



Illiana Corridor Corridor Planning Group / Technical Task Force Meeting #5 Summary October 25, 2011

CPG/TTF Meeting #5:

The fifth CPG/TTF meeting for the Illiana Corridor Phase I Study was held on October 25, 2011, at The Avalon Manor 3550 East US Hwy 30 Merrillville, IN from 1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m. The meeting included a PowerPoint presentation which recapped CPG/TTF #4, presented the draft Transportation System Performance findings, the draft Purpose and Need outline, and a summary of the initial stakeholder alternatives identified at the previous CPG/TTF meeting.

To announce the October 25, 2011 CPG/TTF Meeting #5, an email invitation was sent on October 5, 2011, with an RSVP reminder that followed on October 21, 2011.

The meeting was attended by 86 participants, 64 of which are members of the Corridor Planning Group, or Technical Task force. General Public, as well as Media representatives were in attendance.

Draft Transportation System Performance Findings (TSP)

The draft transportation system performance findings were outlined during the meeting. The findings describe existing and future transportation conditions without major improvement, including:

- Study area transportation system (roadways, freight, public transportation, intercity passenger, air transportation, non-motorized transportation)
- Socio-economic and land use
- Study area transportation system demand
- Transportation system performance
- Public input

The format of the TSP report was described. It will contain detailed information about the study area's socio-economic characteristics; the multi-modal transportation system within the study area and its relationship to the larger regional and national transportation systems; and will include performance characteristics and measures, including areas of deficiency, for existing conditions (i.e., 2010) as well as those projected in the 2040 regional planning horizon without the proposed project.



Draft Purpose and Need

Using stakeholder input and technical analysis compiled to date, the draft Purpose and Need framework was prepared by the study team. The outline was presented at the workshop and identified the following three key points:

- 1) Improve regional mobility
- 2) Improve local system deficiencies
- 3) Provide for efficient movement of freight demand

Detailed information supporting each of the three Purpose and Need points was provided to give attendees a better understanding of the identified project needs. Modeling results were presented outlining the growth trends in the study area, including travel demand. The travel demand model results presented explained the 2040 projected conditions of travel for the regional and study area transportation systems, including measures of congestion, vehicle hours of travel, vehicle miles of travel, and job accessibility. Deficiencies in the existing and 2040 “no build” projected transportation network were also outlined.

Stakeholders Alternatives Development Summary

The information generated at the workshop held on September 19 was used to develop an initial set of system improvement alternatives. Over 70 suggestions were received and summarized in the Alternatives Summary handout. A list of different modes identified by the CPG/TTF was also displayed. The steps in the alternatives identification process were then explained. Similar alternatives received from the CPG/TTF were combined and refined to minimize potential impacts to major constraints. In all, 8 different corridors were identified to assimilate the various alternative alignments. Since, travel benefits will be the same for corridors in similar locations, less impacting corridors were designated as the primary routes to evaluate in this round. This initial set of alternatives will be presented to the public in December, and additional alternatives will be accepted for further review.

Next Steps

CPG/TTF Meeting #6 will be held on December 6, 2011 at Matteson Hotel and Conference Center in Illinois. Agenda topics will include:

- Initial Set of Alternatives and Evaluation
- Public Meeting #2 Preview