



# Meeting Summary

Project: Southwest Connector PEL Study

Subject: Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #2 Summary

Date: Thursday, October 02, 2025

Location: World Shooting and Recreational Complex, 1 Main Event Lane, Sparta, IL 62286

Attendees: **IDOT Staff**

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Carrie Nelsen              | Illinois Department of Transportation            |
| Susan Poe                  | Illinois Department of Transportation            |
| Michael Spanberger         | Illinois Department of Transportation            |
| <del>Christa Mahnken</del> | <del>Illinois Department of Transportation</del> |

**Consultant Staff**

|                            |                             |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Scott Manning              | HDR Engineering             |
| Kelly Sims                 | HDR Engineering             |
| Alyssa Tepper              | HDR Engineering             |
| Jeff Young                 | HDR Engineering             |
| Paul Schneider             | Stanley Consultants         |
| Jamy Lyne                  | Kaskaskia Engineering Group |
| Hannah Papproth            | Kaskaskia Engineering Group |
| <del>Olivia Smith</del>    | <del>HDR Engineering</del>  |
| <del>Andrew Potthast</del> | <del>HDR Engineering</del>  |
| <del>Kylie Harris</del>    | <del>HDR Engineering</del>  |

**Community Advisory Group**

|                         |                                  |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Helen Mayer             | Perry County Farm Bureau         |
| Vernon Mayer            | Farmer                           |
| Jessica Gentry Schlimme | Monroe Randolph Transit District |
| George Green            | Monroe County Board              |

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Christie Holland          | East-West Gateway Council of Governments                 |
| Cheryl Houghlan           | Randolph County Soil and Water Conservation District     |
| Marc Kiehna               | Randolph County  |
| Saranya Konala            | East-West Gateway Council of Governments                 |
| J.R. Landeck              | City of Waterloo   |
| Jill Landgraf             | City of Red Bud  |
| Cary Minnis               | Greater Egypt Regional Planning & Development Commission |
| Darrell Mueth             | Village of Baldwin                                       |
| Corey Rheinecker          | City of Sparta   |
| Will Stephens             | City of Murphysboro                                      |
| Linda Tragesser           | Southwestern IL Metro & Regional Planning Commission     |
| Roni Croxell              | Egyptian Electric  |
| Casey Carnahan            | Monroe County  |
| Chris Smith               | City of Columbia   |
| Brad Morgenthaler         | Illinois Department of Natural Resources                 |
| Mary Lamie                | Bi-State Dev   |
| Mark Wilson               | Randolph County Economic Development                     |
| Cindy Zipfel              | Monroe County Soil and Water District                    |
| Carrie Gilliam            | City of Pinckneyville                                    |
| <del>Brian Otten</del>    | <del>Perry County</del>                                  |
| <del>Skip Klinger</del>   | <del>World Shooting and Recreational Complex</del>       |
| <del>Brooke Guthman</del> | <del>Egyptian Electric Cooperative</del>                 |
| <del>Susan Harbaugh</del> | <del>City of Red Bud</del>                               |
| <del>Jeff Harmon</del>    | <del>Southern Illinois University</del>                  |
| <del>Chris Hespen</del>   | <del>Illinois Department of Natural Resources</del>      |
| <del>Dave Holder</del>    | <del>Randolph County Board</del>                         |

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <del>Ed Weilbacher</del>    | <del>Kaskaskia Regional Port District</del>                  |
| <del>Carter Wilkey</del>    | <del>Federal Highway Administration</del>                    |
| <del>Marilyn Thompson</del> | <del>Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District</del> |
| <del>Michael Rhodes</del>   | <del>Illinois Department of Natural Resources</del>          |
| <del>Jason Schlimme</del>   | <del>City of Sparta</del>                                    |
| <del>Diane Schoenbeck</del> | <del>Randolph County Farm Bureau</del>                       |
| <del>Robert Spencer</del>   | <del>City of Pinckneyville</del>                             |
| <del>Deborah Barnett</del>  | <del>Southern Illinois NOW</del>                             |
| <del>Bob Caveny</del>       | <del>Illinois Department of Natural Resources</del>          |
| <del>Virgil Chandler</del>  | <del>Village of Baldwin</del>                                |
| <del>Darlene Chapman</del>  | <del>Discover Downstate Illinois</del>                       |
| <del>Grant Deterding</del>  | <del>Randolph County</del>                                   |
| <del>Jeffrey Doherty</del>  | <del>Illinois Municipal League</del>                         |
| <del>Dawn McClerren</del>   | <del>Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce</del>                   |
| <del>Aaron Metzger</del>    | <del>Monroe County</del>                                     |

\*strikethrough indicates individual did not attend



1. Welcome by IDOT - Carrie Nelsen
2. Introductions – Scott Manning
  - a. Study team
  - b. CAG members
3. Agenda Overview – Scott Manning
4. Project Progress Update – Scott Manning
  - a. Progress Summary
    - i. Launched Project Website
    - ii. Initiated & Substantially Completed Data Collection
    - iii. Initiated NEPA Reevaluation (Pinckneyville to Murphysboro)
    - iv. Began Development of Initial Concept Alternatives for Consideration
    - v. Ongoing Development of Community Explorer tool
    - vi. Began Developing Corridor Conditions Assessment
    - vii. Drafted & Started Receiving Input on Problem Statement and Purpose & Need
    - viii. Identified Focus Groups
    - ix. Hosted Virtual Public Information Meeting (07/28 - 08/18)
  - b. Virtual Public Meeting Results Breakdown
  - c. NEPA Re-evaluation Overview – Kelly Sims
  - d. Focus Groups – Kelly Sims
    - i. Major Employers


