

Interstate 94 at 111th Street Interchange Study Community Advisory Group Meeting #1 Summary August 7, 2024

The first CAG meeting for the I-94 at 111th Street Interchange Study was held at Olive Harvey College on Wednesday, August 7, 2024 between 10AM and 12PM. There were a total of 10 attendees, 3 of whom attended virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Jeff Orzech of GRAEF was the facilitator, and gave a power point presentation which began with all present introducing themselves and then the meeting agenda was presented. Four primary topics were discussed in the presentation: the Study Process including discussion of the IDOT Project Phases and the Phase I Process in greater detail; the Study Overview including study location, environmental and community resources, ADT and crash data, and the study timeline; CAG specifics including Context Sensitive Solutions, defining the CAG, roles in CAG membership, and ground rules; and the review of the Public Information Meeting #1 which was held on October 12, 2023.

The CAG members then broke into two smaller groups for breakout discussions. The virtual members were included in one of the groups to participate in the group discussions. The first breakout session had the two groups discuss and write down their issues and concerns for the I-94 at 111th Street interchange and immediate surrounding areas. Both groups presented their findings to the Project Team and CAG. The second breakout session had the two groups develop problem statements, summarizing the most important concerns and issues within the study area, which were also presented to all in attendance.

The meeting concluded with a request for additional Community Context Audit forms to be completed and a short discussion of the next CAG meeting schedule, which is anticipated to be in fall 2024. A poll was taken to determine what type of meeting was preferred by the CAG members – in-person or virtual. If the meeting is to be held during normal business hours, a desire to have a virtual component was expressed.

Project Team Attendance

- Brenda Alicea, IDOT
- Valentina DeFex, IDOT
- Anna Kutryn, IDOT
- Steve Schilke, IDOT
- Meron Asnake, GRAEF
- Joe Cross, GRAEF
- Peter Johnston, GRAEF
- Jeff Orzech, GRAEF
- Brah Hahn, Images Inc.

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Member Attendance

- Sue Bennett, National Park Service – Pullman National Historic Park
- Rebecca Conant, Historic Pullman Foundation
- Beth Dybala, Calumet Area Industrial Commission (CAIC)
- Quincy Dyer, Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep Academy High School
- Maria Fattore-Lazzaroni, City of Chicago – Ward 10
- Tracy Murray, City of Chicago – Ward 9
- Jason Wald, Chicago Transit Authority (CTA)
- Brenda Dixon, Major Taylor Trail Keepers (Virtual Attendee)
- Peter Taylor, Friends of the Major Taylor Trail, Major Taylor Trail Keepers (Virtual Attendee)
- Daniel Thomas, Metra (Virtual Attendee)

Summary of Breakout Session #1 – Issues and Concerns

Group 1

- Turning radius improvements needed for tractor-trailer vehicles at all locations
- Separate commercial and recreational/commuter traffic
- Protected bike/pedestrian lane desired – consider separating traffic
- Separate bike/pedestrian bridge over I-94
- Create sense of place “Pullman” with name on bridge over I-94
- Include traffic signal sequencing with westbound 111th Street traffic signals so north-south I-94 ramps don’t back up
- Improve CTA service including the 111a shuttle
- If Red Line CTA line is extended, provide new bus routes
- Address conflicts with bike/pedestrians and commercial traffic
- East Doty Road has standing water and poor drainage which should be addressed
- Keep three East Doty Road right in/right out access points
- A concern is the projected ADT numbers are low. Increase are expected due to tourism, commercial and industrial projections in the area
- There is flooding on I-94 and Doty Road. This is a safety issue for all. East Doty Road’s standing water can be sprayed 25’ in the air onto oncoming traffic including onto I-94. There is no space for pedestrians and bikes.

Group 2

- Highway and surrounding areas flood. Site needs improved drainage/flood management to make roads safer.
- Current bike/pedestrian access and conditions are dangerous. Possible solutions could include sidewalks and bike lanes or separate bridges for human powered vehicles. Increase access to places like Big Marsh and Harborside.
- East side of Doty Road is dark and encourages road races. Dark sky sensitive lighting could make it safer, less road race friendly, and bring attention to the parks.
- Several sections of I-94 have a short path from the merges to the next exit requiring crossing several lanes of traffic for fast merges.
- Increase the signage and provide better roads for access to Pullman and Roseland.

Summary of Breakout Session #2 – Problem Statement

Group 1

The Transportation problems for I-94 at 111th Street to be improved by this project are improvements to address safety conflicts for industrial, residential and pedestrian/bicyclists; manage increased traffic flow from industrial/commercial development; and efficient traffic flow while maintaining quality of life.

Group 2

The Transportation problems for I-94 at 111th Street to be improved by this project are improvements to address flooding, bike/pedestrian access, poor lighting, fast lane merges, and access to Pullman and Roseland neighborhood issues.

