

Sign-in Sheet
NEPA-404 Merger Meeting
September 10, 2020

District 1 - Caton Farm-Bruce Road - Will County
Information - Project Update

Name	Agency	e-mail address	Participation Location
Matt Fuller	FHWA	matt.fuller@dot.gov	Teleconference
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**IDOT District 1, Will County
Caton Farm – Bruce Road Phase I Study
Environmental Assessment
New Preferred Alignment – Project Status Update**

Ms. Young (Civiltech) opened the meeting with a PowerPoint presentation discussing the history and developments of the project. The project was last presented on September 19, 2019 with a project update discussing reexamination of the preferred alternative. She stated the project is located in Will County north of Joliet, and covers a study area approximately 11 miles by 3 miles. The project commences at the intersection of U.S. Route 30 and Caton Farm Road and continues across the Des Plaines River Valley and ends at the intersection of IL Route 7 (159th Street) and Cedar Road. In March of 2005, Concurrence Point #1 – Project Purpose and Need was reached. In January of 2007, Concurrence Point #2 was reached with six alternatives to be carried forward, which included two different River Valley crossing locations and 6 build alternatives. The following alternatives were carried forward:

- Caton Farm – Bruce – Gougar Alignment
- Caton Farm – Bruce – Middle Alignment
- Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce – Gougar Alignment
- Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce – Middle Alignment
- Caton Farm – Oak – Gougar Alignment
- Caton Farm – Oak – Middle Alignment

In July of 2009, the Will County Board passed a resolution adopting the Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce – Middle as the locally preferred alternative.

Since Concurrence Point #3 in 2012, detailed environmental and design studies have occurred as well as coordination meetings with IDOT/FHWA, the project Transportation Corridor Committee (TCC), and the Fairmont Community. Over the past several years, local agencies have expressed the desire for the preferred alternative to be reexamined for the north-south alignment portion east of Gougar Road due to the loss of development opportunities with the current alignment and close proximity to the newly constructed William E. Young Elementary School. The school's property is directly adjacent to the 2009 preferred alignment and construction of the new roadway would require right-of-way from the property where recreational fields are located and/or planned.

Alignment alternatives considered east of Gougar Road included changing the eastern logical terminus, using I-355 as a north to south link for the east to west portions of the alignment, and reevaluating Gougar Road and Cedar Road as north to south links. The alternative to use I-355 was eliminated because it was not believed roadway users would utilize a toll road to go such a short distance, when a non-tolled option is in close proximity. The eastern logical terminus was not changed as it would mean going back to the beginning of the project development process. It was agreed that reevaluation of the Gougar Road and Cedar Road alternatives would be undertaken.

The three eastern alternatives reexamined were:

- Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce – Gougar Alignment
- Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce – Middle Alignment
- Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce – Cedar Alignment

Ms. Johnson (Civiltech) continued the presentation, stating these alternatives were reexamined on the basis of environmental impacts and showed comparable impacts between each of the three alternatives, with the Gougar Road alternative having the least amount of impacts overall. The results of the alternatives reevaluation were presented to the TCC and the public. The public comments received were mixed with no clear preference. After further discussion, the TCC selected the Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce - Gougar Road Alignment as the new north-south preferred alternative due to its proximity to I-355, use of existing infrastructure, and its ability to not hinder development opportunities. Resolutions in support of the Gougar Road alternative have been passed by the County and the local agencies.

New wetland delineations for the project study area were completed in Fall 2019. An Addendum Environmental Survey Request (AESR) was submitted to IDOT in April 2020. Upon IDOT's request, an updated AESR was submitted August 2020 detailing only the Environmental Survey Area for the newly selected Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce – Gougar Preferred Alternative.

The meeting concluded at 1:30 P.M.