

Subject: Vandalia CAG Meeting Minutes	
Client: IDOT D7	
Project: US 51 EIS	Project No:
Meeting Date: February 9, 2011, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm	Meeting Location: Vandalia Town Hall
Notes by: JKT	

Project Team Attendees: Sherry Phillips (IDOT), Matt Hirtzel (IDOT), Gary Welton (IDOT), Gene Beccue (IDOT), Rob Macklin (IDOT), Steve Corley (IDOT), Jennifer Mitchell (HDR), Jerry Payonk (CDI), Joyce Tanzosh (CDI)

See attached sign-in sheet for CAG member attendees

Topics Discussed: Resource Impact Updates, Vandalia Public Information Meeting (PIM), NEPA/404 Merger Meeting, Next Steps

Resource Impact Updates (Jerry Payonk and Joyce Tanzosh)

A series of slides summarizing the resource impact updates was displayed. Subsequent to the last VCAG meeting and Vandalia PIM, new information pertaining to wetlands and ecologically sensitive sites was received from the Illinois Natural History Survey (INHS) based on field visits conducted in 2010. Business impacts were updated based upon a field review by the project team. A summary of resource impact updates is as follows:

- Wetland impacts for all six alignments decreased based on additional field information. The order of magnitude of impacts remains generally the same.
- INHS identified several ecologically sensitive sites in 2009 and were avoided by all six alignments during the VCAG alignment development process. In 2010, INHS identified one ecologically sensitive site south of Vandalia and west of existing US 51. The site contains an abundance of native plant species; no threatened or endangered species were identified by INHS. The ecologically sensitive site is also considered a high quality wetland and was included in the wetland impacts. All six alignments (with the exception of Eastern Bypass Green) equally impact the site identified in 2010 (3.4 acres of impact). Impacts to the site will be minimized, if feasible, through alignment refinement during the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).
- Business impacts increased by one for three of the six alignments (Dual Marked Green, VS, and VU). The impacted business is Sloane Implements located south of I-70 and west of Interchange 63. The business will be considered for avoidance through alignment refinement

Data collection and impact analysis is an on-going process and will continue throughout the EIS process.

PIM Summary (Jerry Payonk and Joyce Tanzosh)

A series of slides summarizing the public comments received after the Vandalia PIM, held on November 23, 2010, was displayed. According to the sign-in sheets, 104 people attended the PIM, and 54 comments were received within a two week period following the PIM. The majority of commenter's preferred Western Bypass Yellow and Dual Marked Green. Eastern Bypass Green also received some public support. Parallel Yellow, VS, and VU received the least amount of public support. The most common reasons people listed for supporting or not supporting each alignment was graphically displayed.

Based on public comments and the number of resource impacts, four alignments were selected by the project team as recommended alignments to be evaluated in detail in the DEIS. The recommended alignments are:

- Western Bypass Yellow
- Dual Marked Green
- VS
- VU

Parallel Yellow was eliminated because it received little public support and did not result in fewer environmental impacts when compared to the other five alignments. Although Eastern Bypass Green did receive some public support, it was eliminated due to high floodplain, wetland, business, and residential impacts. VS and VU are being carried forward as the Project Team had already received concurrence for further study on these alternatives at the June 2010 NEPA/404 Merger Meeting.

NEPA/404 Merger Meeting (Jerry Payonk and Joyce Tanzosh)

A series of slides summarizing the NEPA/404 Merger Meeting process was displayed. The project team submitted a memo to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in January 2011. The memo detailed the VCAG reorganization process, alignment development and evaluation process, resource impacts, PIM, public comments, and the recommended alternatives to be carried forward into the DEIS. The memo will be reviewed by the FHWA and several State and Federal resource agencies prior to the February 15, 2011, NEPA/404 Merger Meeting. At the meeting, the project team will give a presentation to the FHWA and the agencies detailing the findings in the memo, and seek concurrence on the four recommended alignments to be carried into the DEIS. Each agency must give concurrence on each of the four alignments. It is possible that the agencies will choose to eliminate an alignment.

Postscript: The project team received concurrence to study all four alignments in the DEIS at the February 15, 2011, NEPA/404 Merger Meeting.

Next Steps (Jerry Payonk and Joyce Tanzosh)

The project team will notify the CVAG members of the results of the NEPA/404 Merger Meeting via email. The project team will study the concurred upon alignments in detail in the DEIS during 2011. VCAG meetings will be held less frequently during that time, and will be scheduled on an as-needed basis as specific issues arise. The DEIS will be issued in 2012 and will be available for public review and comment.

Survey (Jennifer Mitchell)

The VCAG members participated in an interactive survey in which each member received an electronic responder, or clicker. Attendees were presented with multiple-choice questions through a slideshow. Each person responded to the question by pressing a button on the clicker that corresponded to their desired answer. Following each question, a chart showing how the group answered was displayed for the audience to provide immediate feedback.

The questions and results are as follows:

Question 1: Which interest area do you represent on the Vandalia CAG?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| a. Local Business or Economic Development | 25% |
| b. Historic District | 8% |
| c. Homeowner- North Side | 8% |
| d. Homeowner – Corporate Limits | 0% |
| e. Homeowner – Carlyle Road/Woodyard | 0% |
| f. Homeowner – Existing US 51 | 8% |
| g. Agriculture/Environment | 17% |
| h. Municipal/Elected Official | 0% |
| i. Ministerial Alliance/School Board/Park Dist./Other | 33% |

Question 2: How often have you discussed the CAG's efforts with representatives of your interest area?

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| a. Many times a day | 0% |
| b. Several times a week | 15% |
| c. Few times a month | 85% |
| d. Never | 0 |

Question 3: What location would you consider to be your residence in the Vandalia area?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| a. North of I-70 | 54% |
| b. Between I-70 and Randolph St. | 23% |
| c. South of Randolph St. | 8% |
| d. Outside of the Vandalia area | 15% |

Question 4: Where do you work?

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| a. In the Vandalia area | 92% |
| b. Outside of the Vandalia area | 8% |
| c. Do not work/Retired | 0% |

Question 5: How often do you travel outside of the Vandalia area?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----|
| a. Every day | 15% |
| b. Few times a week | 31% |

- c. Few times a month 54%
- d. Once a month or less 0%

Question 6: What resource is most important to you?

- a. Business 46%
- b. Residential 54%
- c. Wetland 0%
- d. Agriculture 0%
- e. Floodplain 0%
- f. Other 0%

Question 7: Which if the six US 51 alternatives best meets the needs of Vandalia?

- a. Western Bypass Yellow 69%
- b. Dual Marked Green 8%
- c. Parallel Yellow 0%
- d. VS 0%
- e. VU 15%
- f. Eastern Bypass Green 8%

Question 8: Which if the four remaining US 51 alternatives best meets the needs of Vandalia?

- a. Western Bypass Yellow 83%
- b. Dual Marked Green 8%
- c. VS 0%
- d. VU 8%

Closing

The VCAG members were invited to browse exhibits showing the six alignments and a table listing the updated resource impacts, and to ask the project team questions.