



Stakeholder Involvement Plan

For Public and Agency Involvement

FAI Route 70

Section 82-3HVB-1, 2R-1, 2-3

St. Clair County

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Various Structures

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1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background and History

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is conducting a Phase I Engineering Study to analyze and evaluate the repairs, rehabilitation, and/or replacement of various bridges and pavement on Interstate 55/64 from the Mississippi River to the I-64 interchange, including the Illinois 3 ramps in St. Clair County.

This project focuses on rehabilitation of the existing alignment. IDOT and its team of engineering consultants will be evaluating and preparing reports that focus on bridge conditions, traffic management, pavement designs, proposed improvements, drainage and maintenance of traffic, as well as all other work required to complete Phase I engineering services.



Note: The study area is outlined in orange.

Completed in the late 1960's, this portion of I-55/I-64 is the east approach to the Poplar Street Bridge. More than 100,000 vehicles use the Poplar Street Bridge daily, making it one of the most heavily used bridge structures over the Mississippi River despite some of the traffic being diverted to the Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge when it opened in 2014.

1.2 Project Limits

This study focuses on I-55/I-64 from the Mississippi River to the I-64 interchange. It includes the I-55/I-64 mainline, I-55/I-64 collector-distributor roads, and the ramps to Illinois 3 and 13th Street/Tudor-Piggott Avenue which is referred to as the Poplar Street Complex.

2. Overall Stakeholder Approach to Stakeholder Involvement

2.1 Stakeholder Involvement Plan Goals and Objectives

This Stakeholder Involvement Plan serves as a guide for implementing stakeholder involvement activities during the I-55/I-64 Phase I Study. It is a blueprint for defining the methods and tools used to educate and engage stakeholders in the study's decision-making process. Stakeholders include local, regional, state, and federal agency representatives; local, regional, state, and federal elected officials; business owners and leaders; property owners; interest groups and any stakeholders as identified by IDOT.

The goal of the SIP is to ensure that all stakeholders have the opportunity, at different points in the study process, to participate and provide input. The primary objectives of the SIP include:

- Identifying stakeholders
- Identifying the roles and responsibilities of the lead agency
- Establishing the timing and type of outreach activities with stakeholders
- Establishing stakeholder requirements for providing timely input to the study development process
- Outlining an approach for evaluating the effectiveness of the engagement program and refining, as needed, to respond to public needs and concerns

2.2 Stakeholder Identification Procedures

This study is being conducted using elements and principles of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) as outlined in IDOT's CSS Policy and Procedural Memorandum. CSS is an interdisciplinary approach that seeks effective, multi-modal transportation solutions by working with stakeholders to develop, build, and maintain cost-effective transportation facilities that fit into and reflect the project's surroundings its "context." Through early, frequent, and meaningful communication with stakeholders and a flexible and creative approach to engagement, the resulting projects should improve safety and mobility for the

traveling public, while seeking to preserve and enhance the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities of the settings through which it passes.

The CSS approach provides stakeholders with the tools and information they require to effectively participate in the study process including providing an understanding of the transportation planning guidelines, design guidelines, and the relationship between transportation issues (needs) and improvements. This integrated approach to problem-solving and decision-making will help to improve the ability of the study team to understand and address concerns raised and build a general understanding of agreement and promote involvement through participation in the study process.

According to IDOT's CSS process, a stakeholder is anyone who could be affected by the study and has a stake in its outcome. This includes but is not limited to, the public, property owners, business owners, state and local officials, federal and state resource and regulatory agencies, special interest groups, and motorists who utilize the facility.

Stakeholders for this study include:

- Residents along the corridor
- Local elected and community leaders
- Businesses located in St. Louis, East St. Louis, Sauget, and other surrounding communities
- Government and transportation agencies
- Emergency response agencies (fire, police, hospitals, etc.)
- Illinois State Police
- Utilities
- Railroads
- Transit
- Commuters
- Trucking industry
- Port authority
- Civic groups
- Planning agencies
- Places of worship
- School districts
- Traffic management centers
- Emergency response- I-270/I-255 outer loop
- Others outside the study area with an interest in the study

2.3 Implementation and Outreach to Stakeholders

Outreach to stakeholders begins at the start of the study process and continues throughout the entire study. The SIP provides a framework for outreach and engagement during Phase I of the study but includes strategies that can be used through all phases of the study process. Implementation of this plan requires the commitment and efforts of all involved parties along with the expected actions, responsibilities, and timing. The study team will be responsible for the overall development, implementation, and coordination of the SIP.

Any stakeholder who shows interest in the study will be added to the stakeholder database, ensuring that they will receive newsletters, meeting invitations, and study updates. The study team will be available to meet with stakeholder groups on a one-on-one basis throughout the study if deemed necessary. In addition, stakeholders will be informed about ways to get involved in the study process and where they can access the study's website to access information, submit comments, and view project updates.

