

US 30 Project
Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting
Odell Community Center
Wednesday, September 12, 2007

MEETING MINUTES

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Attendees:

William “Bill” Abbott (Whiteside County Board)
Randy Balk (City of Fulton)
Heather Bennett (Fulton Chamber of Commerce)
Allen Bush (Business Owner/Farmer Land)
Daniel Dugal, Sr. (Home Owner)
Arlyn Folkers (Farmer)
Elisa Rideout (Whiteside Natural Area Guardians)
Russell Holesinger (Developer / Ethanol Plant)
Barbra Suehl-Janis (Business Owner/ Fulton Rotary and Kiwanis Club)
Eric Janvrin (Farmer)
Roger Johnson (Business Owner)
Francis Kelly (Home Owner)
Doug Kuehl (Farmer)
Glen Kuhlemeir (Blackhawk Hills RG&D Council)
Matt Lillpop (Whiteside County Farm Bureau)
Barbra Mask (Fulton Historical Society)
David Mickley (Farmer)
Karen Nelson (Home Owner)
Everett Pannier (Morrison Area Development Corporation)
Phil Renkes (Morrison Rotary Club)
William “Bill” Shirk (Morrison Preservation Historic Commission)
Scott Shumard (City of Sterling)
Dale Sterenberg (Farmer)
Betty Stienert (Whiteside County Economic Development Corporation)
Jody Ware (Morrison School Superintendent)
Doug Wiersema (Rock Falls Chamber of Commerce)

Project Study Group Attendees:

Dawn Perkins (IDOT)
Rebecca Marruffo (IDOT)
Mark Nardini (IDOT)
Vic Modeer (Volkert & Associates)
Gil Janes (Howard R Green Company)

Project Study Group Attendees (Continued):

Mike Walton (Volkert & Associates)
Jon Estrem (Howard R Green Company)
Bridgett Jacquot (Volkert & Associates)
Jill Calhoun (Volkert & Associates)
Mary Lou Goodpaster (Goodpaster-Jamison, Inc.)
Shelia A. Hudson (Hudson and Associates, LLC)
Bridgett S. Willis (Hudson and Associates, LLC)

Agenda (Attachment A)

Handouts (Attachment A)

Meeting Purpose

On September 12, 2007 the US 30 Project Study Group (PSG) hosted their first Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting at the Odell Community Center in Morrison, Illinois. The purpose of the meeting was three-fold. The first aspect was to explain the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process, Stakeholder Involvement Plan, as well as highlight the role, responsibilities, and ground rules of the CAG. The second aspect was to assist the team with identifying key issues associated with the project, establish context for the communities within the project area, and begin developing a Problem Statement which states the key issues in a concise manner. And finally, begin discussions about a project logo to be used for branding the project throughout the remaining phases of the project.

Presentation

Dawn Perkins gave opening remarks on behalf of IDOT. She explained that the Department has adopted a new Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) policy designed to ensure stakeholder involvement opportunities were created to allow comments, issues and suggestions to be considered at the beginning and throughout the entire environmental and engineering planning phases of the study. A Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) has been developed to guide the next phase of this project. This plan includes formation of the Community Advisory Group (CAG). Ms. Perkins went on to explain the time commitment for serving on the CAG and expressed the District and Project Study Group's appreciation of members' willingness to serve their communities.

Vic Modeer introduced the joint venture partners and sub-consultants present; explained the agenda (see attachment) and handout materials (see attachments) for the meeting, then outlined the goals of the meeting. Mr. Modeer went on to summarize the Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP), explain in more depth the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) policy and the Community Advisory Group's role, responsibilities and ground rules. As a gesture of commitment and understanding the members were asked to sign a partnership agreement before leaving the meeting.

Bridgett Jacquot explained the current phase of the project - the NEPA process. Afterwards, Mike Walton discussed the Community Context Audit Form all members received in their briefing packets. Mr. Walton requested that everyone complete and turn in these forms at the end of the meeting and explained that the results will be presented at the next CAG meeting.

To ensure a balanced representation of *CAG Interest Group* members at each table, table assignments were prepared in advance of the meeting. Below is a listing of the table assignments.

