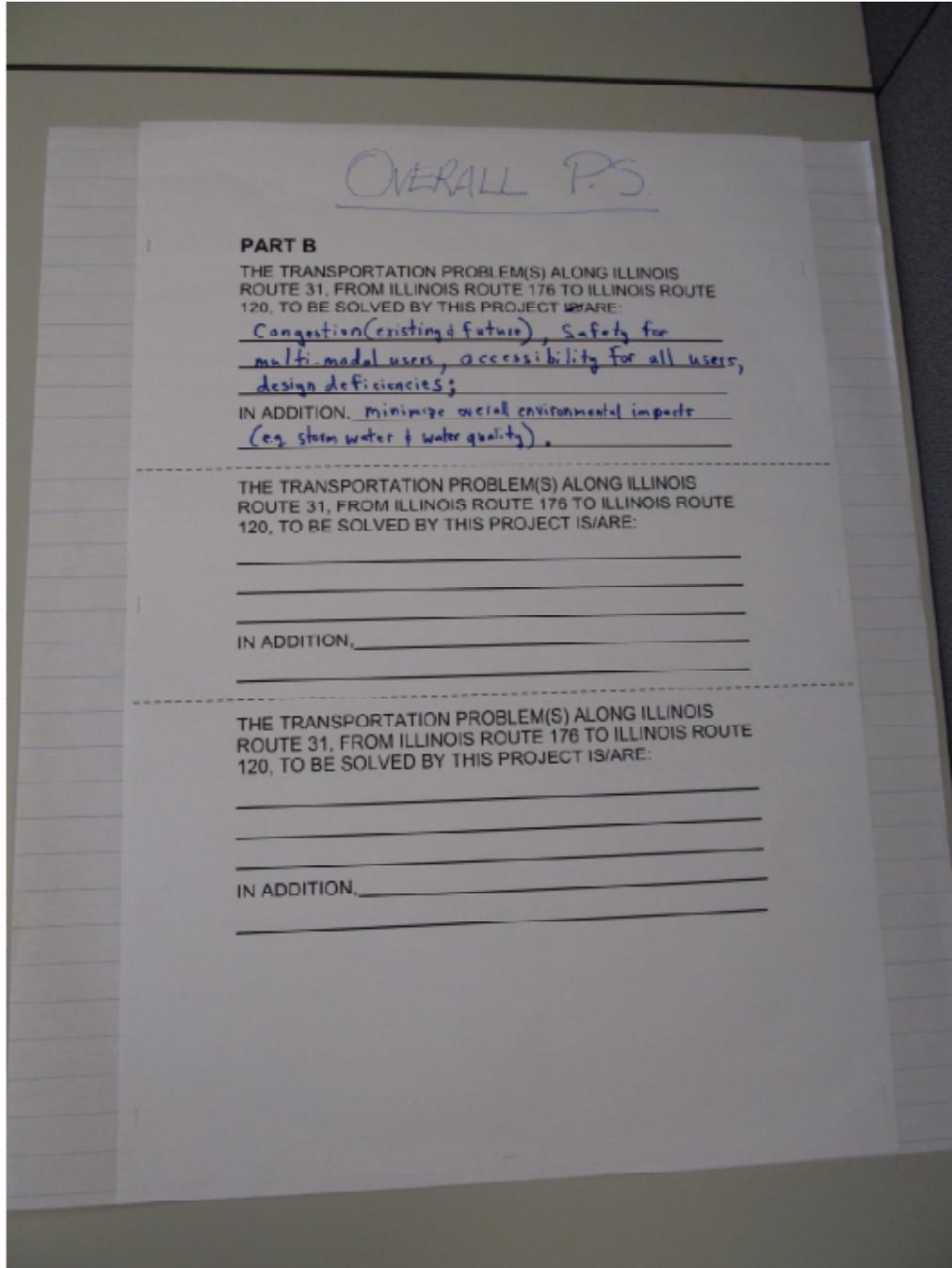




Small groups reconvened as large group to develop Overall Project Problem Statement

LARGE GROUP

Flip Chart Page #1 - Overall Project Problem Statement



The large group obtained consensus on 4 key transportation issues / concerns for the project corridor:

- Congestion (existing and future)
- Safety
- Accessibility
- Existing design deficiencies

Based on these key issues / concerns, the following Project Problem Statement was developed:

“The transportation problems along Illinois Route 31, from Illinois Route 176 to Illinois Route 120, to be solved by this project are: congestion (existing and future), safety for multi-modal users, accessibility for all users, and existing design deficiencies; in addition, minimize overall environmental impacts (e.g. storm water runoff and water quality).”

CAG Meeting #1 completed at approximately 3:00 p.m.

The next steps for the study will include the continuation of ongoing engineering project development activities (e.g. Traffic Analysis / Projections, Crash Analysis, and Environmental Surveys) and the development of the project purpose and need statement per NEPA requirements. The next CAG meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the McHenry County College Shah Center. At this meeting the following activities are tentatively planned: present problem statement, discuss constraint mapping and alternatives toolbox, develop purpose and need workshop, and begin preliminary alternatives discussion.