

US 51 Public Hearings – March 26 and 27, April 1, 2, and 3, 2014

Introduction

The US 51 project study, from south of Pana to Centralia, began in 2007. The process timeline is shown below. The Public Hearings represent a major milestone in the project: the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) has been issued. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to present the findings of the DEIS and to gain public input on which of the remaining alternatives should be selected as the Preferred Alternative. We are nearing the completion of the US 51 EIS project. This may be your last chance to comment on the remaining alternatives before a Preferred Alternative is selected.

Purpose and Need of the US 51 project:

Improve connectivity and enhance the US 51 highway system continuity within the south central Illinois region



Public Involvement (54 Advisory Group Meetings, 21 Public Information Meetings, and 5 Public Hearings)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The DEIS is a Federal/State document that includes:

- The Purpose and Need of the project
- The range of transportation alternatives that were considered
- The evaluation process used to narrow down the range of alternatives
- The environmental and community impacts of the remaining alternatives
- Discussion of mitigation strategies for impacts
- A summary of the public involvement process including public input received



The remaining alternatives are presented at tonight's meeting. The impacts resulting from each alternative are also presented.

The DEIS is sent to Federal, State, and local agencies for review and comment. It is available for public review at the following locations:

- Carnegie Schuyler Library in Pana
- Centralia Public Library
- Nokomis Public Library
- Sandoval Branch Library
- IDOT District 7 in Effingham
- US 51 website: www.us51eis-idot.com



The Final EIS will be issued in 2015.

Remaining Alternatives

Currently, eleven build alternatives remain.

- Two alternatives near Ramsey: R Alt 1 and R Alt 2
- Two alternative options near Ramsey Creek: RCOA and RCOB
- Four alternatives near Vandalia: V Alt 1, V Alt 2, V Alt 3, and V Alt 4
- Two alternatives near Sandoval and Junction City: CS Alt 1 and CS Alt 2
- One alternative near Oconee, Shobonier, Vernon, Patoka, Central City, Centralia, Wamac, and the areas between communities: US 51 Build Alternative

The US 51 Build Alternative is a lengthy alternative between communities where the proposed improvements follow existing US 51 or where only one build alternative remained after the alternative screening process.

In addition, a No Build Alternative is considered.



The build alternatives can be viewed on the US 51 website (www.us51eis-idot.com) or in the DEIS which is available for review at one of the public libraries listed previously on this handout. The DEIS is also available for download on the US 51 website.

Preferred Alternative

The public comments, along with the resource impacts described in the DEIS, will be considered when selecting a recommended Preferred Alternative. IDOT and FHWA are responsible for making the final recommendation on the Preferred Alternative.

A summary of the public comments and the recommended Preferred Alternative will be presented to the Federal and State resource agencies in September 2014. The project team will notify the public via the project website (www.us51eis-idot.com) after the September meeting to provide an update on the status of the Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative will be described in the Final EIS issued in 2015.

Public Comment

Public input is sought on the remaining alternatives. A comment form is attached for your use. Comments can be submitted via mail (see mailing information on comment form in this handout), email (US51EIS@clark-dietz.com), or fax (217-373-8923). You can also submit a comment using the comment form on the US51 website.

When commenting on the alternatives, please be specific as to which alternative you think should be selected as the Preferred Alternative and why. Please refer to the impact summary tables presented tonight and included at the back of this packet to support your decision. The official public comment period closes on **April 21, 2014**. The public comments will then be reviewed and summarized, and presented to Federal and State resource agencies. IDOT will respond individually to each comment.

Frequently Asked Question: what if my property is impacted?