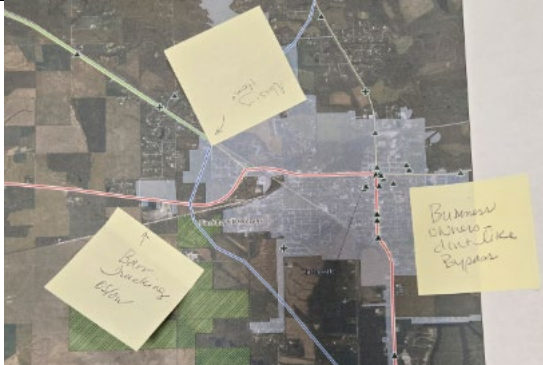


1. CAG Members noted the list was missing
      - a. Red Bud Industries (RBI)
      - b. Sparta Light Metals (in Sparta, IL)
    - ii. Healthcare
    - iii. Freight
      1. CAG Members noted the list was missing:
        - a. Beelman Trucking
        - b. Barr Companies (Trucking)
        - c. Kuna Foods (Dupo, IL)
        - d. Illinois Excavators (have a lot of trucking/concrete work/rock transportation in study region)
5. Problem Statement & Purpose and Need – Jamy Lyne
  - a. Problem Statement Feedback from CAG:
    - i. Add better access to interstate highways
    - ii. “As we are completing the bridge in Chester we will see people looking for routes from southwest up to east & we are just a year away from bridge opening
    - iii. Truck route goal is IL 57 to I-55 in MO
  - b. Preliminary Purpose Statement Feedback from CAG:
    - i. Eliminate negotiating turns for tractor/trailer in municipalities – not sure if that should be spelled out
      1. Noted that geometric deficiencies included in Problem Statement would encapsulate this
    - ii. Work freight bottlenecks into this
    - iii. It is saying to improve travel time reliability – is this different than decreasing the travel time? I’m one of those that would like to see it take 45 minutes instead
    - iv. When we are working with freight industry, they have criteria for reliability AND efficiency (how fast they can get there)
  - c. Preliminary Needs Statement Feedback from CAG:
    - i. Something I hear from farm operators is that they are interested in 4-lane rural expressway that takes into consideration their farm equipment needs that are both safe & efficient for the farmers
    - ii. On roadway deficiencies I’d like to see something mentioned there about lack of shoulders – very problematic
6. Preliminary Conceptual Alternatives – Paul Schneider
  - a. Overview of Preliminary Conceptual Alternatives
  - b. Known Constraints
  - c. Previous Alternatives
  - d. Conceptual Alternatives Toolkit
  - e. Red Bud Example
7. Workshop Session
  - a. Roll Plot Maps Review (see pages 6-8)



8. Screening Process – Jeff Young
  - a. Screening Phases
  - b. Purpose & Need Screening Criteria
9. Next Steps – Scott Manning
  - a. Meet with Focus Groups
  - b. Identify Reasonable Alternatives
  - c. Complete Re-evaluation of 2007 Preliminary Engineering Study from Pinckneyville to Murphysboro
  - d. How to reach us
    - i. Website
    - ii. Email address

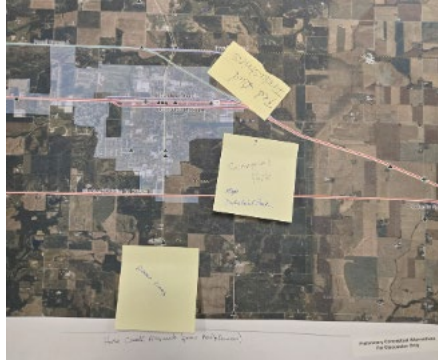
| Notes  | Photos   |
|--|--|
| <p>Photos 145638 to 145646 – Sparta</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Areas marked O = bottlenecks</li> <li>• Expansion south of shooting complex for 100 yard range</li> <li>• Route 4 backs up</li> <li>• Freight train backups can cause delays up to 10 minutes</li> <li>• New solar farms proposed north of airport</li> <li>• The existing utility corridor is being upgraded and a new high voltage transmission line will connect to the power substation near Moffatt Road and IL 154</li> <li>• Back up by Dairy Queen</li> <li>• Offset road</li> <li>• Potential annexation east of city limits</li> <li>• New USDA building – drainage issues needed to be corrected for parking lot</li> <li>• Proposed solar southwest of city limits</li> <li>• Potential annexation south and west of city limits</li> <li>• Suggested alignment to extend airport road to the east and curve</li> </ul> |   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>up to meet IL 13<br/>(photo 145646)</p>  |  |
| <p>145700 – Baldwin area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vertical profile issues with entrances</li> <li>• Port planned entrance</li> <li>• KRPD Metals business is a maybe?</li> <li>• Multiple solar fields recently built north of Baldwin</li> </ul>             |    |
| <p>14579 to 1475755– Sparta to Pinckneyville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farm machinery with no shoulders</li> <li>• High truck traffic area – coal trucks</li> <li>• Knight Hawk mine</li> <li>• [IL 154] Better access to Sparta airport than IL 13</li> </ul> |  |
| <p>145804 - Pinckneyville</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barr Trucking [west of Pinckneyville limits] slow</li> <li>• Nursing home near IL 13/proposed bypass</li> <li>• Business owners don't like bypass</li> </ul>   |  |



#### 151054 – Red Bud

- Red Bud Industries east of town limits
- Commercial Park and Industrial Park east of town limits
- Power lines
- Proposed Horse Creek alignment along power/Ameren ROW



#### 151100 - 151107– Red Bud to Waterloo

- Suggested connections/alignments
- Remove curve – HSIP project
- Get solar farm location maps from Mark Wilson at Randolph County