<u>Table 1</u>	<u>Table 2</u>	<u>Table 3</u>	<u>Table 4</u>	<u>Table 5</u>
Barbra Suehl-Janis	Karen Nelson	Betty Stienert	Heather Bennett	Glen Kuhlemeir
Bill Abbott	Barbra Mask	Dan Dugal, Sr.	Jody Ware	Roger Johnson
Allen Bush	Phil Renkes	Scott Shumard	David Mickley	Doug Kuehl
Eric Janvrin	Elisa Rideout	Francis Kelly	Bill Shirk	Dale Sterenberg
Everett Pannier	Arlyn Folkers	Randy Balk	Russ Holesinger	<i>Gil Janes</i>
Doug Wiersema	<i>MaryLou Good-</i>	<i>Bridgett Jacquot</i>	Matt Lillpop	
<i>Mike Walton</i>	<i>pasture</i>		<i>Jon Estrem</i>	

Note: The bold and italicized names represent the facilitators at each table.

Mr. Walton then served as facilitator for the following group exercises:

Exercise 1: Community Context Audit Form – Each member was asked to complete a Community Context Audit Form and turn it in to the consultant team at the end of the meeting. Results will be presented at the next meeting.

Exercise 2: Identify and Categorize Key Issues – Each group prepared a list of key project issues and then presented their list to the overall CAG. The consultant team recorded the key issues in accordance with the categories identified during the group presentation, and then the work groups voted on their top 5 categories. See Attachments B, C, and D for Results.

Exercise 3: Develop a Problem Statement - Develop a “Problem Statement” using the top 5 issue categories from the voting. See Attachment E for Results.

Exercise 4: Present Project Logo – The CAG was asked to design a project logo to brand the project’s identity and/or review the examples presented to either modify or approve for the next meeting. Results will be discussed at the next CAG meeting.

Closing Remarks

In closing Gil Janes thanked the CAG members for their participation and commitment to the committee. He stressed the importance of being committed to a process that will be long and intense. Mr. Janes went on to stress the importance of each member keeping their communities informed about the process and work as the project progresses.

ATTACHMENT B

Key Issues Identified As A Group Exercise

Table 1

Impact on Morrison Downtown Business District & Route 30 Business
Proper placement to Create Industrial Park if possible
Large amounts of Truck Traffic
Impact Safety for all users, especially School Transportation
Agricultural persons owning, planting & Picking Seasons
Rail Crossing Issues
Union Grove (Overpass) & Blind Charlie's (underpass)
Farmland usage – Best Route to minimize taking valuable productive ground

Table 2

Facilitation of traffic flow
Possibility of connecting Rte 78
Sensitivity to Historic Areas
Safety Issues (example Bus Routes)
Accompanying Economic Development
Degradation of natural Areas, such as farmlands and Watersheds
Access at either end

Table 3

Safety
Economic Development (Growth/ Industrial Growth)
Economic Impacts (Good and Bad in Morrison) farming
Truck Traffic
Widening Roadway
Property Loss
Shorten Travel Time
Help Tourism
Adequate Shoulder for Bike Trail
Route 30 Bridge Study
Beltway constructed w/in 1 mile of Morrison
Railroad Overpasses over IL 78
Business Displacements in Morrison
Concerned w/if move US 30
- South cuts access off from Northern County and vice-versa
If put in South, wedge between I-88
Stay Close to City of Morrison & not adversely affect
Have waited too long / Need NOW
State Park
Covered Bridge

Table 4

Potential loss of downtown Morrison business
Property owners at intersection of 84/30 – business development and 4 lane
enhancements for truck traffic
Severance of farmland and separation of farm land & operational activities
Access to farming
Impact on existing farm land drainage systems
Staying as close to Morrison as possible in order to not by-pass the City
Feeling of abandonment of roadway that exists – must have a real need – loss of farm
land
Safety – High traffic count
Safety Issues for flow of traffic for school buses
- 100% of student bused in Morrison
Economic development is enhanced w/4 lane traffic
Whiteside County does not have comprehensive land use plan
More development w/o a county vision
- More commercial development occurs more farm land loss because of 4 lane
highway spurring on potential development
Historical significance of generational farm, homes, Lincoln Highway

