

**Community Advisory Group (CAG)
Meeting #1
August 8, 2012**



Illinois Department of Transportation

Orientation

Tonight's Meeting Agenda

- Orientation
- Overview of the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study
- Overview of Public Involvement and the CAG
- Context Audit Survey
- Questions and Answers / General Discussion / Upcoming Activities
- Action Items / Next CAG Meeting

Introductions

- Project Study Group (PSG)
 - Illinois Department of Transportation
 - Piasa Collaborative JV Team
 - AMEC Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.
 - Bernardin, Lochmueller & Associates, Inc.
 - Horner & Shifrin, Inc.
- CAG members
 - Please refer to roster in your binder

Project Binder

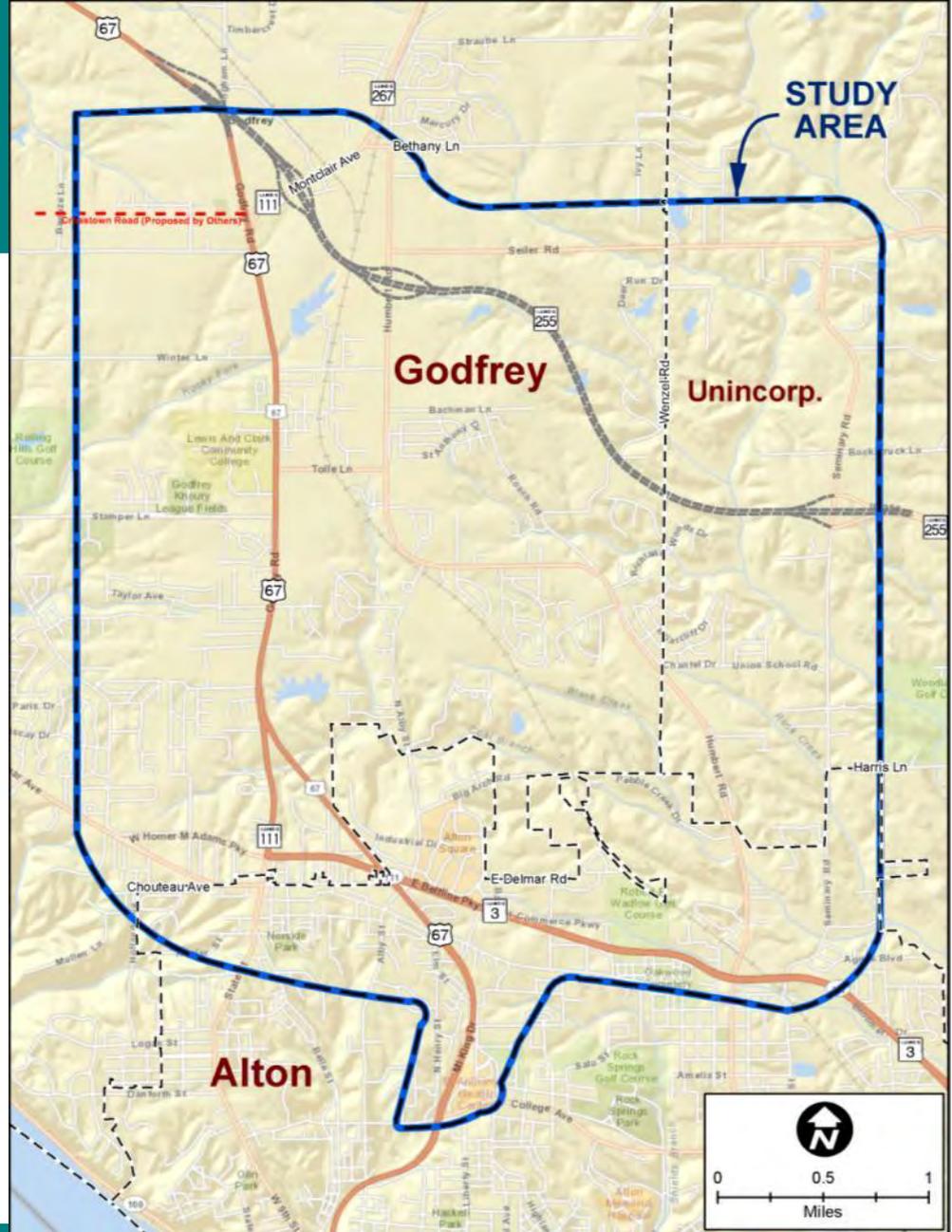
- Agenda
- Roster
- Reference Material
- Study Maps
- Context Audit Form
- Notes

Overview of the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study

Scope of the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study

Identify options that could improve
transportation mobility and safety
between IL Route 255 and IL Route 3 /
IL Route 111 (Homer Adams Parkway)

What is the Study Area?



