

## Minutes of Meeting

January 24, 2019

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

ATTENDANCE: See Attached Roster

Mr. Ronaldson (WCDOT) began the meeting by reviewing the latest meetings held for the project. In November 2015, a TCC meeting was held where several TCC members expressed concern for the Middle Alignment that was selected as the Preferred Alternative and what implications would come of opening the project to other alternatives. Since the November meeting, coordination has occurred between WCDOT, the local communities, IDOT and FHWA.

Mr. Christell (Civiltech) then gave an update on the project from the consultant team. He discussed what has developed since the November 2015 TCC meeting, and that IDOT and FHWA are aware of these developments. He also stated that federal requirements for the current Preferred Alternative have been met thus far. If another Preferred Alternative was to be selected, the project would take steps backwards in the federal process, including the NEPA/404 Merger process. He stated the logical termini for the project would remain the same moving forward and the Preferred Alignment west of Gougar Road would also remain the same. Ms. Johnson stated the north-south alternatives to be reconsidered would be along Gougar Road, the Middle Alignment, and Cedar Road. She then provided details from the PowerPoint of the proposed improvements for each alternative. Each alternative would include a four-lane cross section with a landscaped median and intersection improvements including exclusive turn lanes. She also discussed the environmental impacts for all three alternatives would be similar to each other. Proposed right-of-way acquisition would also be similar for all three alternatives.

Mr. Christell stated next steps in the project would be a Public Information Meeting (PIM) to present the three alternatives to the public, present the findings from the public meeting to the TCC committee, and have the TCC committee vote to retain or change the Preferred Alternative. If a new Preferred Alternative is selected, the project will go back to the Alternatives Carried Forward stage of the NEPA/404 Merger Process, the County Board will need to change the existing resolution in support of the Middle Alternative as the preferred, and design studies and environmental coordination would need to occur for the new alignment. It would take approximately 12-18 months to complete a design and 18-24 months following design, for a total of 30-42 months to complete the project. If the Preferred Alternative remains the same, the project would still need to obtain Biological Assessment from IDOT, resubmit the Environmental Assessment (EA) based upon IDOT and FHWA comments, and complete the Combined Design Report (CDR); the project completion would be approximately 18 months.

Mayor Streit (Lockport) asked if a public meeting would still be required if the Cedar Road alternative was not pursued. Mr. Christell stated that since we are reopening which route

will be selected as the Preferred Alternative, FHWA would likely require a PIM. Ms. Meyers then asked if pursuing additional funding would be an issue if the alternatives were not brought back to the public. Mr. Christell stated it is likely the FHWA would ask if the public had been notified of the reconsideration of alternatives.

Mayor Streit expressed concern for the project schedule and the timing of the PIM and next TCC meeting. It was determined a PIM would occur in March, with a summary of comments received provided to the TCC following the meeting. A TCC meeting would follow in April, and County Board decision would likely be achieved in June 2019. As part of the NEPA/404 process, a Public Hearing will need to occur regardless of which alternative is selected as Preferred Alternative. The Hearing will occur once environmental clearances have been received; it will present the Preferred Alternative and the findings of the NEPA environmental document to the public.

Mr. Ronaldson discussed the EJ issue in the Fairmont Community. He stated that the FHWA responded to the complaint saying no further action will be taken at this time. Mr. Palmer stated that the County is continuing to improve the quality of life in the Fairmont community and is hopeful these actions will show the community that the County cares and is trying to make this project a beneficial part of improving the area and their community directly.

Mr. Ronaldson and Mr. Palmer stated that the County Board should continue to be informed and updated throughout this process and prior to the approval vote expected in June 2019. There are several new members that have not been involved in the process thus far and will need to be informed.

A Public Meeting will be scheduled in March and will likely be held at Lockport Township High School East Campus. Letter will be sent out to the 1000 recipients on the list and then a newspaper ad will be published 3 weeks and 1 week prior to the meeting. The meeting will be an open house format held over several hours, likely 4 P.M. to 7 P.M. to allow people to attend after work. Public comments will be accepted during and after the meeting during the comment period.

The TCC meeting was adjourned at 11:30 A.M.

