

J. COORDINATION / PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

1. Area Meetings for Project Input

The first step in the public involvement process was to have four public involvement meetings with public officials at four different locations to identify issues and concerns of Kankakee County local officials and citizens that should be addressed and included in the corridor study. These meetings were as follows:

- Southwestern group - Kankakee Administration Building - August 23, 2001 – 60 attendees.
- Eastern group - Momence Village Hall – August 30, 2001– 22 attendees.
- Farming group - University of Illinois Extension Service -- September 18, 2001 – 26 attendees.
- Central group - Riverside Health Fitness center – October 10, 2001 – 37 attendees.

2. Meetings with Public Agencies

Other meetings were held with the Illinois Department of Transportation - District 3, Kankakee County Highway Department, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and the Kankakee County Metropolitan Planning Organization. Bernardin-Lochmueller & Associates also attended the Public Hearing for the South Suburban Airport. These meetings were to gather input and inform the different organizations of the study.

3. Analysis of Public Input

Based on the findings from these meetings, it was determined by the Transportation Subcommittee that the following issues should be carried forward for further review in the study:

- Significant number of comments that the corridor planning study is a good idea and the timing is right.
- Commitment was developed to have any new roadways stay on existing alignments or straight extensions of existing alignments wherever feasible.
- Proposed new landfill southwest of I-57 exit 308.
- Type of facility (i.e. 2-lane/4-lane highway), and level of access control (none/ limited).
- Desire to remove trucks from the downtown areas in particular Grant Park, Kankakee, Manteno, Momence.
- Consider impact of third airport on the corridor.
- Concerns with farmers being able to cross the Kankakee River at Warner Bridge Road (not in favor of full access control). Also, concerns with farm traffic competing with higher speed traffic on new highways within the corridors.
- Concerns with park activities (fishing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, etc.) conflicting with Warner Bridge Road traffic.

Issues recommended to not carry forward:

- The extension of the corridor beyond the original study limits.
- Consideration of the possible extensions of major routes from outside the corridors through the study area.
- New bridge over Kankakee River between Warner Bridge Road and Kankakee. The lack of and additional crossing is recognized as a mobility problem in the area, but is outside this particular study. It is suggested that a local agency consider looking into the feasibility of a new crossing.

4. Public Meeting to Present Alternatives

After the alternatives were developed within the corridor, another public meeting was held to present the alternates (See Appendix A for displays presented at the meeting) to the citizens of Kankakee County and to receive their input and comments. This meeting was held on December 12, 2002 at the Quality Inn Banquet Hall in Bradley, Illinois. After the comments were reviewed with the Transportation Sub-committee, the final alignment was selected. Concerns developed with the portion of the alignment through the quarry after the selection of the final alignment. As a result, the alignment from IL 17 to I-57 will be the subject of another separate study to find the best possible alignment.

5. Public Meeting to Present Selected Alignment

A final alignment was presented at another public meeting held on April 10, 2003, at the Quality Inn Banquet Hall. The final meeting displays are shown in Appendix B. The main comments received at this meeting were that it was a good decision not to go through the quarry on the Wa alignment, and this was a good study to show where future roads will be located.

The minutes, comment sheets, and summary of comment sheets from the meetings are in the project files at the Kankakee County Planning Department.