Key Activities of the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study

- Conduct public involvement
 - Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)
- Study and understand the effects of the opening of the new IL Route 255
 - Changes in travel patterns
 - Changes in land development
 - Traffic growth
- Analyze historical crash records and determine reasons for crashes
- Develop project Purpose and Need
- Investigate possible alternatives that address needs or problems

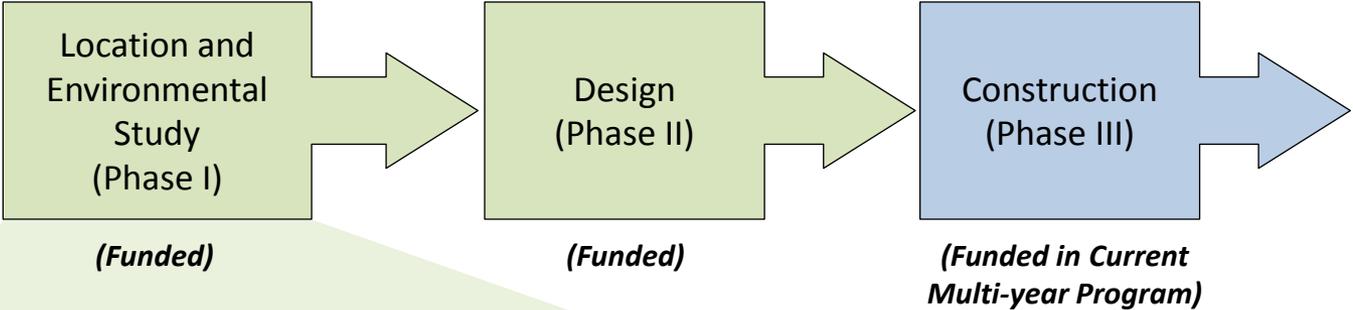
Overview of IDOT Process

- Phase One – Location and Environmental Study
 - Compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for federally funded projects
 - Develop and conduct public involvement program
 - Develop Problem Statement
 - Develop and evaluate alternatives
 - Determine environmental, social and economic impacts as a result of alternatives
 - Document findings
 - Eliminate or minimize impacts
 - Coordinate with federal and state agencies

Overview of IDOT Process

- Phase Two – Design phase
 - Preparation of project plans and specifications
 - Negotiation and acquisition of rights-of-way
 - Bidding and letting of contract(s) for construction
- Phase Three – Construction phase
 - Construction

Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study Project Timeline



Major Phase I Milestones

(Approximately four year process)

- Engage stakeholders
- Develop Purpose & Need and identify study corridors
- Hold public meetings
- Refine and eliminate corridors
- Hold public meeting
- Conduct environmental studies
- Prepare Draft Environmental Document
- Select preferred alternative
- Hold public hearing
- Draft Environmental Document approval by FHWA



We are here

What is NEPA?

- National Environmental Policy Act (1969)
- Requires consideration of human, natural and cultural environment for actions that use federal funds, or on federal land
- A decision-making framework that is:
 - Multi-disciplinary
 - Transparent
 - Process-driven
- Has varying levels of analysis:
 - Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - Environmental Assessment (EA)
 - Categorical Exclusion (CE)

The EIS Timeline

(Phase One of the process)

- IDOT:
 - Initiates a project with FHWA
 - With FHWA, begins coordination with agencies
 - Develops and conducts public involvement / CSS
 - Develops project Purpose and Need
 - Develops alternatives to be carried forward
 - Prepares Draft EIS and holds Public Hearing
 - Identifies a Preferred Alternative
 - Prepares Final EIS and a Record of Decision (ROD)

Study Area Issues

- Natural Environment
 - Streams (Coal Branch Creek, Rock Creek)
 - Wetlands
 - Forested land
 - Sensitive habitats (associated with stream corridors or forested areas)
- Cultural Environment
 - Historic properties
 - Potential archaeological resources

Study Area Issues

- Human Environment
 - Residences
 - Businesses
 - Institutions
 - Noise
 - Traffic
 - Volume
 - Safety

