

PROJECT STATUS REPORT
Caton Farm Road/Bruce Road Phase I Study
February 13, 2006

☐ **Environmental Processing Requirements**

- The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act have separate environmental processing requirements.
- Federal actions with the potential for environmental impacts must follow the **NEPA/404 Merger Process** which provides for the NEPA and Section 404 processes to be completed concurrently.
- The FHWA, the USACOE, the USEPA, the USFWS, state and county highway agencies, and state regulatory and resource agencies are the principal participants in the interagency coordination process.

☐ **Goals of the NEPA/404 Merger Process**

- Assure the timely, cost effective development of needed, environmentally sensitive Federal-Aid highway projects.
- Provide an orderly procedure (through early identification of environmental resources at a sufficient level of detail) to develop quality documentation that addresses NEPA and Section 404 requirements.

☐ **NEPA/404 Merger Process Concurrence Points**

- Concurrence Point # 1 - Purpose of and Need for Project
- Concurrence Point # 2 - Alternatives Carried Forward
- Concurrence Point # 3 - Selected Alternative
- Concurrence Point # 4 - Record of Decision (ROD) or Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)
- Concurrence Point # 5 - Permit Decision

☐ **Previous Public Meetings**

- Initial Public Information Meeting April/June, 2002
- Transportation Corridor Committee Meetings September, 2002
February, 2003
February, 2004
March, 2005
- NEPA/404 Merger Process - Regulatory/Resource Agency Meetings
Scoping Meeting May, 2003
Purpose & Need Concurrence Point Meeting February, 2004
March, 2005

□ **Regulatory and Resource Agency Issues**

- USACOE - Selection of Caton Farm Road/Bruce Road River Crossing Location.
- USFWS - Presence of federally listed species near 6 of 7 river crossing alternatives:
 - S Lakeside Daisy
 - S Leafy Prairie Clover
 - S Hine's Emerald Dragonfly
 - S Indiana Bat
- USCG - National security issue: proximity to Lockport Lock and Dam.

□ **Alternatives Analysis and Screening (Chapter 3 of Environmental Assessment)**

- The above issues have necessitated that we redevelop and reevaluate earlier improvement alternatives.
- Exhibit 1 depicts the range of River Crossing Corridors that have been considered.
- Exhibit 2 depicts the 3 alternative river crossing locations with approach roadway alignment alternatives that have been considered.
 - Caton Farm Road - Bruce Road Alignments pass through Section 4(f) land and critical habitat for Hines Emerald Dragonfly.
 - Caton Farm Road - Oak Avenue Alignments avoid park land and critical habitat.
 - Theodore Street - Rosalind Road Alignments do not meet Purpose and

Need.

- Chapter 3 recommends carrying the Caton Farm Road - Bruce Road and Caton Farm Road - Oak Avenue alternatives forward for further detailed study.
- Draft of Chapter 3 has been completed and submitted to IDOT and FHWA for review.

☐ **Schedule to Complete Phase I Study**

- CONCURRENCE POINT NO. 2 - ALTERNATIVES CARRIED FORWARD
[April, 2006]
- Detailed Analysis of Feasible Alternatives
[April, 2006]
- **Public Information Meeting: Present Feasible Alternatives**
[April, 2006 - NOTE: This is dependent upon Concurrence Point Meeting #2 occurring on April 2006]
- Select Preferred Improvement Plan
[May, 2006]
- Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Design Report (DR)
[September, 2006]
- CONCURRENCE POINT NO. 3 - SELECTED ALTERNATIVE
[February, 2007]
- **Public Hearing**
[March, 2007]
- Final EA and Final DR
[April, 2007]
- CONCURRENCE POINT NO. 4 - RECORD OF DECISION AND FONSI
[September, 2007]
- Design Approval by IDOT
[October, 2007]