The following appendices are included:

Appendix A: Power Point Presentation from CAG Meeting #1

Appendix B: CAG Meeting #1 Agenda

Appendix C: Notes made by CAG members in breakout groups on aerials

Appendix D: Notes made by CAG members in breakout groups on note boards

Appendix E: Received Community Audit Forms (1 total)

Appendix F: Notes taken by GRAEF staff

**Appendix A: Power Point Presentation
from CAG Meeting #1**

I-94 AT 111TH STREET INTERCHANGE

Phase I Study
Community Advisory Group Meeting #1

Prepared by GRAEF
For the Illinois Dept. of Transportation



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Introductions

Consultant Team & Illinois Department of Transportation

- IDOT –
Brenda Alicea, Anna Kutryn, Valentina DeFex
- GRAEF –
Peter Johnston, Jeff Orzech, Joe Cross, and Meron Asnake
- Images, Inc. – Brad Hahn
- CAG Members



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Meeting Agenda

- Welcome
- Study Process
- Study Overview
- What is the Community Advisory Group (CAG)?
- Questions
- PIM #1 Recap Of Feedback
- Breakout Groups #1 – Issues & Concerns
- Breakout Groups #2 – Problem Statement
- Next Steps
- Questions



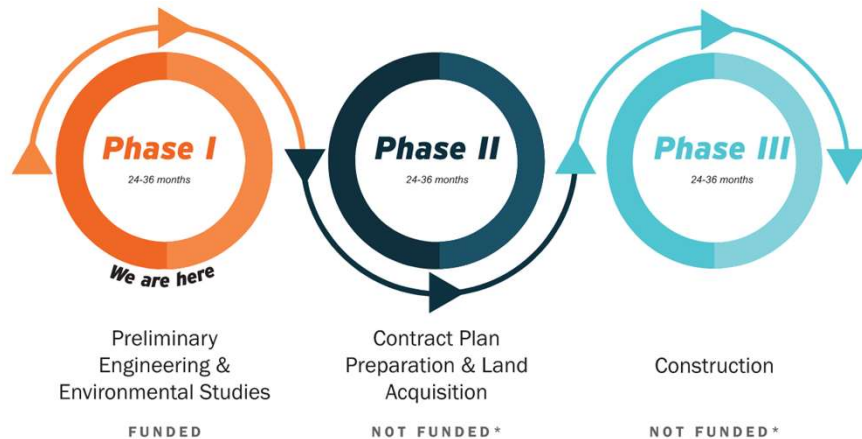
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STUDY PROCESS



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IDOT Project Phases



*This improvement is not currently included in the Department's FY 2025-2030 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. However, this project will be included in the Department's priorities for future funding consideration among similar improvement needs throughout the region.



