

Subject: Vandalia CAG Meeting Minutes	
Client: IDOT D7	
Project: US 51 EIS	Project No:
Meeting Date: August 31, 2010, 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm	Meeting Location: Ramada Inn, Vandalia
Notes by: JKT	

Project Team Attendees: Sherry Phillips (IDOT), Matt Hirtzel (IDOT), Gary Welton (IDOT), Gene Beccue (IDOT), Jerry Payonk (CDI), Stacie Dovalovsky (CDI), Joyce Tanzosh (CDI), Jennifer Mitchell (HDR),

See attached sign-in sheet for CAG member attendees

Topics Discussed: Vandalia Alignment Development

1. Welcome (Sherry Phillips and Jerry Payonk)

- a. For the introduction and icebreaker, attendees (CAG members and project team) introduced themselves, stated what interest area they represent (CAG members only), and their high school mascot.
- b. Sherry summarized the August 11, 2010, CAG meeting and welcomed new members who joined subsequent to that meeting. Sherry discussed the interest areas that the CAG members represent and asked if any other interest areas are not represented or under represented. The CAG members agreed that all interest areas are represented. The project team stated that no new members would be permitted to join the CAG after the next CAG meeting as the CAG would be too far in the process. The existing CAG members agreed.
- c. The ground rules, originally distributed for review at the August 11, 2010, CAG meeting were redistributed and read out loud by Sherry and Jerry. Sherry asked if any of the rules were unclear or needed more explanation. No questions were raised by CAG members. Sherry asked if any of the CAG members did not agree with any of the rules or if new rules should be added. No objections or comments from the CAG members were raised. Jerry distributed a form stating that the members would adhere to the ground rules; each CAG member initialed the form.

2. Alignment Workshop Exercise (Sherry Phillips, Jerry Payonk, Matt Hirtzel)

The CAG members were seated at tables of 5-7 people. A facilitator from the project team was seated at each table.

- a. Each CAG members was given an 11" x 17" aerial photograph of Vandalia with key features labeled (existing US 51, I-70, Lake Vandalia, statehouse, prison). Jerry read the focus question: "Where would a US 51 best meet the needs of the City of Vandalia?" out loud. The CAG members were instructed to refer to this question when drawing alignments, and to keep in mind the interest area that they represent. Sherry instructed each person to individually draw 4 to 5 alignment centerlines that satisfy the focus question. Sherry stated that it is important for the group to

develop multiple alignments because it is possible that some alignments will not be feasible from an engineering, planning, or environmental perspective, so the project team needs multiple options to evaluate. The CAG members completed this task in approximately ten minutes. Sherry instructed each CAG member to highlight or mark the top two or three alignments that they feel best answers the focus question.

- a. The CAG members shared their ideas with the facilitator and the other CAG members at their table. The majority of the members discussed why they believe their alignments are best option for Vandalia. Several group members pointed out similarities between alignments. Several members that drew similar alignments with the same intent conceded that they liked another CAG member's idea better than their own, and in some cases, modified or eliminated their alignment in favor of another member's. The groups completed this discussion in approximately twenty minutes. Each table had a 48" x 36" aerial exhibit (identical to the 11" x 17" exhibit distributed to each member). Each group member drew their top two to three ideas on the larger aerial exhibit. Once this was completed, the groups discussed the maps at their own tables. The table facilitator instructed each member to review the map with respect to their individual maps. If any member felt that any of their original brainstorm ideas (including the non-highlighted alignments) were not represented, they were instructed to add it to the larger map so that all options were represented.
- b. The 48" x 36" aeriels were displayed on easels next to each table. One CAG member from each group described the alignments drawn by their group. Matt asked each group if they wanted to add any alternatives. After each member expressed they were satisfied that the alignments drawn represented ideas by each member of the group, the next table explained their ideas.
- c. A large two-panel aerial exhibit (identical to the others previously distributed) was placed on the tables. A CAG representative from each group transferred the alignments from the 48" x 36" aerial onto the large exhibit until all alignments were on the large map. Sherry then asked if any alignments were not drawn. Sherry also asked if anyone wanted to draw any additional alignments on the map. Several CAG members added additional alignments and/or alignment modifications, particularly in the vicinity of the downtown area. The CAG came to a consensus that the alignments drawn on the aerial consist of all alignments that the project team should evaluate.

3. Closing (Sherry Phillips, Jerry Payonk, Matt Hirtzel)

- a. Matt explained that the project team will take the large aerial exhibit and draw out the alignments in GIS. The alignments will be reproduced as close as possible to the location of the hand drawn alignments. The alignments drawn will be used as a centerline and a 100 foot buffer will be added to each side of the centerline to reflect the 200 foot wide alignment. The project team will evaluate preliminary interchange footprints of the alignments.
- b. The project team explained that at the next meeting the CAG members will review the GIS drawn alignments. The large map with the hand drawn alignments will be displayed so the CAG members can review and indicate if any alignments were missed or drawn incorrectly. At the next meeting the project team will present an engineering and environmental regulation overview. The purpose is to inform the CAG of what the project team must take into account when evaluating the alignments. The CAG members can choose to alter any alignment based on the engineering and environmental information presented.
- c. Sherry said the CAG meetings will normally be held on Tuesday or Wednesday evenings. She asked the CAG members to raise their hands if Tuesday was a better night for them, and then Wednesday. The majority of CAG members indicated that Tuesday is a better night to hold CAG meetings. Jerry asked when corn harvest will take place, and if that should be taken into account when scheduling the next meeting. Mike Wherle indicated that corn is already being harvested and

will continue to be harvested for the next several weeks. Once corn is harvested it will be time to harvest the beans. Therefore, harvest will be going on for the next several months. Mike said that once the beans are ready, they must be harvested, so it is difficult to plan ahead to schedule meetings around the harvest.

- d. The project team will send an email notifying the members of the next meeting data and location. The members who do not have email will receive a telephone call.

4. CAG Member Questions/Comments

- A CAG member asked if any traffic data had been collected to determine if the destination of most US 51 users near Vandalia is Vandalia itself, or if the traffic is regional. Jerry stated that traffic data had not been collected for this study. Sherry stated that even if traffic data were collected this year, it would not necessarily speak to the need of the new US 51. The new US 51 is being built to address future traffic needs, not just the needs of current traffic.
- Keith Manley asked if the project team can provide a small handout of all of the alignments to be evaluated at the next meeting. That way, the CAG members can take the handout to the interest area members that they represent. The project team indicated that this is a good idea and they will provide such a handout at the next meeting.
- Mike Wherle stated that he and Walt Barenfanger discussed that they believe it is very important that the proposed alignment provide access to I-70 as they believe the destination for a majority of US 51 users is I-70.
- Walt Barenfanger gave Joyce Tanzosh a printed handout pertaining to air pollution resulting from roads. Walt also discussed the glacial features southwest of Vandalia and stated that he and his brothers are planning on tapping into the shallow water supply in this area for distribution.