- The land acquisition process is not expected to occur for a minimum of ten years
- IDOT priority is to work with the property owners to minimize impacts
- Process would include a plat of highway, independent appraisal by IDOT staff, an offer, and a period of negotiations
- IDOT must propose fair market compensation for property
- Eminent Domain or Condemnation are always considered to be last resorts





Design Characteristics and Resources Affected by the Remaining Alternatives

Design Characteristics and Environmental Resources Affected	Remaining Alternatives										
	US 51 Build	CS Alt 1	CS Alt 2	V Alt 1	V Alt 2	V Alt 3	V Alt 4	RCOA	RCOB	R Alt 1	R Alt 2
Design Characteristics											
Length of Roadway (miles)	34.4	5.0	5.0	14.6	14.3	14.8	14.3	1.1	1.1	3.3	3.3
Right-of-Way Required for Construction (acres) ¹	1,494.0	213.6	213.5	541.6	541.8	541.8	686.9	64.9	46.6	124.1	124.1
New Interchanges (number)	2	1	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
New Impervious Area (acres)	485.0	110.0	111.2	153.5	140.0	139.0	138.6	7.5	8.6	35.5	36.0
Estimated Cost (millions)	\$588.9	\$86.2	\$92.8	\$180.9	\$192.2	\$185.0	\$215.9	\$14.8	\$16.2	\$32.3	\$31.1
Social/Economic Resources											
Total Residences Displaced (number) ²	51	5	12	9	25	29	38	0	0	15	6
Businesses (Non-Agricultural) Displaced (number)	5*	0	2	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	0
Worship Centers Displaced (number)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural Resources											
Farm Residences Displaced (number)	28	4	4	9	20	14	14	0	0	2	3
Farm Businesses Displaced (number)	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Agricultural Soils (acres)	877	169	148	500	433	408	279	22	13	68	94
Farm Severances (by tract)	58	11	27	39	29	26	14	1	1	7	5
Affected Farms (number)	245	39	47	78	84	84	67	9	8	21	15
Total Adverse Travel between Split Farm Parcels, Based on One Round Trip (miles) for each Operator	21.6	13.0	6.9	30.6	4.8	3.3	1.4	0	0	0.6	0.9
Prime Farmland (acres)	416	9	5	351	284	294	210	10	6	56	61
Statewide and Local Important Farmland (acres)	384	158	141	120	127	97	49	8.2	7	11	20
Landlocked Parcels (number)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cultural Resources											
National Register-Eligible Historic Resources with Adverse Effects (number)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Noise Impacts											
Residences, Classrooms, or Churches with Noise Impacts (number)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0



Design Characteristics and Resources Affected by the Remaining Alternatives (continued)

Design Characteristics and Environmental Resources Affected	Remaining Alternatives										
	US 51 Build	CS Alt 1	CS Alt 2	V Alt 1	V Alt 2	V Alt 3	V Alt 4	RCOA	RCOB	R Alt 1	R Alt 2
Natural Resources											
Forest Impacts (acres)	201	18	3	92	34	32	39	29	17	8	13
Large Forest Stands (acres)	13.89	0	0	30.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	11.57	4.52	0	0
Protected Species Potentially Affected (number)	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Special and Protected Lands											
Nature Preserves Affected	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Sites Affected (number/acres)	0	0	0	0	1/ 11.5	0	0	1/0.29	1/0.16	0	0
Parks and Forest Preserves Affected (number)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Water Resources/Quality											
Surface Water Crossings (number)	55	1	2	19	10	10	7	1	1	3	3
Private Water Wells Displaced /within 200 feet (number)	8/17	0/1	0/0	4/1	4/13	7/17	6/10	0/1	0/1	3/3	1/2
Floodplains											
Floodplain along New Crossing (feet)	23,345	485	250	0	1,715	6,400	0	0	0	0	0
Floodplain along Existing Crossing (feet)	2,470	0	265	0	700	1,350	9,410	1,445	1,000	0	0
Floodplains Crossed (number)	11	1	1	0	2	2	2	1	1	0	0
Wetlands											
Wetland Impact (acres)	37.8	0.3	3.9	1.3	2.6	15.2	4.6	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.6
Wetland Impact (number)	38	5	9	5	9	11	14	3	2	4	3
Special Waste Sites											
Special Waste Sites Affected (number)	34	4	7	4	3	3	17	0	0	7	5

¹Includes existing ROW

²Includes farm residences

*2 of 5 businesses vacant/abandoned former commercial buildings