Table 5

Safety, Improve Traffic Flow
Stimulate Economic Development
Surrounding area impact (Environment)
Utility & Drainage Issues
Property Access
Movement of Farm Machinery
Property acquisition & relocations
Loss of Class A farmland
Wetland Disruption

ATTACHMENT C

Key Issues Identified (Categorized per the Consultant)

Social Economic (96)

Economic Development (+3)
Loss of Business (+2)
Property Values
Truck Stop
Stay Close to Morrison Business District (+1)
Business along all US 30
Access to Future Industrial Parks (+1)
Economic Development of Business from 4 Lanes
Whiteside County – No Comprehensive Plan
Loss of Agricultural ground
Property Loss
Assist Tourism
Relocations

Flood Plains/ Wetlands (10)

Degradation
Impacts
Impacts to Wetlands

Construction (13)

Railroad
Use Existing
Bridges
RR Overpasses
Phasing construction for access to Township Road

Natural Resources (3)

Degradation
Impacts

Roadway Capacity (16)

Traffic Flow
Truck Traffic
Spurs Business

Structures (15)

Bridges
RR Overpasses
Interchanges

Permits (0)

Parks Natural Areas (4)

Degradation

Access (50)

To IL 178
Either End – Termini
Stay as close to Morrison
Access to Future Industrial Development
Access easily to all of County
Access from I-88
Need ending in Rock Falls to properties
Railroad
Access to Bridge to West

Utilities (3)

Aesthetics (0)

Energy (0)

Bicycle/ Pedestrian (1)

Maintain adequate shoulder
Connect to existing Bike Trails

Maintenance (0) Noise (3)

Visual/Construction Impacts (0)

Mitigation Measures (3)

Agriculture (50)

Sep. of Farmland
Access for Equipment
Drainage (+1)
Morrison Access
Generation Farms (+1)
Loss of “Class A” Land

Water Quality (0)

Roadway Characteristics (22)

Abandonment of Existing Route
(Utilize as much of U.S. 30 Existing)
Shorten Travel

Special Waste (0)

Safety (60)

Bus Route (Esp. School)
High Traffic Volume
Farm Equipment
Twin Oaks Railroad
Safety Issues

ATTACHMENT D

As a Result of Group Exercise
Top 5 Key Issues Identified

Social Economic (96)
Safety (60)
Access (50)
Agriculture (50)
Roadway Characteristics (22)

ATTACHMENT E

Problem Statement Identified As A Group Exercise

Problem Statement:

Table 1: The transportation issue in Whiteside County between Fulton and Rock Falls is caused by increasing traffic, overloading the existing facilities. An optimal solution is to develop and enhance Hwy 30 focusing on safety and economic development while minimizing effects on agricultural and adjacent property owners.

Table 2: The transportation problem on Highway 30 through Whiteside County is a two-lane highway that needs to be four-lane highway for safety and economic issues.

Table 3: Enhance the economic development on the new Route 30 corridor and to provide improvements to safety and traffic flow while preserving agricultural access and assets.

Table 4: To safely enhance the economic development of the US 30 corridor in a socially sensitive way considering our agricultural heritage and stewardly management of our natural resources; and for the benefit of all communities of Whiteside County.

Table 5: Multi-lane Route 30 development will enhance economic development and provide jobs, while safely traversing Whiteside County and striving to conserve and preserve Agricultural Land and recreational opportunities.

U.S. Route 30
Community Advisory
Group (CAG)

*Wednesday September 12, 2007
Odell Community Center/Public Library
Morrison, Illinois*

AGENDA

1. Welcome Remarks
2. Introductions
3. Goals of Meeting
4. Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)
 - a. Definition of CSS
 - b. Community Advisory Group (CAG) Responsibilities & Roles
 - c. CAG Ground Rules
 - d. Sign Partnership Agreement

5. Why are We Here?

BREAK (10 Minutes)

