

Subject: Vandalia CAG Meeting Minutes	
Client: IDOT D7	
Project: US 51 EIS	Project No:
Meeting Date: August 11, 2010	Meeting Location: Kaskaskia College, Vandalia
Notes by: JTB	

Project Team Attendees: Jerry Payonk (CDI), Jennifer Mitchell (HDR), Joyce Tanzosh (CDI), Jamie Bents (H&H), Sherry Phillips (IDOT), Matt Hirtzel (IDOT), Gene Beccue (IDOT), Steve Corley (IDOT) (see sign-in sheet for names of the 20 attendees from the public)

Topics Discussed: Vandalia CAG reorganization

Action/Notes:

The meeting convened at 6:15 PM by Sherry Phillips.

Phillips led introductions of the project team, which included representatives from IDOT as well as consultants hired by IDOT (CDI, HDR, H&H). The consultants are known as the US 51 Partners; ultimate project decisions are made by IDOT, not by the consultants. The project team introduced themselves.

Question 1: What year were the consultants hired?

Phillips: 2006 or 2007.

Phillips stated that the goal of the meeting was to develop a list of members for the reorganized CAG for Vandalia. The intent of the CAG is to provide a diverse representation both geographically and across interest areas. The CAG should be reorganized to include not only the north side neighborhoods areas, but also other areas that may be not represented or under represented. At the next meeting, the CAG will draw alternatives on the map, but this will not take place during tonight's meeting.

Jerry Payonk reviewed the scope of the project. The US 51 project is a study for the provision of a four-lane US 51 corridor from the Christian/Shelby County line to south of Irvington. The entire project is 65 to 70 miles long; the Vandalia area represents 8 to 10 miles of the entire corridor. CAGs have been established in other communities along the corridor, with a RAG (regional

advisory group) established to include both the towns and the rural areas between communities. These groups advise the project team but do not have decision-making authority. The US 51 study started in 2007. The alternatives to be carried forward for the entire project have been approved by jurisdictional agencies, but the team is going to revisit Vandalia's alternatives based on public comments. The team is not going to reassess any other part of the corridor.

Matt Hirtzel reviewed the roles and responsibilities of being a CAG member. IDOT expects the CAG members to:

- Attend meetings. The meetings build upon each other and the project team needs continual CAG input.
- Provide input. The CAG must give the project team multiple options to review in case other suggested alternatives are determined to not be feasible based upon potential impacts. The project team needs many alternatives for consideration, and is looking to CAG to provide these alternatives.
- Ground rules. There are ground rules that all CAG members and project team members must follow, to be read later in the meeting.
- Attend public meetings. The CAG members are expected to be ambassadors of the project; because of the CAG meetings and discussions, the CAG members should be able to discuss the project and the analysis processes with neighbors and those they are representing. IDOT and their representatives will be able to support the CAG if they feel they cannot discuss specific project related issues with the public.

Payonk stated that the project team is looking for CAG members who do not say, "keep US 51 away from me," but say "make US 51 work for me." Hirtzel stated that IDOT wants the road to work today and into the future for Vandalia. He asked if there were any questions about being a CAG member.

Jennifer Mitchell asked what other roles the CAG members could play in the project. Payonk responded that CAG members can take information back to those they are representing and find out other people's ideas and opinions.

Payonk stated that the project team would now ask those attending who were interested in becoming a CAG member to introduce themselves, identify where they live by placing a yellow dot on their home on a large aerial map tacked to the wall, and to state the one or two interest areas they believe they could represent on the CAG. Payonk reviewed the Vandalia CAG interest areas listed on a board at the front of the room. Interested parties could take a sticky note, write their name on it, and place the note by the interest area they felt they most represented. People could put the notes by up to two interest areas, although they would ultimately represent one interest area. The interest areas included:

- Historical district
- Local business
- Agricultural/farming

- Correctional center
- School district
- Park district
- Emergency services
- County representative
- Municipal representative
- Homeowners in city limits
- Homeowners outside city limits

Other interest areas added by attendees during the meeting included:

- Environmental
- Existing US 51 residents
- Economic development
- Religious/ministerial alliance
- Woodyard subdivision

Those attending completed the exercise as presented, and Phillips discussed the results. She asked the attendees if they felt any of the groups on the board were underrepresented, and if so, was it important to them that those groups be represented? She went through each of the groups on the board, listed here by the number of people who initially stated they could be representatives of that group:

- Zero representatives:
 - Correctional center
 - School district
 - Park district
 - Economic development
- One representative:
 - County representatives
 - Environmental
 - Existing US 51 residents
- Two representatives:
 - Historical district
 - Agricultural
 - Emergency services
 - Municipal representatives

- Three representatives:
 - Homeowners within corporate limits
- Four representatives:
 - Homeowners outside corporate limits (north side residents)
- Five representatives:
 - None
- Six representatives:
 - Local businesses

Phillips led the meeting attendees in a discussion to determine if the CAG representation (as a result of the aerial map and interest area exercises) was adequate. Phillips asked the group if it was important to them if underrepresented groups were better represented, and if they could think of others that could provide the best representation for the interest areas, if not already identified. The following changes were made based on this discussion:

- There were no representatives for the correctional center – Mayor Gottman volunteered to contact the warden or the union representative to find a CAG representative.
- There were no representatives for the school district. Mike Wehrle volunteered to contact the district to find a representative for the CAG.
- There were no representatives for the parks district. Ernie Chappel volunteered to contact Mark Miller to see if he is willing to serve as a CAG member. Janet Bright volunteered to contact Anita Wirtz to see if she is willing to serve as a CAG member.
- The group came to a consensus that there is merit in having an historical board member serve on the CAG. Mayor Gottman volunteered to contact Dale Timmerman to find a CAG rep that is a historical board member.
- The group came to a consensus that there is merit in having a CAG representative from the Farm Bureau. The project team will contact the Farm Bureau.
- The two people who signed up to represent emergency services were the only two people to sign up for municipal representation (Mayor Gottman) and county representative (Steve Knebel). The group came to a consensus that these two people could represent both their elected positions and emergency management by bringing project materials and alternatives to the emergency management sectors (fire, EMS, hospital, police) for review and comment. The Mayor and Mr. Knebel will then bring back the information to the CAG.
- The economic development interest area was noted to be represented by Joann Sasse Givens, an existing CAG member who is the economic development coordinator for this area. She previously indicated her desire to continue on the CAG but did not attend the meeting due to illness.

