



**Illiana Corridor Tier Two
Corridor Planning Group (CPG) / Technical Task Force (TTF) Meeting #2 Summary
April 30, 2013
Cedar Lake Ministries – Cedar Lake, IN**

CPG/TTF Meeting #2:

The second CPG/TTF meeting for Tier Two was held on April 30, 2013 at Cedar Lake Ministries in Cedar Lake, Indiana from 1:00-3:00 PM. To announce the CPG/TTF Meeting #2, an email invitation was sent on April 22, 2013.

The meeting included a PowerPoint presentation, which was used to explain what will happen in Tier Two (Purpose and Need, alternatives, landowner outreach, context sensitive solutions, and next steps).

The meeting was attended by 31 participants, 28 of which are members of the Corridor Planning Group, or Technical Task Force, as well as the study team and three observers.

Tier Two:

Tier Two will shift the focus from the broad 950 square mile study area to detailed engineering studies and environmental assessments for the Tier One selected corridor, “B3”. Tier Two is the continuation of the NEPA process, and involves evaluating Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), performing field studies, preparing a GIS-based impact assessment, and determining financing strategies with the goal of a preferred alternative, environmental footprint, and financing plan. A “Tier Two” schedule was presented, identifying the public involvement/NEPA process timeline.

The Illiana Corridor was presented as being IDOT’s first P3 project. INDOT has previous experience on P3 projects including the Ohio River Bridges project, which is currently under construction. Potential P3 delivery methods were discussed, including “Design-Build” or “Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Maintain” models. All options (including No-Action) are currently being analyzed. IDOT and INDOT presented that with P3, it is a good time to take advantage of TIFIA loans for private investors.

Agenda:

- Tier Two CPG and PM #1 Recap
- TTF #1 Land Use Planning Workshop Recap
- Purpose and Need
- Alternatives Evaluation Process
- Refined Working Alignment
- Local Road Connectivity
- Interchange Types and Locations



- Mitigation Opportunities
- Next Steps

Questions and Comments

During the CPG/TTF meeting held on April 30, 2013, representatives from local communities and agencies provided comments and/or questions on the development of the Illiana Corridor. Among the topics covered were the following (answers provided by IDOT/INDOT are in parentheses):

- How do you plan to reduce local truck traffic, when no one local will use Illiana? (The Illiana will reduce local truck traffic by attracting through-traffic that currently utilizes the local road network and causes congestion.)
- How will this affect the garbage trucks coming from Chicago down Route 1 through Beecher? (Great opportunity for local government to look into truck management.)
- Questioning the estimate for 9,000 construction jobs (Jobs are not just the jobs on the construction site; it also includes behind-the-scenes work.)
- Who will set the toll rates? (Toll rates are decided based on a variety of factors. Ultimately decided between IDOT & INDOT through the project contract.)
- Won't the numbers of trucks determine the tolls? (Not necessarily; there are a lot of factors to look at and consider.)
- TIFIA funds? Are those always successful? (Depends on how deals are structured.)
- Traffic Crown Point to Route 1 statistics (Village of Beecher and land use plans have provided information. Whatever we design at Route 1, we want it to be able to accommodate a future interchange.)
- Your design won't inhibit the Illiana going further east than I-65, but you are not considering going west of I-55. Please explain. (The area west of I-55 is very challenging due to the presence of a nuclear power plant and environmentally sensitive areas. If this is an identified need in the future, it would be possible to explore.)
- What's your timeframe to build more bridges? (Phase I Study is going on right now.)
- Can you explain the request for proposal? (It's a very specific proposal—over 600 pages. It will outline all of the requirements and performance standards for the project. The request for proposal will be released around the same time as the FHWA ROD.)
- When this is a proposal? Do we have an opportunity to go back and save money? (Yes, there is a 6 month negotiation period.)
- Will the RFP be available on the website? (It will have to be done through the state's regulations.)
- Is there going to be a plan for operations for Emergency Services routes? (We are looking into that and meeting one-on-one with the emergency services providers in the study area.)

Representatives from the study team were able to provide responses to each question/concern voiced and differentiated between policies within Illinois and Indiana, where applicable. When the



presentation and Q&A concluded, attendees were able to view a printed map at separate stations and ask specific questions of PB and IDOT/INDOT representatives.

Next Steps:

Tier Two next steps include a combined CPG/TTF Meeting #3 on May 30, 2013.