6. Community Context Audit Form

7. Problem Statement
- a. Explain Purpose of Problem Statement
 - b. Present Example Problem Statement

GROUP EXERCISE

8. Identify & Categorize key issues

9. Develop Problem Statement

10. Present Project Logo Concepts

11. Next Meeting

Goals of Meeting

- 1) Highlight the Stakeholder Involvement Plan
- 2) Explain CSS/CAG Process
- 3) Discuss Community Context Audit Form
- 4) Develop Problem Statement
- 5) Present Project Logo Concepts

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)



II Public Act 93-0545 & IDOT CSS Policy

An **interdisciplinary** approach that seeks effective, **multimodal** transportation solutions by working with **stakeholders** to develop, build and maintain **cost-effective** transportation facilities which fit into and reflect the project's **surroundings** - its **“context.”**

CSS cont'd.....



CSS seeks answers to transportation problems through **early, frequent, and meaningful communication** with stakeholders, and a **flexible and creative approach to design**, the resulting projects should **improve safety and mobility** for the traveling public, while seeking to **preserve and enhance the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities** of the settings through which they pass.

Community Advisory Group (CAG)



Will provide a forum for community representatives to learn about the project, share their views, and discuss project issues with one another and IDOT in a group setting.

CAG Member's Responsibilities



- 3-year commitment
- 6 meetings per year
- Approximately 2 hours per meeting
- Total of 18 meetings

CAG Member's Responsibilities



- Attend meetings designed to share project related information and to elicit input from the CAG members.
- Members are responsible for sharing the information they receive with the groups they represent.
- Members must bring the various perspectives of the group they represent to the CAG for discussion.

What Is The CAG's Role?



- Identify criteria that reflect the ideas and interests of the community.
- Develop a problem statement.
- Participate in exercises to visualize and suggest engineering and aesthetic concepts for enhancing the project.
- Provide ideas and information to be directly used in the development of project documents, the study bands, corridors and alignments of potential improvement.

CAG Ground Rules



The CAG will operate under a set of ground rules that form the basis for the respectful interaction of all parties involved in this process.

CAG Ground Rules



- 1) The purpose of the stakeholder involvement process is to gather and duly consider input on the project from all stakeholders in order to yield the best solutions to problems identified by the process.
- 2) All input from all participants in the process is valued and considered.
- 3) The role of the stakeholders is to advise the PSG, which will make the ultimate project recommendations to the leadership of IDOT and FHWA. A consensus of stakeholders is sought, but the ultimate decisions are the responsibility of IDOT, FHWA, and the State of Illinois.

CAG Ground Rules cont'd....



- 4) All participants must keep an open mind and participate openly and honestly.
- 5) Consensus is defined as the majority of the stakeholders in agreement, with the minority agreeing that their input was considered.
- 6) All participants in the process must treat each other with respect and dignity.

CAG Ground Rules cont'd....

- 7) The list of stakeholders is subject to revision at any time.
- 8) Minutes of all stakeholder contacts will be maintained by the PSG, with the content subject to stakeholder concurrence.
- 9) The project must progress at a reasonable pace, based on the original project schedule.

CAG Ground Rules cont'd....



- 10) The PSG will make all final recommendations with a goal of seeking stakeholder consensus.
- 11) All decisions by the IDOT, FHWA, and State of Illinois must be arrived at in a clear and transparent manner and stakeholders should agree that their input has been actively solicited and considered.
- 12) Members of the media are welcome in all stakeholder meetings, but must remain in the role of observers, not participants in the process.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT



WHY ARE WE HERE?

- ❖ Corridor/Feasibility Study created enough interest to move on to Phase I to study this area in more detail.
- ❖ To enhance the transportation system within Whiteside County between the cities of Rock Falls and Fulton.
- ❖ To address safety, mobility, and environmental issues.

NEXT STEPS

NEPA PROCESS

- ❖ National Environmental Policy Act
- ❖ Government agencies must be responsible for their actions and impacts to the environment
- ❖ Avoid, minimize & mitigate

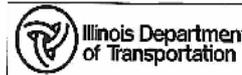


BREAK

Community Context Audit Form

- 1) The Purpose
- 2) Help develop the Problem Statement
- 3) Ensure representation

The results will be summarized at the next CAG meeting



Community Context Audit Form

Section 2: Infrastructure Assessment

Assess the project or study area for the presence and adequacy of the following infrastructure items. If present (a yes response) and in poor condition, please make notation and provide any other relevant comments in space provided for each item. If not present (a no response), indicate in the comment section if the item needs further evaluation. Indicate the level of importance each item may have to the community currently and based upon known / planned future conditions.

