

**I-55 AT IL 59 ACCESS PROJECT  
COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP  
SUMMARY OF MEETING AND WORKSHOP FINDINGS  
MEETING NO. 2 – NOVEMBER 14, 2017 (1:00PM-3:00PM)**

This was the second meeting held in a series of six Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings scheduled to take place through 2019. Local residents and representatives of various local agencies were in attendance to share concerns and identify problems with regard to current transportation, environmental, and community related items within the study area. The meeting consisted of a power point presentation followed by a group exercise/workshop. The presentation portion of the meeting included a summary recap of the first CAG meeting's presentation and workshop, summary results from the Community Context Audit / Project Survey (over 300 respondents), Draft Problem Statement and Draft Purpose and Need. Following the presentation, members met in four smaller groups for the workshop portion. The first workshop activity focused on defining criteria most important to the stakeholders for consideration when creating and evaluating potential alternatives. The second workshop activity included both group and individual stakeholders in brainstorming of possible concept elements that they felt would be of benefit to the study and address the primary project needs. The next meeting is targeted for February 2018.

**Power Point Presentation**

- The power point presentation was given by Knight E/A. The presentation consisted of an overview of the CAG #1 presentation and workshop. In addition the Community Context Audit / Survey results were presented along with a draft problem statement and a draft purpose and need.
- During the previous CAG meeting held in October, six groups presented a list of concerns after a workshop. The concerns of each group were summarized during the power point presentation.
- The project study group is currently meeting with the six surrounding communities in and adjacent to the study area to obtain additional information about their community plans. The municipalities include the City of Joliet, Village of Shorewood, Troy Township, Village of Channahon, Village of Plainfield, Village of Minooka and the Will County Center for Economic Development. The information obtained will be used in conjunction with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) socio-economic data to assist in forecasting future traffic projections.
- The community context audit / survey results of 22 questions were presented during the meeting. More than 90% of the community feels that the traffic congestion level is moderate or higher. Regarding improved access to the I-55/IL59 interchange 64% of survey respondents feel that it would provide a great deal of benefit. Additional information and the results for each question are available on the power point presentation slides provided on the project website.
- The draft problem statement was presented at the meeting. The statement is divided into three parts; the first is the land use areas served by the project, second is the specific transportation problems identified throughout the project, and the third is for other considerations of the project such as community character and bicycle and pedestrian facilities.
- After the draft problem statement was read there was an open question and answer session. The following questions and concerns were raised:
  1. Agricultural land use should be added to the problem statement because some of the open space is still being utilized for farming.
  2. A question was received why I-80 is not directly noted as a focus transportation issue to solve; a response was provided that both IDOT and the City of Joliet have current and on-going studies along I-80. The project study team will be coordinated with the adjacent studies.

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3. The problem statement identifies a desire to address truck traffic along local and residential routes; a discussion followed regarding adjacent communities working together on signing, monitoring, enforcing, maintaining and possibly regulating trucks on local roads.
- The draft purpose and need statements were presented at the meeting. Technical need points were explained and those identified for this project were noted as Improve Regional Mobility and Local Connectivity, System Linkage, and Support of Growth and Economic Development. System indicators of network operations such as Level of Service were presented.

**Breakout Session Workshop Part I  
Alternatives Analysis Evaluation Criteria Elements and Importance**

Following the power point presentation there was a breakout session / workshop which consisted of four groups. The groups discussed evaluation criteria, which is the instrument in which an alternative is measured to determine the advantages and disadvantages and to compare with other alternatives. The suggestions provided by each group are summarized below.

- Group #1 – Use existing improvements that have already been constructed, consider compatibility with adjacent planned improvements, avoid disturbance of residential areas, consider noise impacts and multi-modal benefits, and protect critical environmental resources (i.e. DuPage River and fen located on Joliet Junior College).
- Group #2 – Consider cost of improvement, land acquisition and business displacements. Improve economic development and avoid utilities and pipelines.
- Group #3 – Consider impacts with I-80, full access at IL 59 and Seil Road while addressing local traffic issues, widen US 52 over I-55 and add pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Widen bridges at river crossings and improve the level of service.
- Group #4 – Safety is always important and should always be included for all alternatives, congestion relief / improve LOS and keep freight traffic from using local roads.

**Breakout Session Workshop Part II  
Brainstorming of Criteria Elements and Importance**

Following Part I of the workshop, the individual stakeholder and the groups collaborated on the brainstorming of possible concept alternatives that they felt would be of benefit to the study and to address the primary project needs. The concepts were drawn on large scale map exhibits and collected at the conclusion of the meeting. These concepts will be reviewed by the project study team and will be presented at the next CAG meeting targeted for February 2018.