



Interstate 80 – Ridge Road to U.S. Route 30 Phase I Study Project Working Group Meeting #5 Short Summary September 19, 2013

The fifth Project Working Group meeting for the Interstate 80 Phase I Study was held on Thursday, September 19, 2013 at the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate, 15 S. Richards Street, Joliet, Illinois from 9:30 – 11:30 AM. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a project update, discuss range of alternatives, and discuss next steps.

The meeting featured a PowerPoint presentation and exhibit boards showing alternatives for each interchange and floodplain maps within the project limits.

Those in attendance included:

- Village of New Lenox (2) - Robin Ellis, Will Nash
- City of Joliet (2) - Greg Ruddy, Jim Trizna
- Will County Land Use Dept. - Colin Duesing
- Will County Center for Economic Development - Scott Fleming
- Will County Executive Office - Alicia Hanlon
- Will County Forest Preserve - Andrew Hawkins
- Will County Highway Dept. - Christina Kupkowski
- Kane/Kendall Council of Mayors - Mike Sullivan
- PACE - David Tomzik
- Resident (2) - Paul Weinert, Sandy Wheeler

The purpose of the project is to improve the transportation system along I-80 from Ridge Road to U.S. Route 30. The safety, regional and local access, and facility condition will need to be improved to achieve this purpose. The project Purpose and Need was approved in March 1, 2012. Since the approval of the Purpose and Need, the study team has developed alternatives for the interchanges within the project corridor and the Des Plaines River Bridge.

The following topics were discussed:

1. Mainline Widening Alternatives
2. Des Plaines River Bridge Alternatives
3. Interchange Alternatives
4. Environmental Considerations and Sustainable Design

The study team answered comments and questions from the Project Working Group. Detailed discussions will be documented in the future full meeting summary. The group was encouraged to provide additional comments and questions on the alternatives to the study team over the next few weeks.

The next steps of the project are to complete the analysis of Managed Lanes in the corridor and refine alternatives for FHWA review. The next Public Meeting will be held in Winter 2013-2014 followed by a Project Working Group meeting in Spring 2014 to review the preferred alternatives. A Public Hearing is anticipated in the summer of 2014. Should the results of the Managed Lanes analysis yield that managed lanes are appropriate and beneficial for this corridor, an additional Project Working Group meeting is anticipated prior to the Public Meeting to present details on this project feature.