- Phillips stated that anyone calling potential CAG members should tell the potential members about the number of meetings they are expected to attend (approximately ten) and the general responsibilities of a CAG member.

Question 1: If the road is placed west of Vandalia, will Vandalia's corporate boundaries expand to the new road?

That is not known at this time.

Question 2: Will the CAG and the group representation be published in the paper?

Hirtzel stated that the interest areas being represented could be published in the paper. It is not desired to print names or contact information of CAG members. Payonk stated that the CAG interest areas and representative information will be included in the Stakeholder Involvement Plan, which would be published on the project website.

Question 3: Will there be a representative from the railroad?

IDOT stated that the project would bridge over active rail lines; rail companies would need to be contacted during project development, but will not be members of the CAG.

Question 4: There is no representative from the south side of Vandalia.

IDOT asked the group if they felt they needed a representative from this area. Janet Bright stated she knew someone who built a home along Carlyle road south of Vandalia. Steve Knebel stated he would call Mike Gidcumb, who lives in this area.

Question 5: There is no representation from near the new bridge, the Woodyard Subdivision south of Vandalia.

Janet Manley will contact Ron Lange to see if he would represent this area on the CAG.

Summary table of assignments to find additional CAG members:

Interest Area	Name	Person to contact them
Historic District	Dale Timmerman	Mayor Gottman
Agriculture	Farm Bureau	Project Team
Correctional Center	Unknown	Mayor Gottman
School District	Rich Wells	Mike Wehrle
Park District (Airport)	Mark Miller	Ernie Chappel
	Anita Wirtz	Janet Bright
Economic Development	Joann Sasse Givens	(already a CAG member – not at meeting/ill)
Woodyard Subdivision	Ron Lange	Janet Manley (already contacted)
Carlyle Road Area	Mike Gidcumb	Steve Knebel

Where interest areas had relatively high representation, such as local businesses, the potential CAG members stated if they felt they represented more than one interest area, and could serve as a representative of an underrepresented interest area instead.

Phillips asked the meeting attendees how they felt about the CAG development and those who will serve on the CAG. The attendees stated they felt they were given the opportunity to provide input into the CAG development, and they greatly appreciate being heard. All the meeting attendees indicated they were satisfied with the CAG development process.

Phillips stated that the next CAG meeting will be held on August 31st, from 6 – 8 PM. CAG ground rules were passed out to attendees and read out loud by the project team. IDOT stated that all CAG members should read the ground rules again and be prepared to sign them as a sign of acceptance at the first CAG meeting. The project team stated that new rules can be added based on CAG member discretion, such as limiting the number of meetings a member can miss before they are kicked off of the CAG. The CAG members were instructed to consider any new rules they would like to add.

Question 6: What happens if a member has to miss the meetings? For example, harvest is coming and it may be necessary for people to skip a meeting.

Hirtzel said that the project team understands that it may not be possible for the members to attend every meeting. CAG members are responsible for contacting IDOT or another CAG member after the missed meeting to catch up on items that were covered during the meeting. The project team will not spend time catching someone up during the next meeting; all members must come prepared so no time is wasted. Payonk stated that although the next CAG meeting date has been set, normally the team will discuss with the members what days of the week are not good for people, such as church nights or nights when farmers must harvest.

Question 7: Can the public attend CAG meetings?

Phillips stated that IDOT will not turn the public away from CAG meetings, but they would prefer that non-CAG members and members of the media not attend the CAG meetings so as to not hinder discussions. The CAG representatives have the responsibility to provide the public with information about the project.

Questions 8: Can a short agenda be provided with meeting notices?

IDOT – yes.

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Interest Area	Member	If no member, who will contact to find member?
Historic District	Ernie Chappel	
	Larry Emerick	
		Mayor Gottman will call Dale Timmerman
Local Business	Bruce Lawry	
	Charlie Barenfanger	
Agriculture	Byron Sikma	
	Mike Wehrle	
	Jim Marlen	
		Project team will contact Farm Bureau
Correctional Center		Mayor Gottman will call warden/union rep
School District		Mike Wehrle will contact district
Park District		Ernie Chappel will call Mark Miller
		Janet Bright will call Anita Wirtz
Emergency Services	(Mayor Gottman, Steve Knebel)	
County Representative	Steve Knebel	
Municipal Representative	Ricky Gottman	
	Dean Black	
Homeowners within Corporate Limits	Harold Baumann	
	Greg Hubler	
North Side Homeowners	Kathy Trexler	
	Don Dolly	
	Janet Bright	
Environment	Walt Barenfanger	
Existing US 51 Residents	Keith Manley	
Economic Development	Joann Sasse Givens	
Religious/Ministerial Alliance	Dave Hall	
Carlyle Road		Steve Knebel will call Mike Gidcomb or Raymond Woolsey
Woodyard Subdivision		Janet Manley will call Ron Lange