Overview of Public Involvement/CSS and the CAG

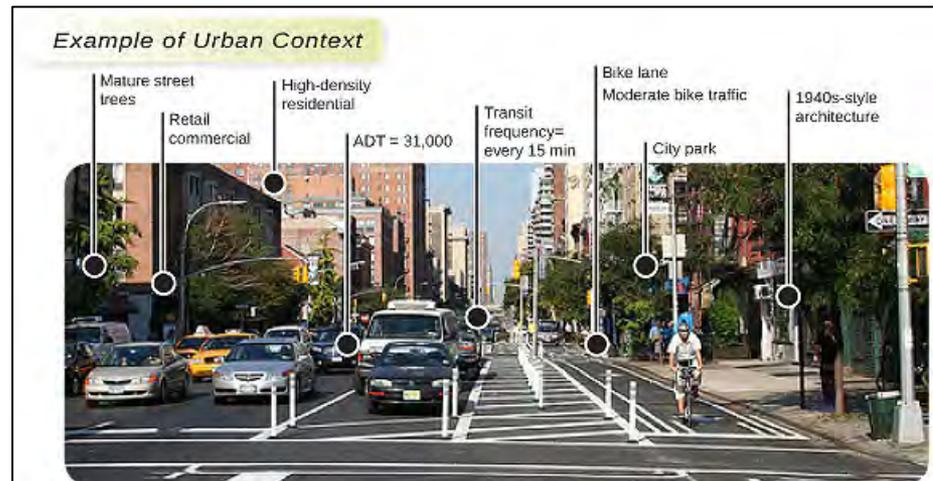
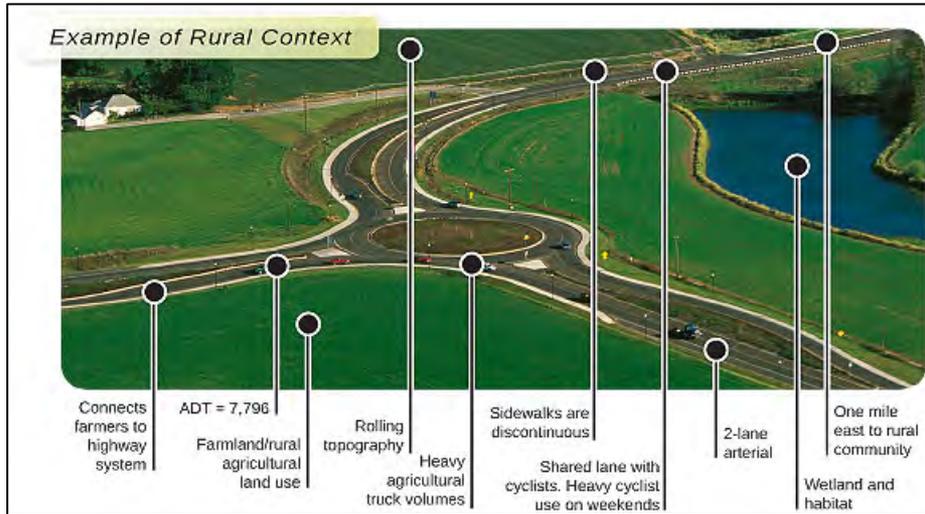
Public Involvement for the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study

- Inclusive and responsive program
- Intended to get input early and continuously, and engage the community in a give and take of information
- Will be conducted using IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process
- IDOT's goal is to understand stakeholder needs for, and concerns about, transportation and mobility in the Alton-Godfrey area

What is CSS?

- CSS = Context Sensitive Solutions
 - Context: all elements related to people and place
- A formalized, collaborative, and adaptable approach to public involvement
 - Considers project engineering needs, IDOT requirements, and community values
 - Involves engineering, planning, and environmental disciplines
 - Addresses safety and mobility
 - Preserves and enhances area's characteristics – “quality of life”
- Input heard from stakeholders early and often
 - A diversity of community voices
 - IDOT is final decision maker
- Result: project that fits into its surroundings (context)

Examples of Context



Examples of CSS



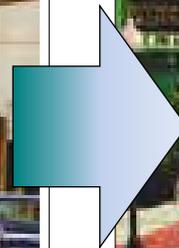
Before

After

Examples of CSS



Before



After

Opportunities for Public Input during the Study

- Include the following:
 - Public informational meetings
 - Stakeholder / small group meetings
 - CAG meetings
 - Project website

Stakeholder Meetings – since January

- Purpose: introduce study and provide background information
- 24 meetings held since late January
- General comments/discussion included:
 - Area growth will continue with corresponding increases in traffic
 - Opening of IL Route 255 is a priority
 - Proposed Transit Center could be beneficial to area but lead to increased traffic volumes
 - Concerns about conditions and access at specific intersections and roadways
 - Concerns about safety at railroad crossings
 - Minimize effects to residences
 - Information provided to the team about municipal and business growth plans and employment