Infrastructure	Presence		Importance		
	Yes	No	High	Med.	Low
Sidewalks Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
ADA Compliance Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Bicycle Lanes/Paths/Facilities Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
On-street Parking Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Transit Connections Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Transit Shelters Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Street Lighting Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pedestrian Lighting Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Pedestrian Crossings Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Signals (Traffic, Directional & Pedestrian) Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				
Crosswalks Comments:	<input type="checkbox"/>				

Other Comments:

Problem Statement

- ❖ Part of the CSS Process
- ❖ The CAG will be developing the Problem Statement
- ❖ Helps in the development of the Purpose & Need

Example of a 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.”

GROUP EXERCISE



Directions

- 1) Each table discuss key issues then write on flip chart
- 2) Each table have someone present their key issues
- 3) IDOT team members will collect key issues on to one flip chart in front of entire CAG
- 4) IDOT team members will categorize the key issues by placing the issue into one of the categories listed on next slide
- 5) Each member view key issues and categories
- 6) Each member fill out ballot to vote for their top 5 key categories
- 7) IDOT Team member(s) compile top 5 key categories on flip chart

CATEGORIES

Social/Economic

Cultural

Natural Resources

Flood Plains/Wetlands

Parks/Natural Areas

Energy

Permits

Aesthetics

Roadway Characteristics

Roadway Capacity

Safety

Maintenance Cost

Agricultural

Air Quality

Water Quality

Special Waste

Noise

Mitigation Measures

Visual/Construction Impacts

Bicycle & Pedestrian

Structures

Access

Construction

Utilities

Develop Problem Statement

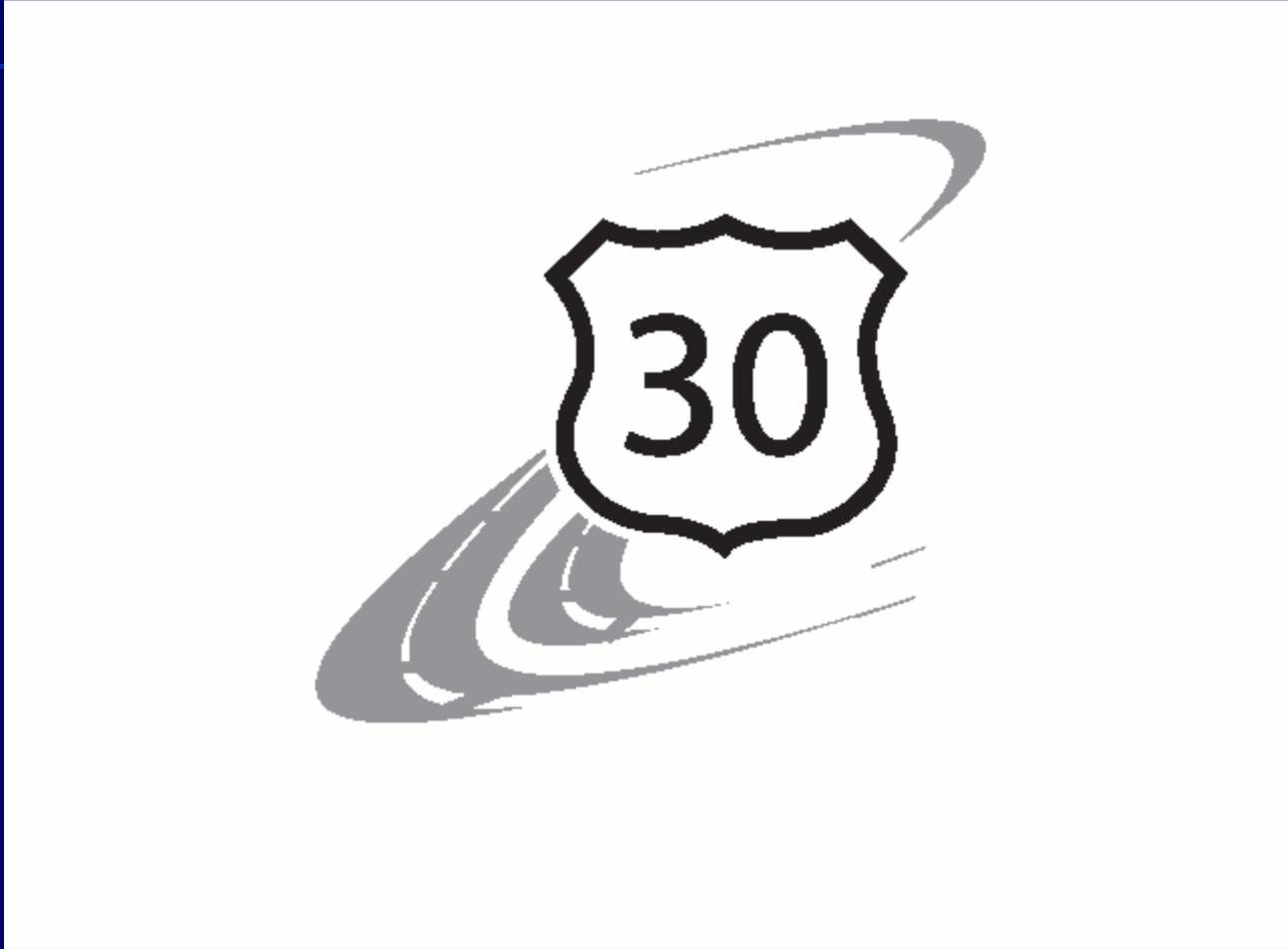
- ❖ Present top five key issues identified from ballot results
- ❖ Develop Problem Statement

