

**Illinois Route 131 (IL Rte. 131) / Green Bay Road
From Sunset Avenue to Russell Road
Phase I Engineering and Environmental Study**

Summary of Public Information Meeting 1

October 29, 2008

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A public information meeting was held on October 29, 2008 at Beach Park Middle School in Beach Park, Illinois. One hundred five (105) people were in attendance at the Public Meeting. Exhibit boards of existing conditions and project area data were displayed on one side of the reception area. On the opposite wall, a long aerial of the project was displayed. Post-it notes were available for stakeholders to write their comments and place them directly on the map. A PowerPoint presentation describing the project area and the Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process ran continuously in the multi-purpose room. Exhibits included the CSS process, population data, existing traffic volumes, an existing typical section, project goals and objectives, project decision makers, next steps for the project, website details, and a project schedule.

Eight staff members from the Illinois Department of Transportation, six staff members from HNTB Corporation, and two staff members from Images, Inc. were in attendance to provide clarification of the exhibits and to answer questions.

Fifteen to twenty copies of the project newsletter *Interaction* were sent on October 16 to twenty-five locations in the study area for availability to interested local residents. Locations for distribution included each of the six Illinois city / village halls affected by this project, including Gurnee, Waukegan, Wadsworth, Beach Park, Zion, and Winthrop Harbor; Pleasant Prairie, WI; eight Hispanic shipping points and many libraries within the study area; Beach Park Middle School; Lake County Chamber of Commerce; Lake County Forest Preserve District; and the College of Lake County. The twenty-five newsletter drop locations also agreed to display project information on their websites. Five hundred, eighty-two invitation letters were sent on October 21 to state and local elected officials, local community leaders, other affected governmental agencies, and project area stakeholders. Meeting announcements were placed in many area newspapers prior to the public meeting. The nine runnings of the advertisement were in the Daily Herald, Kenosha News, and News Sun on October 15 and 24, the Zion-Benton News and Wadsworth Journal on October 23, and the Bargaineer on October 27. Twenty-four media outlets, including television, radio and trade magazines, were also contacted to announce the public meeting.

Newsletters were placed at the sign-in table for attendees. Sign-up sheets were also available for the three Technical Advisory Groups (TAG's). Five stakeholders signed up for the Transportation TAG, two for the Environmental Resources TAG, and five for the Land Use Planning TAG. Seven different stakeholders comprised the twelve group members. Every attendee was offered a comment sheet to fill out at the meeting or at a later date and fax or mail to IDOT. Stakeholders were also asked "How did you hear about the Public Meeting?" to determine what was the most effective strategy of getting stakeholders to the meeting.

Summary of Verbal Comments at Meeting

Some community representatives in attendance commented that the projected 2030 population data shown has already been surpassed. Several people had difficulty understanding the typical section exhibit board. It was suggested that traffic data for adjacent north-south routes should be displayed to serve as a comparison to IL Rte. 131.

A few stakeholders mentioned that there are no public "gathering" places of significance along the corridor. One stakeholder commented that it can take 30 minutes to exit their driveway due to the signal timing at Yorkhouse Road. Several stakeholders expressed concern over the safety at the Kenosha Road intersection, commenting that many people avoid making left turns from Kenosha Road to IL Rte. 131. Safety and congestions were other concerns shared by stakeholders. Wadsworth is on well and septic and residents expressed concern over the proximity of these systems to the existing right-of-way and the possibility of relocation if additional right-of-way is necessary for improvements to IL Rte. 131.

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Stakeholders commented both support for and against the addition of lanes on IL Rte. 131. Both views were expressed regarding Waukegan Regional Airport expansion, too. Interim improvements were urged for areas of greater need. It seems to some area residents that the truck traffic has increased significantly over the past few years as trucks avoid paying tolls on the Tollway and avoid the weigh scale on U.S. 41. Snow removal at the airport adversely affects IL Rte. 131, which sits lower than the airport, causing icy conditions. Finally, recent developments may be illegally discharging water and causing flooding to downstream properties.

Summary of Comments Posted to the Aerial Exhibit

Many stakeholders took advantage of the ability to place notes directly on an area of concern on the aerial map of the project area. The following is a list of these comments:

Location of Note	Comment
Between Sunset Ave and Nemesis Ave	<i>Folks don't slow down enough north of Sunset to adjust to 2 lane road. Lots of tailgating and screeching brakes when people stop to turn, even on right turn.</i>
West leg of Wall Ave (north of Nemesis Ave)	<i>Looking for Yorkhouse Rd light to be a few seconds longer (stop). Can't get out of driveway.</i>
Blanchard Road	<i>Blanchard offset.</i>
Southwest end of Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve	<i>Major drainage area here.</i>
Northbound leg of IL Rte 131 at Yorkhouse Road	<i>Left turn lane and/or left turn signal sorely needed. One car making a turn can use up all of green light.</i>
Building at Southwest corner of IL Rte 131 and Yorkhouse Rd	<i>Old stage stop</i>
IL 131 north of Yorkhouse Rd	<i>Shoulders of road are terrible and so is the road.</i>
Southern end of Waukegan Regional Airport	<i>Where is the tunnel?</i>
Southern end of Waukegan Regional Airport	<i>No Airport Expansion!</i>
Intersection of Beach Rd and IL Rte 131 (near Waukegan Park District property)	<i>With traffic volume increase due to Waukegan Park District, believe a signal light is necessary at Beach Rd & Green Bay Rd to keep traffic out of our community (Wadsworth).</i>
Northern end of Waukegan Regional Airport	<i>No airport expansion! And please don't hold up GB Road improvements any longer because of possible expansion plans.</i>
Southeastern corner of IL Rte 131 and Wadsworth Rd intersection	<i>Possible hotel site (100 room)</i>
West leg of Wadsworth Road at IL Rte 131	<i>What happened with the Green Bay Rd & Wadsworth improvement study? Supposed to go to construction in 2009?</i>
IL Rte 131 at 33rd St	<i>Dangerous intersection</i>
IL Rte 131 at 33rd St	<i>Traffic signal needed here. Large volume of traffic entering 131 from Cambridge Homes.</i>
IL Rte 131 at 33rd St	<i>Traffic light - very dangerous intersection</i>
Major Ave.	<i>Truck traffic heavy on 131 and Major. Trucks dodging tolls and scales on 94 & 41 - Enforcement?</i>

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Major Ave.	<i>Development at 33rd - Cars use Delaney, Major to exit</i>
West side of IL Rte 131 between Clarendon Rd and Maplewood Rd	<i>Septic Fields</i>
IL Rte 131 and Kenosha Rd	<i>Kenosha & Green Bay is a very dangerous intersection, especially turning South onto GB. Very poor visibility.</i>
IL Rte 131 and Kenosha Rd	<i>Improve Intersection</i>
IL Rte 131 and Kenosha Rd	<i>Traffic light an absolute necessity.</i>
IL Rte 131 and Kenosha Rd	<i>Kenosha Road & Green Bay Rd intersection is really bad. Cars on Kenosha Rd pull out in front of NB traffic. Some land up in Benton Twp yard. Also, 29th St. intersection and 28th St. Left turns NB off Green Bay to 28th St.</i>
Beach Park Middle School	<i>Sidewalks near and around school - Students are walking along Green Bay Rd.</i>
Beach Park Middle School	<i>School could use a traffic light, or some other "adjustments" to ease entry and egress from the property during school hours (submitted by Ray Costa, Beach Park Schools).</i>
West side of IL Rte 131 across from Middle School	<i>Wells & Septic Fields this whole area</i>
Intersection of IL Rte 131 and 21st St	<i>Speed Limits? Too high? Green Bay Rd & 21st St</i>
Taylor Ln	<i>End of Taylor Lane receives storm water impact of Green Bay. Hope you can mitigate that impact elsewhere.</i>
Intersection of IL Rte 131 and 9th St	<i>Dangerous intersections: 9th St, Kenosha Rd</i>
IL Rte 131 South of 9th St	<i>Road too narrow and beat up by garbage trucks.</i>
Intersection of IL Rte 131 and 9th St	<i>Traffic signal is a must.</i>
Intersection of IL Rte 131 and 9th St	<i>People trying to go across Green Bay or turn onto Green Bay always underestimate speed of traffic. Dangerous dashes happen often. Garbage truck traffic heavy at times.</i>
Intersection of IL Rte 131 and 9th St	<i>Bad intersection especially since FedEx opened and Trumpet Park is being developed. Needs turn lanes and lights with protected left turns.</i>
Between 9th St and Russell Road	<i>Too sharp curve -- Please Fix</i>
Between 9th St and Russell Road	<i>Road too narrow for truck traffic: South of Yorkhouse Rd, North of 9th St</i>
Southwest corner of IL Rte 131 and Russell Rd intersection	<i>The SW corner of Russell & Green Bay is contaminated.</i>
Intersection of IL Rte 131 and Russell Rd	<i>Widen Green Bay Rd to 6 lanes from Russell to Sunset.</i>

Summary of Written Comments Received

The comment period ended on November 13, 2008. All mailed comments were directed to Mr. Marty Morse of IDOT. At the Public Meeting, thirteen comment forms were received. One written comment

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and one phone comment was received after the meeting and before the end of the comment period. Several of the comment forms addressed more than one issue. Responses to comments will be sent to each individual soon. Following is a summary of the issues that were presented:

1. Hurry up and start the improvements
2. Widen with turn bays
3. Intersection attn, driveway alignment, traffic signals at Kenosha Road, 28th, 29th, & Yorkhouse
4. Sight distance problem south of 29th
5. Make PowerPoint presentation available
6. Noted airport runway ext
7. Snow off runway problem on Il 131
8. Against airport ext
9. Concern of impacts to well and septic
10. IL Rte 131 access during construction concerns
11. Need Spanish language access to web & material
12. Emergency preemption & intersection lighting needed
13. Improve clear zone
14. Population projections off
15. Consider bike path crossing of IL Rte 131 on ComEd property south of Yorkhouse Rd.
16. Sidewalks
17. Water quality runoff & volume concerns on widening
18. Center lane bus/HOV/public transportation
19. Landscape median
20. Side street access to IL Rte 131 limited