

DATE/TIME: December 9, 2008 FILE CODE: 0710215 –US 31 Hamilton County

LOCATION: Clay Township Hall

SUBJECT: Community Advisory Committee (CAC) Meeting

ATTENDEES: CAC Members and Project Team Members

NOTES BY: US 31 Hamilton County Team Members, Amber Welker and Jennifer Dzwonar

PURPOSE: To update Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members on project status.

IN ATTENDANCE:

US31 Project Team/INDOT: Will Wingfield, Jill Hoffman, Beverly Cox, Duane McKinney, Cynthia Bowen, Dale Davis, Pankaj Desai, Greg Kicinski, Larry Heil, Jennifer Dzwonar, Emily Koch, Amber Welker, Sandhya Graves, Dave Bourff, Steve Fleming, Kelli McNamara, Kimberly Lutz, Paul Myers, Ashley Hungate, Gary Pence, Dennis Lee, Dawn Kroh, and Steve Ott

CAC Members: Christine Altman, Brad Davis, Mike Dearing, Dennis Faulkenberg, Dave Haboush, Richard Hadley, Dan LaReau, Laurie Maudlin, Jim Neal, Bob Robey, Jim Rosensteele, Matt Skelton and Bob Smith.

INTRODUCTION:

- Jennifer Dzwonar, Public Outreach Lead, opened the meeting at 8:12am and reviewed the meeting agenda
 - FEIS Elements
 - Public Comment Overview
 - Record of Decision (ROD) Planning
 - Construction Sequencing
 - Land Acquisition Overview
 - CSS Update
 - Questions and Answers

DISCUSSION TOPICS/POWERPOINT PRESENTATION:

FEIS Elements: David Bourff, Environmental Team Lead, presented

- FEIS legal review and approval occurred on 12/1/08.
- The Notice of Availability will be published in the federal register on 12/12/08.
- The FEIS Summary of Interchange Alternatives was discussed.
- The FEIS Summary of Environmental Impacts was discussed.
 - The number of Relocations has increased slightly with the final environmental study, and these are noted in the FEIS.

Appendices:

- Appendix A: Preferred Alternative
 - Appendix A-1: zoomed in at 146th St.- 151st St. Interchange and environmental factors removed to make it easier to see.
- Appendix N: Alternate design
 - Alternate design considered at 161st Street
 - Document shows a diamond interchange, but City of Westfield would like a roundabout and would make local changes to allow for roundabout.
 - Steve Fleming, Project Manager: If certain criteria are met by the City of Westfield, we will proceed with a roundabout at 161st Street as opposed to the diamond interchange

Record of Decision (ROD) Planning: Steve Fleming led the discussion

- ROD approval anticipated in 2/09
- Needed for ROD approval by FHWA
 - Project Management Plan Draft
 - INDOT and team must set the budget and timeline and must demonstrate the ability to come in under budget
 - Interchange Justification Report for the 465/31 interchange
- The ROD allows the final design, land acquisitions and permitting to move forward

FEIS Public Comments: Jill Hoffman presented

- The team received approximately 500 comments from about 300 individuals
- Hot topics
 - Interchange types
 - Noise
 - Mass transit
 - Local road improvements
 - Pennsylvania ramp objections (received most comments)
 - Land acquisition
 - Resource Agency comments
 - Department of the Interior
 - Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Department of Natural Resources
- Examples of Public Comments spreadsheets were shown
- Unabridged comments were scanned and burned onto a CD and included in the FEIS
- CD of the FEIS will be sent to all commenters, or a link to where the FEIS can be found on the project web site
- Question by Christine Altman: Are addresses of commenters available, so we know if they are our constituents and where they live? Yes, they are in the document if they were provided.

Construction Sequencing: Duane McKinney led the discussion

- Presenting today the first draft of the Phasing Plan

- 8-year construction duration (2011-2018)
- Criteria for sequencing
 - Mobility through corridor is most important
 - Minimize impacts
 - Cross flow
 - Size of construction contracts
 - Fiscal budget restraints – how much INDOT has available each year
- Each proposed contract is around \$40 million
- Operational Independence: If funding was not available to complete the project, need to confirm the corridor still functions
- Will start construction at SR38
- Bulk of construction will be in 2012
 - 151st and 146th streets: so we can use Keystone as an alternative route
- Further review of sequencing schedule
- Question by Christine Altman: When did the schedule expand out to 2016, 2017, and 2018? Will there be funding for construction those years? Comment: This project must be completed in full.
 - Gary Pence of INDOT said there's dedicated funding through 2015 at this point for the project.
 - Steve Fleming: the construction sequencing may shift based on actual monies available for each year
 - Current funded budget goes through 2015
 - There is no commitment from Major Moves for funding for the last two or three years.
 - 2016, 2017 and 2018 will be funded through traditional INDOT funding protocol.
 - Dennis Falkenberg said he believe that the original Major Moves budget allocated \$100 million for 2016 and 2017.
- Question by Christine Altman: In the event that federal funds for infrastructure become available with very short turnaround time, does INDOT have projects that are shovel ready? Greg Kicinski answered Yes. In the discussion that followed Christine mentioned that Indiana needs to lobby for the stimulus offerings.
- Question about right of way (ROW) lead times. Steve Fleming said property owners will have 18-24 months for negotiations and agreements.

Land Acquisition Overview: Beverly Cox of INDOT Land Acquisition led the discussion

- Land that is identified as needed for the project will be appraised by INDOT to determine “just compensation”
- Offers will be presented to owners in person or via US mail
- Process takes 18-24 months
- Owners are given 30 days to take offer or negotiate
- Owners are paid within 90 days of signing

- Possession is usually taken within 30 days of payment but may be extended up to 90 days

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Update: Dawn Kroh led the discussion

- Bike/Pedestrian Update
 - There have been two bike/ped task force meetings (April and September)
 - Cities of Carmel and Westfield are now considering suggestions made by the design team for the bike/ped access.
 - Design team is making decisions and becoming more detailed as the interchange and corridor designs are refined.
- Reviewed existing conditions vs. proposed conditions along US31 presented as “typical” illustrations
- Visual preferences study was done with the CAC in early 2008
- Goal of CSS is to integrate new construction into surrounding environment

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Jennifer Dzwonar stated that the FEIS will not have many new items that are not in the SDEIS

- It is mostly a compilation of things already presented and discussed.
- 146th/151st is a little different, but not much.
- We will hold public meetings for each section of the corridor, as the designs are complete, throughout the life of the project.

CONCLUSION:

Jennifer Dzwonar closed the meeting t 9:12am and thanked everyone for their attendance.

- end -