



Illiana Corridor
Corridor Planning Group (CPG) / Technical Task Force (TTF) Workshop #1 Summary
April 10, 2013

CPG/TTF Workshop #1:

The 1st CPG/TTF Workshop for the Illiana Corridor Study Tier Two was held on April 10, 2013 at the Will County Atrium in Peotone, Illinois from 1:00-4:15 PM. The CPG/TTF #1 Workshop was announced at the combined CPG #1 meeting on March 14, 2013 and a follow up announcement was sent on March 30, 2013.

The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the vision for the Illiana Corridor with respect to land use planning, economic development, context sensitive design elements and themes. The meeting included a PowerPoint presentation, which provided background about the corridor, reviewed current and projected growth trends, as well as population, employment and land use. After the PowerPoint Presentation, participants broke out into six small groups, and were each lead in two different discussions by a facilitator.

The meeting was attended by 45 participants, 43 of which are members of the Corridor Planning Group, or Technical Task Force, as well as the study team and two observers.

Small Group Discussion #1:

- **Strategic Analysis of Corridor's Future**
 - Opportunities
 - Challenges

Topics might include:

Quality of Life and Amenities
Agriculture
Economic Development & Business Opportunities
Natural Resources & Environment
Transportation
Community-Provided Services

Small Group Discussion #2:

- **Visions for Corridor Development**

Assignment:

Identify Key Development Themes for Consideration
Identify Key Opportunities for Benefits
Identify Potential Barriers to Theme Accomplishment
Identify Key Development Concerns for Local Planning
Provide Feedback on Context Sensitive Design Options



Station One	Jamy Lyne
Alicia Hanlon	Will County Executive
Tony Graff	City of Wilmington
Eric Wesel	Will County Highway Department
George Gray	Peotone Township
Marian Gibson	Village of Manhattan
Paul Lohmann	Village of Beecher
Bob Barber	Village of Beecher
John Hack	Peotone Township

Discussion #1: Strategic Analysis of Corridor’s Future

Opportunities:

- Reintroduction of development district
- Formation of Corridor Plan Council
- Econ Development—will bring new infrastructure
- Will re-route truck traffic from local roads
- Formation of special districts to deal with growth demands
- Jobs
- Preservation of natural and agricultural areas
- Allocation of land for environmental sustainability
- Tax dollars—property & sales
- Airport traffic relief

Challenges:

- Planning across diverse county characteristics and desires
- Location of interchanges
- Time & Money
- Agricultural machinery traverse of area now closed due to Illiana
- Preserve Illiana linkage to quality North-South connecting routes
- Increase overpass/underpass options
- Formation of special districts to handle growth demands
- Cart before horse (is Illiana driving community development or is the community driving development along Illiana)
- Preservation of natural areas and agriculture
- Continuity of access for local residents & EMS
- Cut off farmland & Chop of farm parcels
- Do we plan for Illiana & SSA or just for Illiana

Discussion #2: Visions for Corridor Development

- North-South Trail connection
- Bioswales in certain areas & Storm water Management
- Linking Illiana into existing communities
- Landscape buffers



- Challenge- native plantings mowed down or not maintained

Station Two	Philip Roth
Edgar Corns	Town of Lowell
Darlene Corns	Town of Lowell
Eman Ibrahim	NIRPC
Doug Niksch	Town of Lowell
Harold Mussman	West Creek Township
Pat Mussman	West Creek Township
Don Parker	Town of Lowell
Joe Exl	NIRPC
Steve Strains	NIRPC
Richard Ludlow	Town of Schneider

Discussion #1: Strategic Analysis of Corridor’s Future

Opportunities:

- Economic Development

Challenges:

- Concerned about impact on bus routes in Lowell
- School bus routes are longest in the state, up to an hour and a half
- Drainage, drinking water availability, water treatment, sanitary sewer

Discussion #2: Visions for Corridor Development

- Economic Development
- Schools
- EMS
- Water
- Farmland

Station Three	Keith Sherman
David Wallace	Village of Monee
Delbert Skimerhorn	Kankakee County
Bill Borgo	Village of Manhattan
Michael Einhorn	Mayor of Village of Crete
Matt Fritz	Village of Coal City
Paul Kwiatkowski	Will Township Trustee

Discussion #1: Strategic Analysis of Corridor’s Future

Opportunities:

1. Rerouting intermodal traffic



- a. Improves quality of life
- b. Opens up Gougar Road as major North-South transportation link
- c. Cedar Road opens up
- d. Improves regional access for Will County
- e. Opportunities for light industry for community
2. Opportunity for communities to specialize development/land use
3. Industrial development
4. Regional utility corridor
 - a. Cable
 - b. RR use
5. To improve communication on impact road closures; emergency services

Challenges:

1. Drainage Storm Water
2. Threat to agriculture
 - a. Dividing farm operations
 - b. Taking away from farming opportunities
3. Impacts current landowners
4. Need for comprehensive emergency plan for all communities & rural townships
5. Need to know where public utilities should be connected
6. No local benefit for local traffic

Discussion #2: Visions for Corridor Development

- Opportunities to specialize each community along the corridor based upon communities desires
- Corridor could become East-West for utilities
- Potential for sensitive design, landscaping themes across the corridor, and to adopt a descent architectural theme that blends in with the tall Grass Prairie

