Chapter 4 – Public Involvement

4.1 The Public Involvement Process

The public involvement process is a key part of the SRA studies. During the period of the study, there is ongoing two-way communication between the study team and public agencies, (governmental units, other involved agencies, institutions). The process is used to help all participants understand the issues and problems along with the opportunities and potential solutions for the corridor. The process begins at the onset of the study and continues until the end so that various opportunities for input and consensus are available and utilized. The range of activities in public involvement includes data collection, Individual Community Interviews, Advisory Panel Meetings, Public Hearings, and ongoing communication.

4.2 Data Collection

During the first three months of the study, the appropriate government agencies were contacted with a comprehensive checklist of information to be gathered. This data was then collected during the Individual Community Interviews (ICIs).

4.3 Individual Community Interviews

ICI's were held in April 2003, and November and December 2004. A corridor summary report and the notes from these meetings are in **Exhibit E**. The following meetings were held:

Village of Wauconda	April 8, 2003
Village of Island Lake	April 8, 2003
Lake County Division of Transportation and Lake County Planning, Building and Development	April 15, 2003
Village of Prairie Grove	April 22, 2003
City of Marengo	April 29, 2003
Nunda Township Highway Department	April 29, 2003
McHenry County Department of Transportation and Department of Planning and Development	April 29, 2003
City of Crystal Lake	April 29, 2003
Village of Lakewood	November 18, 2004
Village of Union/Coral Township	December 10, 2004

4.4 Advisory Panel Meetings

An Advisory Panel was established to assist with the study by supplying input and review during the phases of the study. The sign-in sheets, as well as the meeting minutes, are in **Exhibit E**. The Advisory Panel for the IL 176 SRA Route Study was composed of representatives from the following communities and governmental units along the corridor in McHenry and Lake Counties:

- Illinois Department of Transportation
- McHenry County Department of Transportation
- McHenry County Department of Planning and Development
- Lake County Division of Transportation
- Lake County Planning Building and Development Department
- City of Marengo
- City of Crystal Lake
- Village of Island Lake
- Village of Wauconda
- Village of Lakewood
- Village of Union/Coral Township

Three Advisory Panel meetings were held. The first meeting was held on October 18, 2004 at the McHenry County – County Building on Ware Road. This meeting was used to review and discuss preliminary recommendations for the IL 176 SRA route. The information gathered from this meeting was used to re-work the preliminary recommendations for review by IDOT.

The second meeting was held on January 14, 2005 at the McHenry County – Administration Building to discuss the draft final report and its recommendations, and to also review materials to be used during the Public Hearing.

The third meeting was held on August 25, 2010 at McHenry County College in Crystal Lake to discuss the final comments and recommendations to be incorporated into the final report and to check for consistencies.

4.5 Public Hearing

The Public Hearing for the IL 176 SRA Study was held on Wednesday, October 27, 2010 at McHenry County College from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

At the meeting members of the public were able to view an audio-visual presentation and exhibits and talk one-on-one with representatives from IDOT and the consultant team. A newsletter/brochure was provided along with a comment form the public could fill out and leave in the comment box or take home and mail back to IDOT. A court reporter was also available to record comments the public wished to make.

A summary, materials, and information from the Public Hearing are in **Exhibit E**.