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Phase I Process

Data collection

Develop project Purpose and Need

Develop and evaluate alternatives


Determine preferred alternative

**PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT**



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STUDY OVERVIEW



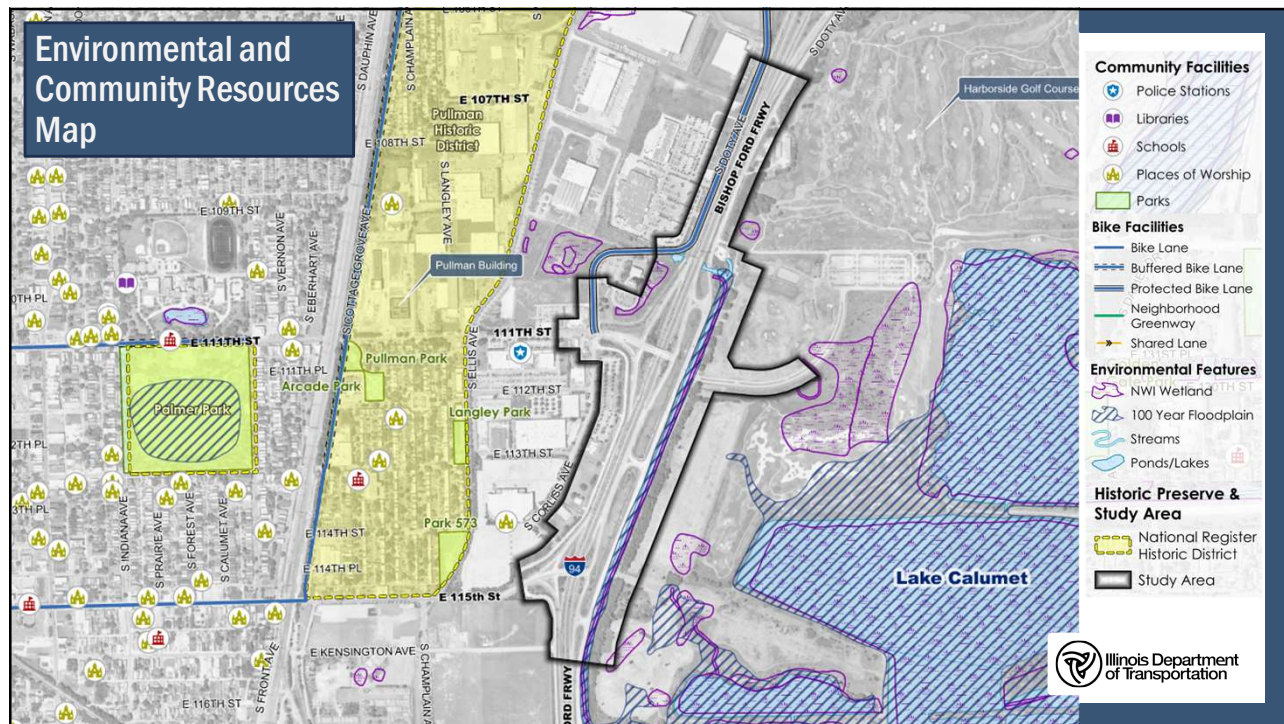
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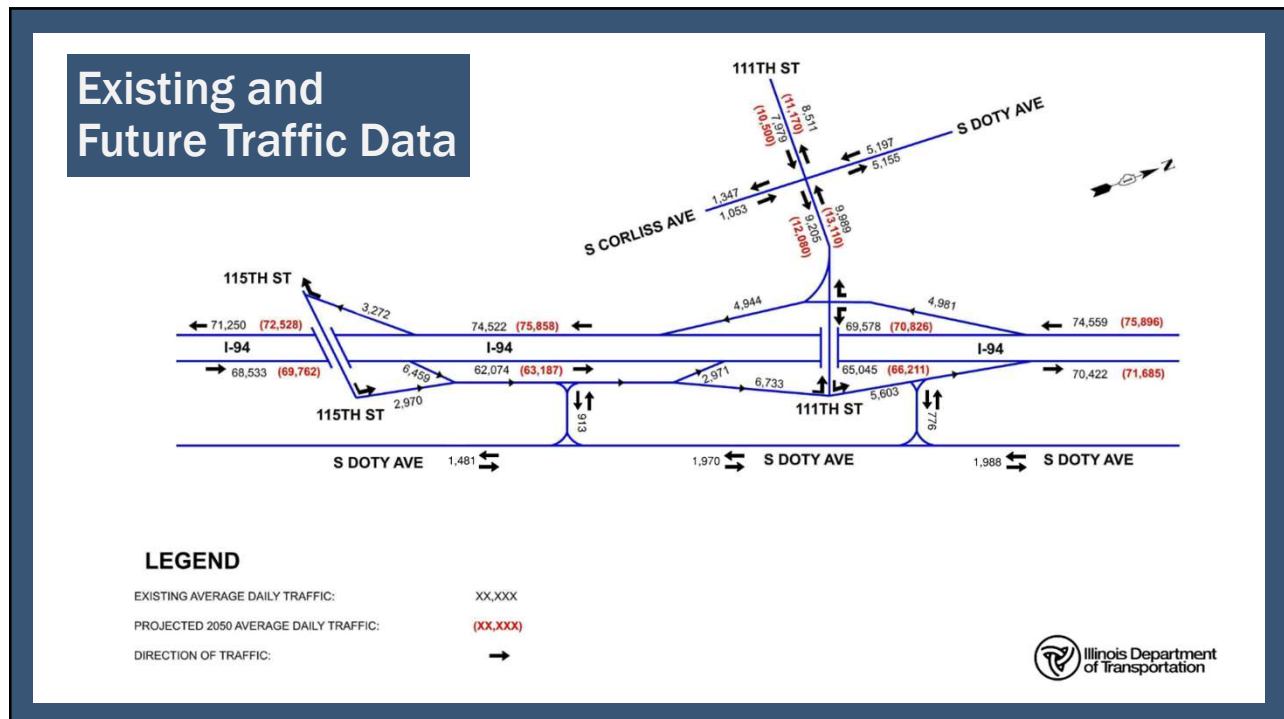
LOCATION MAP



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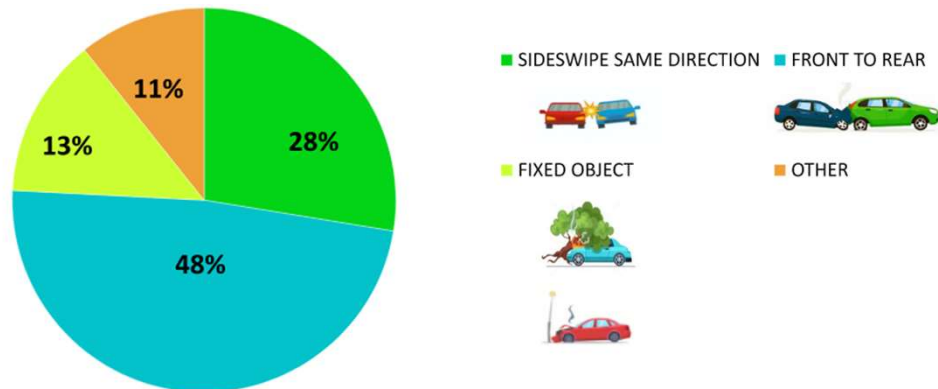


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Crash Data – Collision Type by Percentage (2016-2021)



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Crash History: Injuries by Type (2016-2021)