Station Four		Randy Simes
Frank Patton		Great Lake Basin LLC
Mark Nelson		Village of Manhattan
Richard Duran		Village of Peotone
Martin Monahan		Citizen Advisory Committee
Thomas Vander Woude		South Suburban Mayors

Discussion #1: Strategic Analysis of Corridor’s Future

Opportunities:

- To consolidate utility & other transportation corridors
- For Metra Park & Ride in Peotone Area
- Natural corridor to offer greater biodiversity and create ‘Emerald Necklace’ of sorts
- Study possibility of interest in a bikeway/walking trail along all or parts of corridor



- Industrial, retail, agri-tourism, south & Manhattan
- Intermodal at Southwest side of Interchange near Peotone
- Economic development near Peotone (commercial)
- Consider new truck service plaza in middle of corridor to attract travel traffic to the corridor
- Study need for a rest areas corridor possibly of areas to nature areas
- Enhanced entrance to communities along route

Challenges:

- Access to Route 53
- Accommodate truck noise
- Review area for wild animal crossings (ie. Deer)
- Ensure drainage from natural wetlands disturbed retention area
- Road closures, frontage roads & connections from farmers/EMS etc., to get to next overpass
- Splitting farm parcels

Discussion #2: Visions for Corridor Development

- Overpasses that promote a theme
- Bike/ corridor along entire length
- Compact, controlled growth to preserve corridor theme
- Some commercial near interchanges
- Mostly residential in Peotone, aside from intermodal at Southwest side of interchange & commercial on Northeast side
- Impacts on agriculture
 - Splitting parcels
 - Too small to farm
 - Access to either side
 - Generally try to preserve
- Impacts on water quality
 - Concern about what water runoff does to road and impacted farms and field tiles
 - Minimize crossing impacts
- Scattered development or concentrated near towns
 - Concentrated near towns
 - Peotone
 - Beecher
 - Rt. 41
- Create Gateways into nearby communities
- Connection between old/ne Rt. 66 and near Kankakee River Bridge
- Need to look at regional planning so all communities can share and enjoy
- Use natural/native materials for facades/facing of overpasses
- Nature corridor, Agri-tourism, Nature promotion at both ends



- Smart Growth
 - Land Use considerations for No Action Alternative
 - Consider splitting highway to preserve and promote natural areas –maybe near state line crossing

Station Five		Ron Shimizu
Adam Lintner		Illinois Tollway
Colin Duesing		Will County Land Use
Elizabeth Pelloso		US EPA
Brian Smith		IDOT

Discussion #1: Strategic Analysis of Corridor’s Future

Opportunities:

- Green connectivity (wildlife, water, etc)
- Proper planning of local roads & development serving Illiana
- Development at interchanges, if controlled
- Re-introduction of full 129 interchange
- Possible utilities in corridor
- Cedar Road EMS access sized for full interchange
- Greenway trails, bike trails

Challenges:

- Drainage/Storm water management. Wetland & storm impacts between Cedar Lake & Lowell
- Proximity to Midewin
- Wetland & storm impacts between Cedar Lake & Lowell
- Crossing Illiana to reach farm property
- Loss of tax revenue
- River crossing in Wilmington (historic places)
- Sprawl at interchanges
- Drainage district—coordination needed
- Electronic tolling
- Symerton (proximity to corridor)

Discussion #2: Visions for Corridor Development

- If this is built as a P3, make sure you can have changes within 20 years
- Local & municipal zoning
- Make sure there is animal progress north and south
- Diagonal parcels—first 20 years a lot of impact



- Sound wall financing

Station Six	Rick Powell
Elizabeth Schuh	CMAA
Mark Schneidewind	Will County Farm Bureau
Jerry Heinrich	Midewin Alliance
Norm West	US EPA
Tim Good	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Joyce Newland	FHWA
Louis Haasis	FHWA
Bruce Hamann	Will Township
Wade Spang	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
Renee Thakali	Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie

Discussion #1: Strategic Analysis of Corridor’s Future

Opportunities:

- Equestrian/Bicycle trail—“multi modal”
- Midewin—both a challenge and an opportunity, preserve setting and co-exist with surrounding boundary development
- “Greater Green Area”—Prairie parklands market the area
- Planning Assistance
- Connectivity with Eastern & Western resources
- Needed East-West Transportation
- Water management--regional
- Route 66 & Kankakee River—tourism
- Improve water based recreation

Challenges:

- Water/drainage & field tiles
- Handling Intermodal Warehouse Traffic
- Interchange locations and funding
- Connectivity fragmentation
- Cultural resources—historic, prehistoric
- Impediments to wildlife—“gene pool”
- Lack of regional plan—competition of local plans
- Effect of Illiana on peripheral roads
- Dealing with unknown—new facilities not yet known
- Behind the curve with planning
- Market driven development with short range objectives
- Need for assistance and cooperation with planning



- Preserving local resources in a changing environment
- How to balance “jobs” with preservation and smart planning
- Small streams—more impacted by development
- Landlocking parcels
- Implement access

Discussion #2: Visions for Corridor Development

- Elwood to Coal City—large area for people to come recreate, tourism
- How to keep from being segregated
- Need a regional plan in place
- Interchange locations