



PUBLIC MEETING #2 SUMMARY

FLORENCE BRIDGE PHASE I STUDY/IL 100-106 RIVER CROSSING PROJECT

NIMROD FUNK 4H & COMMUNITY BUILDING, WINCHESTER IL

DECEMBER 7, 2017

A Public Meeting was held at the Nimrod Funk 4H & Community Building in Winchester, IL from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to present the alternatives being considered for the replacement of the existing Illinois Route 100/106 Florence Bridge. The meeting was in open house format; no formal presentation was made, but a continuous presentation of approximately 18 minutes was presented that attendees could watch at their convenience. In addition, there was a project visualization video of approximately 8 minutes that was continuously operated by a study team member, and could be stopped or advanced at the request of the attendees.

A meeting handout and comment form was provided for all attendees, and IDOT and consultant team representatives were available throughout the meeting to answer questions and receive comments. There were four display boards showing: the project timeline; existing and proposed typical sections of the roadway and bridge; Project Purpose and Need; and a matrix of engineering and environmental considerations for each of the alternatives considered by the study. There were also four aerial maps (1" = 100' scale) representing the alternatives proposed to be carried forward (4A, 4C, 4C/D, and 5B) as well as an aerial map (1" = 300' scale) showing environmental resources with the alignments of Alternatives 2A through 5B (omitting Alternative 3) overlaid on the map.

There were 54 attendees at the meeting, representing print media, local businesses and business organizations, agriculture, government agencies, elected officials, and interested citizens. A comment deadline of December 21, 2016 was requested for comments received after the meeting via electronic or mailed delivery. The comment form specifically requested the commenters indicate their preference, and order of preference, of the four build alternatives proposed to be carried forward, along with any other comments on the alternatives or other aspects of the study. Sixteen written comments on the provided forms were received at the meeting, and seven additional comments were received by IDOT District 6 by the requested deadline.

For the preference of Alternatives, check boxes were marked accordingly. The totals do not add up because some stakeholders left the check box blank where they did not favor an alternative.

- Alternative 4A – 7 “first preference”; 6 “second preference”; 3 “third preference”; 0 “last preference”
- Alternative 4C – 17 “first preference”; 4 “second preference”; 0 “third preference”; 0 “last preference”

- Alternative 4C/D – 3 “first preference”; 5 “second preference”; 9 “third preference”; 0 “last preference”
- Alternative 5B – 0 “first preference”; 0 “second preference”; 0 “third preference”; 9 “last preference” (note: there were also 14 unmarked check boxes for Alternative 5B, highest of all alternatives)

A summary of the received comments is tabulated below (written comments in addition to the check boxes for Alternative preference):

- B. Jacquot - Alternatives 4A, 4C and 4C/D are equally preferable, and Alternative 5B is not.
- R. Brown – Support any of the “4’s”; Alternative 5B takes too much farm land.
- J. Swartz - Alternative 5B takes too much farm land and interferes with cattle feeding and access to pasture land.
- L. Lemons - If IDOT chooses not to rebuild the bridge, suggest building an EB and WB exit at Tom Moore’s along I-72.
- R. McIntire - 4C is by far the best proposal.
- D. McClenning - 4C is the best option for heavy truck traffic in and out of Florence.
- T. Orr - It is very important to have the bridge cross at Florence.
- V. Orr - The bridge is important to the farming economy, and glad that the proposed alternatives are in the same area as the existing bridge.
- W. Christison - First preference is 4C; lives on top of hill along 4C.
- J. Moore - 4C and 4C/D seem to accommodate businesses better.
- B. McCartney - Appreciate the opportunity to comment on the alternatives, and the public meeting was informative.
- C. McCartney - Prefer the cheapest option to build, and thanks for gathering information and keeping the public informed.
- J. Hallock - Alternative 5B is not feasible as it is too far south

Some other general comments were noted by study representatives at the public meeting:

- Nancy Kurpaitis, Mayor of Florence, stated her concerns with Alternative 4C/D being placed closer to town.
 - She was concerned about the amount of pavement that would be left to get to town.
 - She was concerned with who would maintain the old pavements.
 - She preferred 4C, the alignment closest to the bridge to the south.
- Brian Dockery of Central Stone stated his preference for Alternative 4C, as it does not impact the south side of the roadway as much as Alternative 4C/D. He was concerned with land severances.
- James Pisell of ISAS reported that this area has a high probability area for native American occupation sites as well as mounds, and a high potential for Indian artifacts.
- David Swartz indicated that he knew the location of the cemetery located near Alternative 4D, and stated that the property was owned by Central Stone.
- The existence of a cave was reported on the David Swartz property near the 5B Alternative.

- A stakeholder stated that the “Water” parcel owner name on the maps should be corrected to “Walter”.
- Gene Stokvis spoke about the flooding of the lower river road south of Cargill in peak events, and that a profile grade raise would be needed for the lower river road if Alternative 5B was selected.
- Ben Coon of Big Swan Drainage District stated that he was curious about the design process and their involvement with it. He was informed that the study team would continue project coordination with Big Swan Drainage District, and that the study team would likely meet with them in the future to receive any additional input/concerns that they have.
- No preference or favorability was noted for the 5B Alternative from any of the attendees. All other build alternatives recommended to be carried forward received some level of support.
- Bill Sleeman reported that the owner of Ed & Woodie’s restaurant is planning to sell the business and property soon, and is in talks with the property owner to the south (Daniel) who is interested in the property. He also noted that the property in the northwest corner of IL 100/106 and Florence Road was owned by the Dietsch Family trust.
- Mr. Sleeman also reported that the other alternatives (4C and 4C/D) which show a right-of-way acquisition along Florence Road would result in considerable impacts to the house and restaurant parking lot.
- Rex McIntyre, Mayor of Winchester, noted that the tavern property has flooded multiple times in the past. He was in favor of Alt. 4C3.