2.3.1 Elected Officials

Keeping elected officials informed about the study is important to the overall success of the project. IDOT and the study team will conduct briefings with elected officials of the affected communities at scheduled milestones throughout the study process or as requested. Fact sheets and study updates will be prepared and made available at these meetings. IDOT and the consultant team will contact local municipalities early in the engagement process to ensure that all affected elected officials are aware of the overall study schedule, goals, needs, and milestones.

2.3.2 Key Community Organizations and Business Leaders

Working closely with IDOT staff, the consultant team will work to identify community organizations and business leaders within the study area who may have an interest in the study. The study team will work to keep these organizations informed about the study's overall progress. Civic and community-based groups and organizations being considered, but not limited to, include the following:

- NAACP- East St. Louis Chapter
- United Congregations of the Metro East
- Southwestern Illinois Council of Mayors
- Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois
- Greater St. Louis Inc.
- Bi-State Development/Metro
- St. Clair County Transit District
- Madison County Transit District
- Southwestern Madison County Chamber of Commerce
- WorldWide Technology Raceway
- America's Central Port
- Metro East Levee District
- Metro East Sewer District
- Neighborhood Associations
- Terminal Railroad Association of St. Louis
- Canadian Pacific Kansas City Southern Railroad
- Norfolk Southern
- Union Pacific Railroad

2.3.3 General Public

To capture the voices of a broader audience and provide opportunities for the general public, who may not participate in traditional engagement efforts, the study team will utilize the local media and various social media platforms to keep the public informed about the study's progress. The study team will develop and prepare media briefings, media kits, and press releases to support ongoing coordination activities with members of the media as well

as design and develop social media posts to be posted on agreed-upon social media platforms. The consultant team will work with IDOT staff to identify those milestones to be communicated with the general public and the platforms to be used.

3. Stakeholder Engagement Activities

3.1 Stakeholder Meetings

The study team will conduct initial stakeholder meetings with key community leaders and elected officials. These meetings will be conducted in-person or virtually via one-on-one sessions or in a small group discussion. They are designed to identify any concerns or challenges to be addressed while establishing preferred communication channels with local leaders and their respective communities. The consultant team will work with IDOT staff to identify individuals to be interviewed.

A stakeholder meeting guide will be developed by the study team to ensure that these meetings have a similar structure. Follow-up meetings will be held with these stakeholders as needed throughout the study process to keep them informed about the process, schedule, and engagement opportunities. Handouts and other appropriate meeting materials will be prepared for distribution at these meetings. A summary will be prepared following each meeting and shared with the entire team.

3.2 Public Meetings

Two in-person public meetings/community open houses will be conducted as part of the study process. These large-scale meetings will encourage public attendance and foster public awareness of the study process, schedule, goals, and needs. These meetings will also provide a forum for stakeholders to provide input, including concerns and comments regarding the study schedule and traffic management. Public meetings will be advertised through newsletters, press releases, public notices in area newspapers, the study website, and coordination with local leaders and elected officials. All public meeting exhibits and associated information will be available on the project website following the meeting. A two-week comment period following the in-person meeting will be available online. The consultant team will work with IDOT staff to determine the best location for each meeting.

Each in-person public meeting will use an open-house style format where participants will have the opportunity to meet and interact with study team members on an individual basis. They will be at least 3 hours long and adhere to Title VI guidelines. Translation services will be provided when requested in advance.

A two-week comment period will follow each of the public meetings. Comment forms/cards will be made available at each meeting to encourage participants to submit written comments. Comments may also be submitted through the project website and submitted

electronically. All comments will be reviewed and incorporated appropriately. A summary of submitted comments and the approved responses will be documented.

4. Communications Strategies

4.1 Project Website

The consultant team will develop content for the dedicated study website. This website will serve as the centralized source of information about the study and the study process. It will be housed on IDOT's website and available to anyone with access to the internet at any time. Updates will be made as the study progresses at key milestones. Visitors to the website will be able to access the overall study schedule, including meeting dates and summaries, review draft and final reports, maps, frequently asked questions, study newsletters, and other collateral materials.

4.2 Project Newsletter

Study newsletters will be developed and distributed electronically to all stakeholders in the study's database. Hardcopies will be sent to stakeholders with only a physical address listed. The newsletter will also be posted on the study's website and contain study and public meeting information. It will be developed by the consultant team in coordination with IDOT staff.

4.3 Announcements and Notifications

Press releases, public meeting notices, and announcements will be distributed to local media outlets and will contain information related to the study's progress, engagement opportunities, and public meetings. The study team will develop all releases and notices based on IDOT's media guidelines and provide those releases and notices to IDOT staff so that they can be shared with print, radio, and television stations. Postcard-styled announcements and flyers will be developed by the study team and distributed in person locally. These items will also be placed on the study's website. They will be shared electronically with everyone on the study database and shared via social media. The consultant team will work closely with IDOT staff to develop the appropriate materials.

