

Minutes of Meeting

May 19, 2009

SUBJECT: Transportation Corridor Committee (TCC) Meeting
Caton Farm – Bruce Road Phase I Study

ATTENDANCE: See Attached Roster

Mr. Gould (Will County Department of Highways) opened the meeting by stating that the purpose of this meeting is to reach a consensus on a Preferred Improvement Plan for the Caton Farm-Bruce Road project. Mr. Gould stated that the County wants to move this project forward to complete the Phase I Study so that funding can be pursued for the river crossing. It is critical that an update of this project be presented at the next NEPA/404 Merger Meeting to be held on June 24th. If a presentation is not made at this meeting, the next meeting will not occur until fall, which will further delay completion of the project.

Mr. Andres (Civiltech) reviewed the events that have transpired since the Public Information Meetings in June 2007. Between June 2007 and July 2008 meetings were held with the local agencies to present the results of the public meetings as well obtain input on a Preferred Improvement Plan. Based upon this coordination, a recommendation was made to the TCC in July 2008 by the consultant team and the Will County Department of Highways to pursue the Caton Farm-Oak-Bruce-Middle Alignment as the Preferred Improvement Plan. At the July 2008 TCC meeting, the City of Lockport stated they were no longer in support of the Middle Alignment. Lockport requested that the Cedar Road Alignment, which had already been dropped from consideration, be reevaluated. Subsequent to the July TCC meeting, additional meetings have been held with the local agencies to determine if the project should reevaluate the Cedar Road Alignment or move forward with the Middle Road Alignment. Will County notified Lockport that if the Cedar Road alignment was to be reevaluated, the City would be required to pay the additional engineering cost. To date, no consensus has been reached regarding this issue.

The meeting was then opened for comments and discussion by members of the Committee.

Mayor Soliman stated that Crest Hill is in favor of the project except for the reconfiguration of the Caton Farm Road/U.S. Route 30/Gaylord Road intersection. The City has passed a resolution stating that they would like the intersection to remain in place as a 6-legged intersection.

Mr. Schloneger stated the following:

- Lockport is in support of construction of the bridge across the Des Plaines River Valley.
- Lockport prefers the Cedar Road Alignment but does not have the resources to reevaluate the alternative.
- Lockport will not oppose the Middle Alignment, but they also will not protect the corridor from development that may conflict with the alignment.
- This project will be presented at the May 20th City Council Meeting.

Ms. Dorothy (Joliet) noted it appeared the City of Lockport was not only being short-sighted, but was possibly misleading future residents by allowing development to occur in a corridor that would conflict with a planned regional highway.

Mr. Salamowicz stated the following:

- Homer Glen still officially has a resolution in place stating the Village is opposed to any plan that brings traffic to the Cedar Road/159th Street intersection.
- This project will be presented at the June 9th Board Meeting.

Ms. Batusich (Lockport Township) questioned why Lockport changed their position which previously supported the Middle Alignment. Mr. Schloneger stated that it was a result of their land use planning study for the I-355 corridor. The planning study identified the area through which the Middle Alignment extends to be zoned for housing and a major 4-lane roadway would not be compatible with that land use. In addition, no support for the Middle Alignment was expressed during the study's comment period. Because the City did not believe widening Gougar Road would be a better option, the study recommended the Cedar Road Alignment. Ms. Kupkowski stated that the County Highway Department was not asked to participate in or comment on the City's planning study in order to discuss the benefits of the Middle Alignment.

Mr. Andres stated a completed east-west arterial facility will likely generate substantial traffic volumes in the future. CMAP forecasts predict in excess of 35,000 vehicles per day at the new river crossing by the year 2030. He noted the Middle Alignment presents a rare opportunity to plan future land uses adjacent to the corridor that are compatible with a major arterial highway. Locating the arterial highway on either Gougar Road or Cedar Road will not only impact existing land uses that are not compatible with such a facility, but it will overlay heavy east-west traffic onto segments of north-south highways, which will carry significant traffic volumes themselves.

Mr. Gould again stated the need for promptly selecting a course of action on this project and that the Will County Department of Highways recommends that the Caton Farm-Oak-Bruce-Middle (CFOB) Alignment be selected as the Preferred Improvement Plan. He then asked for a vote by the Committee to determine the level of support for this plan.

- Ms. Judy Batusich stated Lockport Township is in favor of CFOBM Alignment.
- Mr. Michael Salamowicz stated that Home Glen reserves comment until after the June 9th Board Meeting.
- Mr. Matt Ryan stated that the County Board is in support of CFOBM Alignment.
- Ms. Lisa Dorothy stated that the City of Joliet is in favor of the CFOBM Alignment.
- Mr. Tim Schloneger stated that Lockport reserves comment until after the May 20th Council meeting.
- Mayor Ray Soliman stated that Crest Hill is in favor of the CFOBM Alignment with the stipulation that the 6-legged intersection at U.S. Route 30/Caton Farm Road/Gaylord Road remains in place.
- Mr. Will Nash stated that New Lenox is in favor of the CFOBM Alignment.

Mr. Gould stated that the next TCC meeting would occur in the fall.

By: 

Mary L. Young, P.E., PTOE

**Caton Farm – Bruce Road
Transportation Corridor Committee Meeting**

Date: May 19, 2009 – 9:00 am

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