YEAR	TOTAL CRASHES	INJURY TYPES				
		K	A	B	C	PDO
2016	273	0	5	76	15	221
2017	258	0	6	33	20	216
2018	322	0	3	42	17	274
2019	277	1	1	43	15	235
2020	258	4	4	54	6	207
2021	320	1	6	56	2	274
GRAND TOTAL	1708	6	25	304	75	1427

Injury Types

K – Fatal

A – Incapacitating Injury

B – Non-Incapacitating Injury

C – Injury Reported/Not Evident

PDO – Property Damage Only



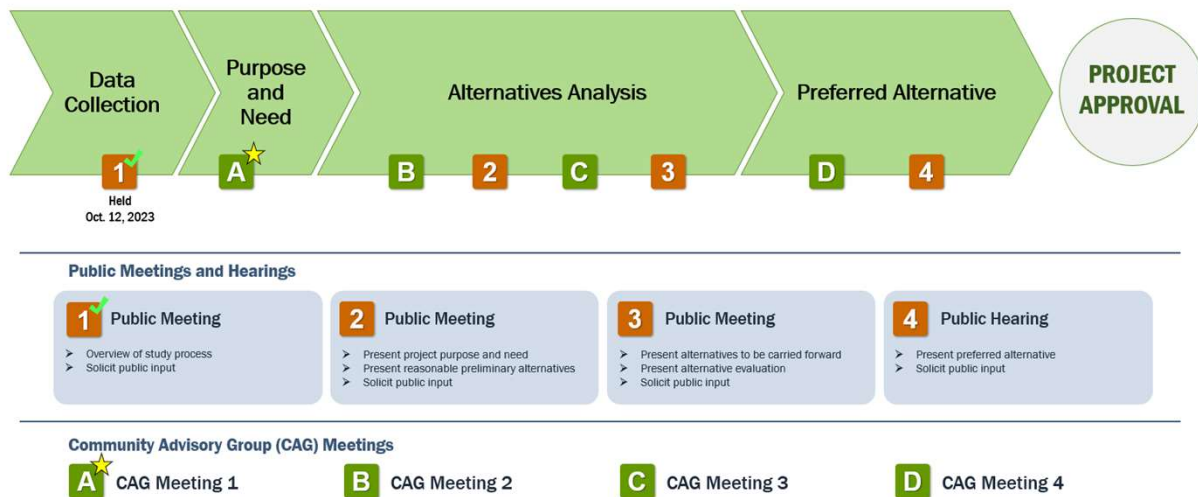
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PROJECT STUDY TIMELINE



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Project Study Timeline (Phase I)



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QUESTIONS



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COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP (CAG)



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Community Advisory Group (CAG)

- Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)
- What is the CAG?
- Your role as a Member
- Ground rules



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Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

- Interdisciplinary approach for transportation solutions
- Address multimodal transportation issues
- Aims to understand the stakeholder's key issues and concerns
- Involves the stakeholder in the decision-making process



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What is the Community Advisory Group (CAG)

- Group of volunteer community members
- Help identify stakeholder interests and values
- Assist in development of potential improvements
- Provide feedback/potential effects of those improvements on community resources
- Anticipated to meet four times during Phase I



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Your Role as a Member

- Provide input on the study area transportation concerns and improvements
- Serve as a communication link between the study and your communities
- Attend CAG meetings
- Stay well-informed of study issues



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Ground Rules for Participating

- Treat each other with respect and dignity
- Communicate openly and honestly - input from all participants is valued and considered
- Keep an open mind when other members express ideas/opinions
- Meetings must progress at a reasonable pace
- IDOT & FHWA serve as lead agencies – make final decisions

