

Detroit River International Crossing Study
Local Advisory Council/Local Agency Group Joint Meeting – 7:00 PM
February 28, 2007 – Southwestern High School

Purpose: To review the progress of the Detroit River International Crossing Study.

Attendance: See attachment.

Discussion:

Introductions

Mohammed Alghurabi began the meeting by asking for introductions. He then indicated that the meeting was to be conducted so that the observers could comment at the beginning and end. The Local Advisory Council and Local Agency Group members would conduct their business in the core of the meeting.

Agenda Review

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if there were any comments or revisions to the agenda. There were none.

Public Comments

Mohammed Alghurabi asked if any member of the general public wished to speak. There were no public comments.

Ms. Leonard indicated she had sent an email regarding the number of businesses and residences on the north and south of I-75 that could be acquired by the project. She wanted a breakout by area. Joe Corradino noted that the December public meeting information booklet shows those data, and he explained how to locate it.

Meeting Notes

There were no comments on the notes of the January meeting.

Status of the Deep Drilling Program

Joe Corradino noted there are seven holes to be drilled in each of two corridors on each side of Ft. Wayne. Holes #10, #12, #16 and #1 are drilled. Hole #1 is close to known former brine wells. But no brine well cavities were located there. Those holes are now undergoing down-hole logging and gravity analysis. This drilling program is designed to detect voids or structural problems in the rock. An international group of experts will reconvene in March and, later this year, to review the information assembled.

Joe Corradino noted MDEQ has visited the drilling sites to do inspections.

Len Kozachuk explained that, in Canada, two holes are complete and two are in progress. The program is similar to the U.S. program. No serious issues have been found. One hole being drilled now is close to the river's edge. Groundwater is being encountered, as is expected. The Canadian results will also be shared with the panel of experts. The Canadian program is also doing down-hole investigations.

There were no comments or questions on this topic.

Revisions to Interchanges

Mohammed Alghurabi indicated that Value Planning is a week-long exercise that brings in "new eyes" to examine the proposed interchanges connecting I-75 to the new plaza. Engineers examine and validate what has been done and look for ways to do things better. This new information will be presented to the public on March 21, 2007. Also, since the December 5, 2006, public meeting, an effort has been made to "tighten up" some of the ramps to reduce impacts. This information will also be presented to the public on March 21, 2007.

Joe Corradino noted there are some very large utilities that need to be relocated to accommodate the plaza. Engineering is getting more explicit in defining where utilities might be moved to, leading to a presentation of impacts also on March 21, 2007.

There has also been an effort to maintain connections across I-75. It could take the form of a boulevard across I-75 to Jefferson. This will also be presented to the public on March 21, 2007.

March 21, 2007 Community Meeting

Besides the revisions/additions to impacts analysis (changes to alternatives, utilities and boulevard) noted above, there will be discussion of Delray land use concepts at the March 21, 2007, meeting.

Joe Corradino noted that the master planning of Delray being done by the DRIC Study Team cannot supplant the actions of local government. So, hopefully the results of the DRIC planning efforts will be a catalyst for more action. But, local governments and the private sector will have to join with MDOT to accomplish a revitalized Delray. MDOT cannot do this on its own.

Joe Corradino also noted that graphics prepared in the CSS workshops are now ready to be displayed in the community. He requested the LAC/LAG to let the DRIC Team know where a display can be placed.

Q. Where is the March 21, 2007, public meeting to be held?

A. At Southwest High School from 5:00 to 8:30 PM, with a presentation at 6:30 PM.

Q. Please explain the current right-of-way acquisition efforts.

A. Sherry Piacenti of MDOT is contacting occupied businesses that might be relocated to determine their relocation needs. Call Mohammed Alghurabi if there are any improper contacts. In the latter part of July, a workshop, sponsored by MDOT, will be conducted for residential property owners and renters to inventory their relocation needs. No offers to buy the properties are involved.

Mohammed Alghurabi reiterated all MDOT contacts at this point are for information exchange only. John Nagy has copies of the two documents related to right-of-way acquisition. These documents are also available on the web site – www.partnershipborderstudy.com.

Other Business

There was none.

Public Comments

Q. Will there be more discussion of Southwestern High School, and how definitive will it be?

A. The Delray land use concepts to be discussed at the March 21 public meeting will illustrate the land use around the school.

John Nagy announced that on March 7 at 6 PM at the Delray Community Center, public comments will be heard on Composite Recycling operation. All are invited.

Next Meeting

The next public meeting will be March 28 with the drilling meeting at 5:30 and the LAC/LAG meeting at 7 p.m.