Public Meeting – May 3, 2012

- Purpose: Introduce study to public, gather comments, solicit CAG volunteers
- Information presented: study area features, traffic/crash data, NEPA & CSS process overview
- 85 attendees
- 15 written comments received
 - General agreement that some transportation improvements are needed in the area
 - Suggestions such as retiming signals, adding turn lanes, or improving specific intersections or roadways
 - Several comments referred to IL 255 construction; differing or opposing opinions on impacts to local roadways when it opens
 - Some stated concern about state's fiscal condition or that they believed the study is not needed at this time

Purpose of a CAG

- Provide input to the Project Study Group (PSG)
 - Problem Statement
 - Identify transportation issues important to the community
 - Provide feedback on alternatives

CAG Roles

- Liaison between IDOT and community
 - Representative of varied interests in the study area
 - Share community's opinions, values, and concerns about area's transportation with the PSG
 - Generate interest in the study
 - Help ensure community values and context are considered, not just personal points of view

CAG Responsibilities

- Attend and participate in CAG meetings
- Communicate openly and honestly
- Respect opinions of other CAG members
- Endorse the CSS process
- Represent one's organization and community interest
- CAG process is not a vote
 - Strive for consensus on decisions
 - IDOT is final decision maker

Future CAG Meetings / Activities

- Context Audit (tonight)
- Develop Problem Statement
- Input on Purpose and Need
- Identify alternatives
- Refine alternatives
 - Potential alignment corridors
 - Improvements to existing roadways
 - Preferred alternative

- Future meetings will depend on outcome

How will CAG Input be Used?

- Sounding board to project team
- Evaluate input in conjunction with engineering, safety criteria, environmental aspects, and state/federal policy
- Reflect community transportation needs

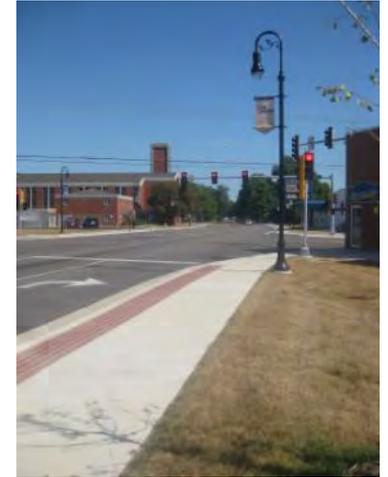
IDOT CSS Successes

- IL Rt. 3 / Waterloo
 - Vandebrook Drive
 - Median type
 - Shared-use path
 - Shoulder for farm equipment
 - Avoided old train depot



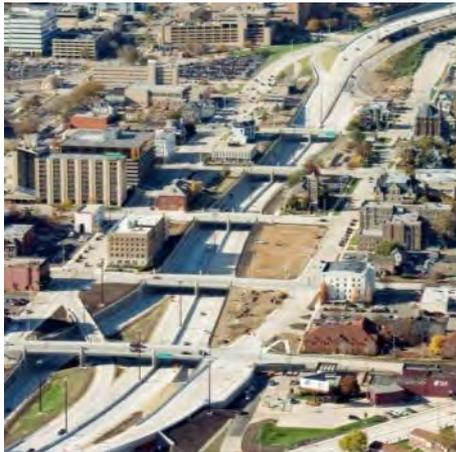
IDOT CSS Successes

- IL Rt. 159 / Collinsville
 - Alignment shift to minimize impacts
 - Tree wells
 - Greenspace
 - Off-street parking



IDOT CSS Successes

- I-74 / Peoria



Context Audit

Purpose of the Context Audit

- Identify various characteristics that define the study area
- Will aid in defining the transportation problem(s) to be addressed and the Purpose and Need
- Designed to consider:
 - Area's history and heritage
 - Environmental conditions
 - Community goals
 - Tie community values into transportation improvements

Context Audit Instructions

- Fill in your contact information
- Questions 1-17:
 - Provide answers based on your unique experience in the area
- Questions 18-19:
 - Indicate the importance to you of the features listed
 - Please limit “Most Important” to no more than 3
- Provide any additional comments or concerns

- Ask if you have a question!

Questions / Discussion

Action Items / Next CAG Meeting

Next CAG Meeting

- In about one month
 - Context Audit Summary
 - Stakeholder Involvement Plan questions
 - Define Problem Statement
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- Comments before next meeting:
contact Karen Geldert, 618-346-3157

Future CAG Activities

- Future meetings will depend on outcome
- Public involvement continues through construction
- Sharing of information throughout the study and construction

Thanks for your participation in the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study