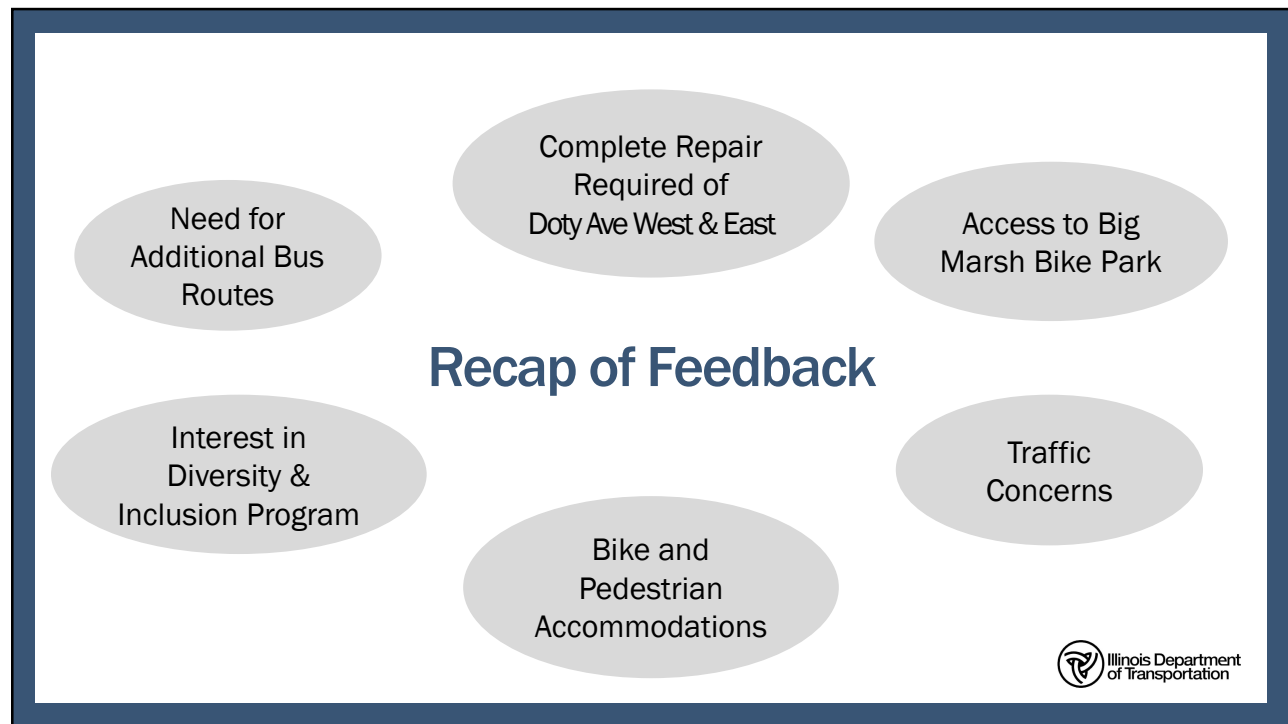


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PUBLIC MEETING #1 RECAP OF FEEDBACK



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**BREAKOUT GROUPS
EXERCISE #1:
ISSUES & CONCERNS**

Illinois Department of Transportation

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Exercise #1

Discuss the issues and concerns you have with the I-94 and 111th Street interchange and immediate surrounding areas.
Write them on the provided easel boards.

- What is important to you/your organization?
- Issues can be location-specific or broad



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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION



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BREAKOUT GROUPS

EXERCISE #2:

PROBLEM STATEMENT



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What is a Problem Statement?

- Summarizes the most important concerns and issues within the study area
- Helps focus in on the key elements to be included in the Purpose and Need statement



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Exercise #2

Develop a concise Problem Statement for the I-94 at 111th Street interchange using the issues/concerns identified in Exercise #1.

The transportation problem(s) for the I-94 at 111th St to be improved by this project is/are...



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LARGE GROUP DISCUSSION



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NEXT STEPS



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Next Steps



CAG Meeting #2 – Development of alternatives and determination of screening criteria



Public Information Meeting #2 – Will follow CAG #2 to present CAG discussion to the broader public



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QUESTIONS



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I-94 AT 111TH STREET INTERCHANGE

Thank You For Attending!



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Appendix B: CAG Meeting #1 Agenda



Illinois Department of Transportation

Interstate 94 at 111th Street Interchange Study Community Advisory Group Meeting #1

Wednesday, August 7th, 2024

10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Olive Harvey College

1. Welcome

- a. Introductions - IDOT and consultants
- b. Meeting Agenda

2. Study Process

- a. IDOT Project Phases
- b. Phase I Process

3. Study Overview

- a. Study location
- b. Environmental and Community Resources
- c. ADT Exhibit
- d. Crash Analysis
- e. Study timeline

4. Community Advisory Group (CAG)?

- a. Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)
- b. What is the CAG?
- c. Your role as a member
- d. Ground rules for participating

5. PM#1 Recap of Feedback

6. Breakout Groups #1 – Issues & Concerns

- a. CAG breaks into smaller groups of 5 or 6
- b. Smaller groups discuss issues and concerns – 15-25 minutes
- c. Large group discussion of issues and concerns – 10-20 minutes

7. Breakout Groups #2 – Problem Statement

- a. Explain what a problem statement is
- b. Groups develop Problem Statement – 15-25 minutes
- c. Large group discussion of problem statements – 10-20 minutes

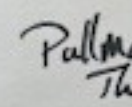
8. Next Steps

- a. CAG #2
- b. Public Meeting #2

9. Questions

- a. Any additional questions or open discussion before the meeting adjourns.