4.4 Display Boards

Display boards that highlight the study process may be developed to be used at public meetings and stakeholder meetings as a tool to assist in discussion. These boards will be at least 24x36.

4.5 Stakeholder Mailing List and Database

The study team will develop and maintain a stakeholder mailing list and database of all identified stakeholders and others expressing interest in being informed and involved in the study process. Individuals can request to be added to the study database via the study website or by completing a sign-in sheet or registration form at every event. This database will be used to distribute the newsletter and notifications about upcoming engagement opportunities and study updates.

4.6 Engagement Summary

The study team will document the Phase I outreach and engagement activities in a summary report that will include an overview of the outreach and engagement process, a highlight of engagement activities, social media posts, meeting summaries, and a summary of comments received.

5. Stakeholder Involvement Plan Availability and Monitoring Updates

This SIP is a dynamic document that will be available to the public and updated as needed throughout the study. This section describes the SIP stakeholder review opportunities and plan update procedures.

5.1 Availability of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan

As the study progresses, the study team will update the SIP as needed to reflect appropriate changes or additions. The SIP will be available to stakeholders to review at public meetings and on the project's website. The stakeholder review period for the SIP will be at least 30 days from the date of release.

5.2 Modifications of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan

The plan will be reviewed regularly for effectiveness and will be updated as deemed appropriate. The SIP may be updated as the study moves forward. Plan administration includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Maintaining a current list of study stakeholders
- Maintaining a detailed list of all outreach methods used throughout the process including meetings with stakeholders and all comments
- Ensuring two-way communication and timely responses to stakeholders through formal and informal channels

Appendix A: Agencies and Consultant Team

Agency Name	Role	Responsibilities
Illinois Department of Transportation	Lead Agency	Overall Management and Facilitation of Project
Consultant Team		
Modjeski and Masters, Inc (MM)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study Management and Coordination • Preliminary Structure Design • Preliminary Roadway Design • Phase I Documentation • Public Involvement and Stakeholder Coordination
Hanson Professional Services Inc. (HPS)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic Management Plan • Crash Analysis
Horner and Shifrin, Inc. (HS)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location Drainage Study • Environmental Coordination
SCI Engineering, Inc. (SCI)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure Geotechnical Reports • Roadway Geotechnical Reports • Pavement Design
ABNA Engineering, Inc. (ABNA)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey
Added Dimension, LLC (AD)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Involvement and Stakeholder Coordination

Appendix B: Schedule of Stakeholder Activities

Stakeholder Activity	Anticipated Date	Purpose and Detail
Newsletter #1	August, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study announcement; anticipated project schedule • Website Rollout
Stakeholder Meetings	September, 2024 to October, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial meetings with elected officials to introduce them to the project and identify any potential concerns or challenges
Newsletter #2	October, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Announcement of the 1st Public Meeting and Open House • Summary/overview of issues and/or challenges
Public Meeting #1	November, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce the project, the study process, the anticipated schedule, and stakeholder involvement opportunities • Review existing conditions, and discuss identified issues within the study area • Review Study Purpose and Need Statement
Newsletter #3	December, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Public Meeting #1
Stakeholder Meetings	January, 2025 – February, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of Staging Concepts
Newsletter #4	March, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share updates from stakeholder meetings
Public Meeting #2	April, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review staging/detour concepts
Newsletter #5	May, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide update from public meeting #2
Newsletter #6	August, 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Phase II; review of updated study schedule

Appendix C: Glossary

Context – The interrelated condition in which something exists.

Context Sensitive Solutions – Balance between mobility, community needs, and the environment while developing transportation projects. This is achieved by involving stakeholders early and continuously, addressing all modes of transportation, applying flexibility in the design, and incorporating aesthetics into the overall project.

Open House – An informal, unstructured public meeting during which display boards are used to convey important project or study information, and IDOT and consultant personnel are available to answer the public's questions.

Public Involvement – Coordination of events and informational materials geared at encouraging the public to participate in the project or study development process. A successful Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) facilitates the exchange of information among project sponsors and outside groups and the general public and includes meetings.

Stakeholder – Stakeholders for a project or study include any person or organization that has a direct stake in the project or study being considered.

Stakeholder Involvement – A process that will facilitate effective identification and understanding of the concerns and values of all stakeholders as an integral part of the project or study development process. It includes a formal written plan explaining how public input and comments will be obtained.

Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) – A formal written plan explaining how stakeholder input and participation will be facilitated throughout the study or planning process. The SIP outlines tools and techniques for engaging stakeholders. It is designed to ensure that stakeholders are provided several opportunities to be informed and engaged as the project or study progresses. The goal of the SIP is to outline a program of activity to actively seek the participation of stakeholders. The SIP provides a framework for achieving consensus or informed consent and communicating the decision-making process between stakeholders to identify transportation solutions.

Study Area – The geographic area within which pertinent project and study matter are contained. Originally defined at the outset of engineering and environmental evaluation, although it may be revised during development of the study or project.