Present Project Logo Concepts

EXAMPLE



CONCEPT #1



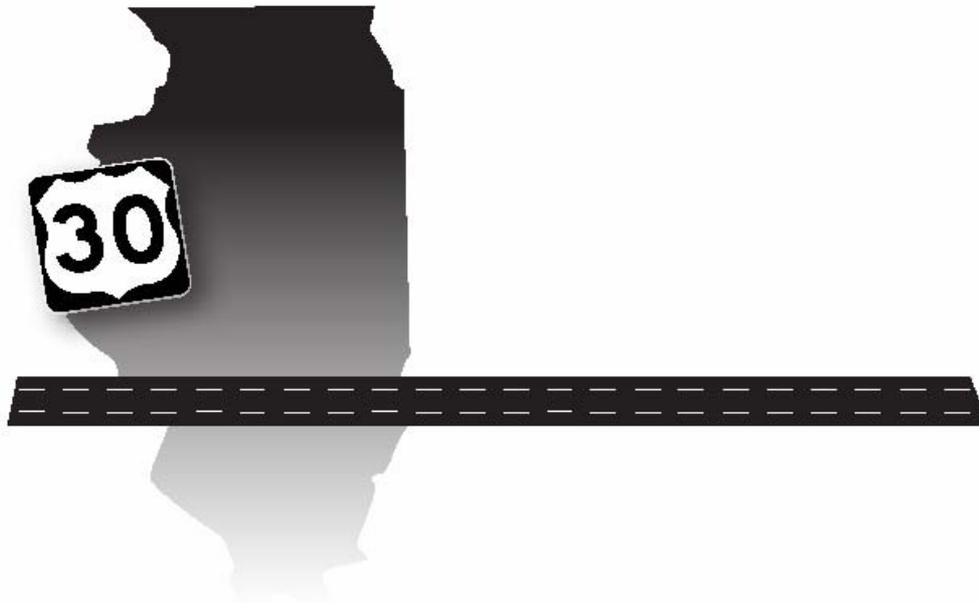
CONCEPT #2



CONCEPT #3



CONCEPT #4



CONCEPT #5



Next Meeting

- ❖ Provide results of Community Context Audit Form
- ❖ Consensus on Problem Statement
- ❖ Select Logo
- ❖ Evaluate & Refine Corridors
- ❖ Date, Time & Location