Appendix C: Notes made by CAG members in breakout groups on aerals





Commercial
Traffic

Pullman Name on
The Bridge

CTA/B

Freeway
RCHARGE



Pullman Name on
The Bridge

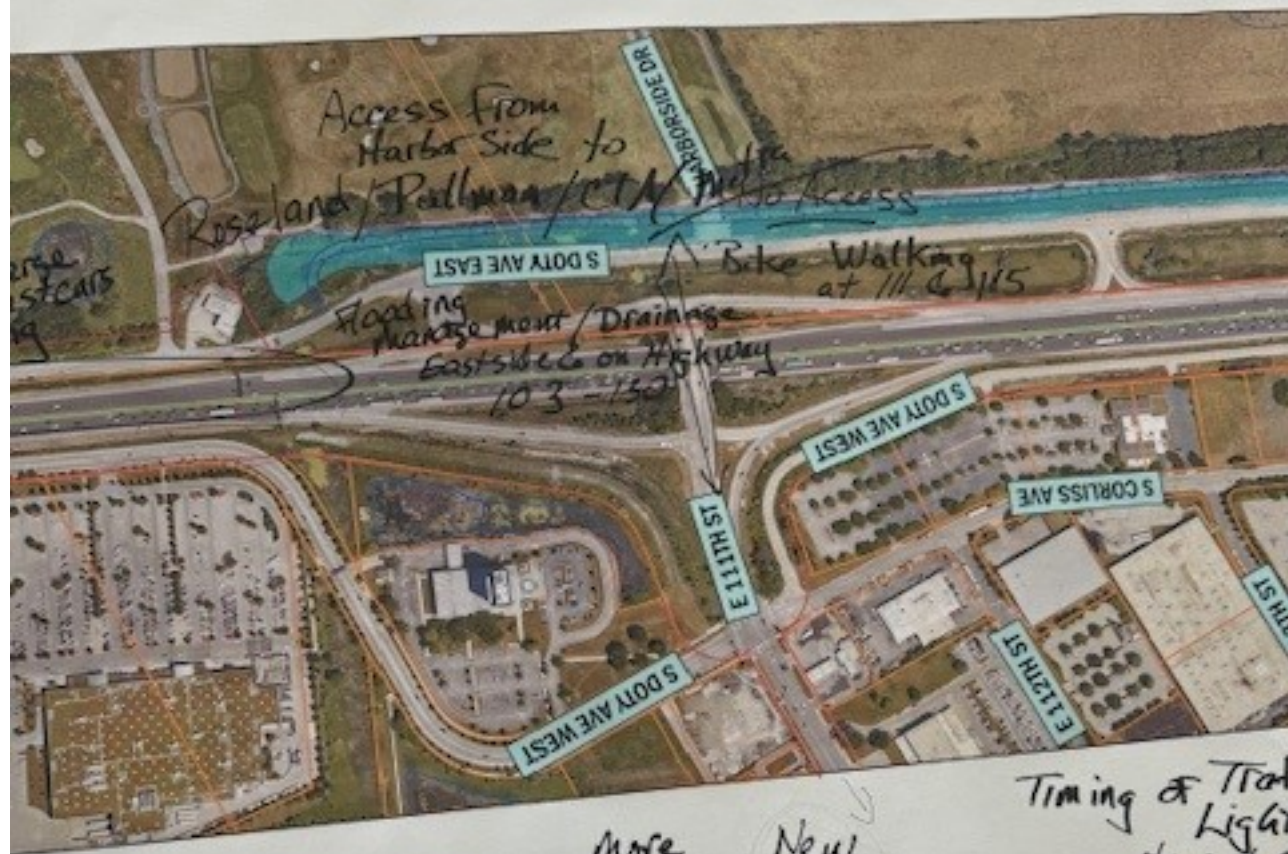
CTA/Bus

More
access
to NPS

Need
Hot
G

Both
walking
& Bike

94 - Bishop Ford Freeway 11TH STREET INTERCHANGE Strip Map



A/BUS
 More access to NPS
 New Hotel 6100 Rooms
 Both walking & Biking
 Timing of Traffic Lights to get from A to B
I-94 AT 11TH STREET INTERCH
Interstate 94 - Bishop Ford F
Strip Map



Timing of Traffic Lights to get people off the Highway

New Hotel 6100 rooms

Both walking & Biking

Interstate 94 - B

I-94 AT 11TH ST



Timing of Traffic
Lights
to get people
off the Highway

I-94 AT
Inter

**Appendix D: Notes made by CAG
members in breakout groups on note
boards**

turning radius multiple tractor trailer
vehicles - all locations

separate commercial & recreation/commuter
traffic

protected bike/pedestrian lane
consider separating traffic

separate walk/bike bridge over HWY 94

Create sense of place "Pullman" with name
on bridge over 94

include

sequence w. bound 111th St. traffic lights

so N/S I-94 traffic ramps don't backup

111a Shuttle w/CTA

if Red Line comes live = new bus routes

Conflict w/ Dike/walk recreation
+ commercial traffic -

DOT4 = wet/standing water

keep 3 East dot4 access right in/out

Concern - use estimates are low

increase tourism, commercial + industrial
projected for the area

Flooding I-94 - safety for all!

+ DOT4 - throwing standing water w/
vehicles 25' in air onto oncoming
traffic; no space for pedestrians/bicycles

EX. #2.

① IMPROVEMENT TO ADDRESS

- SAFETY CONFLICTS
- INDUSTRIAL
- RESIDENTIAL
- PEDESTRIAN/BICYCLISTS

② MANAGE INCREASED TRAFFIC FLOW FROM INDUSTRIAL/COMMERCIAL DE

③ EFFICIENT TRAFFIC FLOW WHILE MAINTAINING QUALITY OF LIFE

Problem → ~~Access to Street~~
Flooded

Highway and surrounding areas Flood. Site needs improved drainage / Flood management & make roads safer.

Problem → Bike / Pedestrian Access

Current conditions are dangerous. Possible solutions could include sidewalks & bike lanes or separate bridges for human powered vehicles.
- increased access to places like Big Marsh & Harbor side

Problem → Poor Lighting

East side of highway is dark & encourages road races. Dark Sky Sensitive lighting could make it safer, less road race friendly, & bring attention to the parks, etc.

Problem → Fast Merges

Several sections have a short path from the merge to the next exit requiring crossing several lanes.

Problem → access to Pullman / Roseland
- increased signage, good roads

traffic / roadwork - 100

**Appendix E: Received Community
Context Audit Forms (1 total)**



Purpose:

The Community Context Audit form is intended to be a guide to identify various community characteristics that make each transportation project location unique to its residents, its businesses and the public in general. This information will help to define the purpose and need of the proposed transportation improvements based upon community goals and local plans for future development. The audit is designed to take into account the community's history or heritage, present conditions and anticipated conditions. As you complete this audit, please consider the interaction of persons and groups within your community when considering factors such as mobility and access (vehicular, non-vehicular and transit modes), safety, local and regional economics, aesthetics and overall quality of life.

Individual Completing Context Audit Form: Rebecca Conant

Affiliation: Historic Pullman Foundation

In your response, please indicate what best describes members of your household.
(If City of Chicago, please indicate neighborhood, otherwise please list the town name.)

You reside in: [REDACTED]

You work in: [REDACTED]

How frequently do you travel through the project study area?

- ☒ Daily
- ☐ Multiple Times a Day
- ☐ 1-2 times per week
- ☐ 3-4 times per week
- ☐ 5-6 times per week
- ☐ Less than 4 times per month



Section 1: Community Characteristics/ Land Use

Consider community needs as the basis for this assessment. Assess the community characteristics and indicate the community's perception of importance for each characteristic currently and based upon known/ planned future conditions.

Community Characteristics	Presence		Importance		
	Yes	No	High	Med.	Low
Is this place an established city center?	X		X		
Is this place a multi-modal transportation center?		X	X		
Is this place a commercial center?	X			X	
Is this place a residential center?	X			X	
Is this place a mixed residential /commercial center?	X		X		
Is this place an industrial center?		X			X
Is this place a rural/agricultural area? Comments		X			X
Are there important cultural features or identifiers which convey information about the community within the project area? If yes, list: <i>Access to Historic Pullman</i>	X			X	
Are there social/community features or identifiers within the project area? If yes, list: <i>Historic Pullman</i>	X			X	
Are there important architectural features within the project area? If yes, list: <i>Historic Pullman NPS</i>	X			X	
Are there important natural features within the project area? If yes, list: <i>Lake Calumet</i>	X				X
Is this place of historical significance to the community? If yes, list: <i>Historic Pullman</i>	X		X		

Overall assessment of community characteristics and setting:

☐ Urban .. ☒ Suburban .. ☐ Rural

(Please note, this is not the identification of a functional classification. This is an assessment of the community based upon physical characteristics noted above.)

*light Urban
Not as dense as
many urban
areas.*



Section 2: Infrastructure Assessment

Assess the project or study area for the presence and adequacy of the following infrastructure items. If present (a yes response) and in poor condition, please make notation and provide any other relevant comments in space provided for each item. If not present (a no response), indicate in the comment section if the item needs further evaluation. Indicate the level of importance each item may have to the community currently and based upon known/ planned future conditions.

Infrastructure	Presence		Importance		
	Yes	No	High	Med.	Low
Sidewalks Comments:		X	X		
ADA Compliance Comments:		X	X		
Bicycle Lanes/Paths/Facilities Comments:		X	X		
On-street Parking Comments:		X		X	
Transit Connections Comments:		X		X	
Transit Shelters Comments:		X		X	
Street Lighting Comments:	X		X		
Pedestrian Lighting Comments:		X	X		
Pedestrian Crossings Comments:		X	X		
Signals (Traffic, Directional & Pedestrian) Comments:	X		X		
Crosswalks Comments:		X	X		

Other Comments:

There are lots of cars & trucks that drive very fast. Making it dangerous & inaccessible to walkers or people on bikes. More access to the other side of 94 would be good both for residents & tourists



Section 3: Neighborhood Culture, Aesthetics and Street Amenities

Assess the study area for the following amenities and cultural, aesthetic and comfort factors. If present (a yes response) and items are in poor condition, please make notation and provide any other relevant comments in the space provided for each item. If not present (a no response), indicate in the comment section if the item requires further evaluation. Indicate the level of importance each item may have to the neighborhood currently and based upon known/ planned future conditions.

Resource	Presence		Importance		
	Yes	No	High	Med.	Low
Neighborhood Parks /Open Space /Civic Areas Comments: <i>Near to the open spaces</i>		X	X		
Benches Comments:		X			X
Trash Containers Comments:		X			X
Street Trees Comments:		X			X
Landscaping Comments: <i>wild flowers</i>	X			X	
Wayfinding Signage Comments:	X			X	
Community Safety Issues Comments: <i>Heavy & fast Traffic</i>	X		X		
Traffic Safety Comments: <i>dangerous to non-car traffic (bikes/walkers)</i>	X		X		

Please list any seasonal events affected by proposed improvements at this location.

Large events in The Community - Rail Road Days (May/June)
Pullman House Tour - October

Overall Comments:



Section 4: Economic Development

Assess the project or study area for the following community development indicators. Indicate the level of importance for each indicator currently and based upon known / planned future conditions.

Resource	Presence		Importance		
	Yes	No	High	Med.	Low
Has this area been identified for new development? If yes, describe the proposed or planned development. <i>New Hotel/Food</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Are visitors attracted to this area? If yes, indicate why? <i>Pullman National Historical Park</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Is the local economy supported by historic, natural, cultural and entertainment resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Does the roadway serve as a commuter corridor?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Does the roadway serve as a gateway?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Do stakeholders include business or other advocacy groups? (in addition to public agencies and residential associations)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Is limiting sprawl a regional concern applicable to this place?		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
Is redevelopment underway or planned for this place? If yes, how does the proposed transportation project impact redevelopment?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

Other Comments:



Section 5: Community Planning

Assess the proposed project in context to local planning initiatives. Please provide the following information and documentation related to the project or study area.

	Yes	No
Does the municipality, county or regional planning authority have a comprehensive plan? If yes, indicate the date of the plan.		
Is this project generally consistent with the municipality's comprehensive plan? If yes, indicate how.		
Are there any special studies associated with this project? If yes, please indicate the name of study or studies and attach copies.		
Has the municipality adopted a growth management plan or designated growth area? If yes, is this project located within the designated growth area.		
Does this project have regional significance? If so, explain.		
Are there other scheduled or planned projects that may tie into this project or impact this project? If yes, please indicate the project name(s) and type of project(s).		
Identify planning and project development partners for this project:		

Other Comments:

Appendix F: Notes taken by GRAEF staff

8/7/24

10:15 AM.

CAGI @ OLIVE HARVEY

COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

Jeff Orzech - presentation.

Phase 1 Process.

INDUSTRIAL AREA QUESTION

< IS IT BEING TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT?

"CONSIDER TRUCK TRAFFIC" - LIMITS PROVIDED.

112th & 113th / S COLLIS

TRAF. 1 @

CONFLICT / PEDESTRIAN

111th ST & LINCOLN AVE

PEDESTRIANS / BIKES - APPROX 111th ST.

B RAMP LOCATIONS -

PULLMAN AREA -

CANAL - TRUCKS -

PULLMAN AREA BIKE STUDY

SEQUENCING -

S B ^{I-84} TO WB HW

111 A - CTA Along 111th ST.

Intersect by LUTHERAN BETTER.

WASTEWATER / BATTERY

ARE PROPOSED SURVEILLANT ON 111th ST.?

CTA -

115th ST. - BLIND SPOT - FROM WEST.

SUBSTRAIN WILLIAMS?

PRAIRIE - SOUTH 2 R1/R0 USED BY TRUCKS.

USE ESTIMATED ARE LOW

- TOURISM ↑
- COMMERCIAL ↑
- INDUSTRIAL ↑

INVASIVE FRUIT TREE PLANTS

PROBLEM STATEMENT

- "PURPOSE & NEED"

PULLMAN

ON THE TRACKS

EAST OF THE TRACKS.

TRUCK TRAFFIC AN ISSUE

ON STREET PARKING FOR COUNT.

SHERWIN WILLIAM CAPS.

DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES

08/07/2024

CAG LARGE GROUP MEETING NOTES

- Thoughts / Comments from Members

- Group 1
- turning radius - tractor trailer ~~to~~ (doty, other streets, etc...)
 - Separate commercial/recreation/commercial
 - protected bike/ped lane
 - separate walk/bike

- Conflict bike/walk recreation & commercial

- Doty wet/standing water
- concern - use of

Group 2 (Issues/concerns/suggestions)

- Ped/bike Access - East side / big ~~M~~ Field park
 - Fast Merges (~~from~~ - Stony on I-94 traveling south / North going into the city)
 - Flooding issues
 - Increasing access - Hwy to Pullman / Weigh
 - New Hotel - increasing traffic
 - Increase amount of business
 - Lighting of Lawn (whole section - East side)
- (dark sky / environmental lighting) - prevent street racing
- Welcoming environment for others - improvements
 - Hydroplaning ^{issues} from 11th going south.

- bottle necking issue (traffic)
- parking issue (2 lane turns into one lane) - Doty west to going SB/NB I-94

Problem Statements (Compiled)

(i) ↳ Improvements to address

- Safety conflicts
- Industrial
- Commercial

(ii)

⚡ - Flooding / drainage

- Safety
- Ped/walk access - ^{provide} separate bridges for ped/bike access
-

Feedback (

- Virtual (8-5pm)
- Preference - in person after 6pm or weekend (Saturday)
- Send out notes from meeting (PPT & notes)
-

- major
tractions