



COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Location: Hammond Public Library Community Room
Date: July 23, 2013
Project Name: Chicago Street Widening and Reconstruction
Project No.: 2011.00320, Des. No. 1297017
Owner: City of Hammond
Attendees: American Structurepoint, Inc. – Glen Campbell, Briana Hope, Christine Meador, Brian Ralstin, Chris Murphy
City of Hammond – Stan Dostatni
Indiana Department of Transportation – Ron Bales
Federal Highway Administration – Joyce Newland
Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association, Inc. – Melissa Farrell
Brunswick/Hanover Neighborhood Association – Chuck Erhart
Raymundo Garcia
Carl and Marsha Ostrom, 25 Gostlin Street
Hammond Schools – Ryan Eckart, David Reyes
Bikram Singh, 4508 Calumet Ave.
Minutes By: Christine Meador, American Structurepoint, Inc.

The following notes reflect our understanding of the discussions and decisions made at this meeting.
If you have any questions, additions, or comments, please contact the issuer of these minutes.

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Community Advisory Committee (CAC) (Briana Hope)
 - Purpose and Objectives
 - Rules of Engagement
 - Comments and Feedback
3. Project Background (Glen Campbell)
 - Project History and General Description
 - Project Development Process and Project Timeline
4. Project Overview (Glen Campbell)
 - Purpose and Need
 - Alternatives
 - Benefits and Burdens of Preferred Alternative
 - Current Design
5. Design Issues and Community Concerns (Glen Campbell)
 - Roundabout
 - Maintenance of traffic
 - Phasing

6. Discussion Summary (CAC Members)

- CAC Member: What will the median along proposed Gostlin Street look like? Project Team: The median will be a 6-inch curb. The interior of the median has not yet been designed but it could be grass, a rain garden or landscaped. We would appreciate suggestions.
- CAC Member: Flooding along Brunswick Street and high groundwater table is a concern. Project Team: The City Engineer is aware of the problem and the design engineers will coordinate with the City Engineer to ensure that the proposed improvements and storm sewer system design takes into account existing flooding issues.
- CAC Member: What will happen to the area between “Old Gostlin Street” and the proposed Gostlin Street. Project Team: At this time, the design has not been completed but items under consideration include green space and stormwater infiltration basins, landscaping and other enhancements to the community, gateway entrance into Hammond. We would appreciate suggestions.
- CAC Member: Is there a stop light still under consideration at Dearborn Avenue? Project Team: Yes, the proposed traffic signal at proposed Gostlin Street and Dearborn Avenue will include loop detection. Therefore, the traffic signal will remain a green on proposed Gostlin Street, until a vehicle is detected on Dearborn Avenue, triggering a red signal on proposed Gostlin Street.
- CAC Member: What about the railroad crossing at the state line? Project Team: At this time, this crossing is not within our project limits. Coordination with INDOT, IDOT and the railroad is ongoing.
- CAC Member: What will be in the center of the roundabouts? Project Team: The center of the roundabout will likely be landscaped. We would appreciate suggestions.
- CAC Member: Will there be any construction at the intersection of Calumet Avenue and Gostlin Street. Project Team: That is outside of the project limits.
- CAC Member: Will snow removal be a problem at the roundabouts? Project Team: We do not anticipate a problem.
- CAC Member: Will the proposed roadway be concrete or asphalt? Project Team: We are evaluating pavement design and looking at alternatives. Given the size of the project, it is likely that the contractor will be asked to bid both concrete and asphalt and the final decision will be based on costs.
- The Project Team asked CAC members if they were aware of the public meeting and how to further engage the public. The following items were offered as suggestions by the CAC members.
 - i. Many members did not see the road signs. Suggested we put signs in better places and more businesses. Could also place informational brochures in businesses.
 - ii. Word of mouth was effective for previous meeting.
 - iii. There is not much walking traffic so if signs were small then people would not see them from their vehicles. Signs could be located along walking path for walkers.
 - iv. Letters worked well. Asked if there were many members of the Pulaski Park Neighborhood Association that did not speak English and was told no but that sending the notice in both language was helpful.
 - v. Suggested we place large signs similar to construction project signs that portray the positive aspects of the project. Signs should include rendering, iconic structure/gateway corridor
 - vi. Suggested we have a table at school registration
 - vii. Some residents along Gostlin Street did not associate the project branding (Go Chicago Street) with the entire project. Could consider renaming the project to better represent entire project corridor.
 - viii. Internet is not commonly accessed by older residents – need to make sure all residents have access to project information.
 - ix. Include meeting signage in conjunction with truck route signage

- The Project Team indicated that at the public meeting there were several questions about roundabouts. Have CAC members used a roundabout and what do you think of them. The following responses were received from CAC members
 - i. Most people had used a roundabout and were in favor of them
 - ii. Will need to teach people how to use them
 - iii. Film for education (public access TV)
- The Project Team asked the CAC members what are the positive aspects of the project. The following responses were received from CAC members.
 - i. Investment in the community/ beautification
 - ii. Bringing people back to north side
 - iii. Create a boulevard
 - iv. Safety
 - v. Noise buffer
 - vi. Cut crime
 - vii. Promote roundabouts
 - viii. Innovative
 - ix. Economic revitalization
 - x. Market value for acquisitions
 - xi. Enforces crosswalks
 - xii. Create pedestrian safety
- The Project Team asked the CAC members what are the negative aspects of the project. The following responses were received from CAC members.
 - i. Property acquisition
 - ii. Concerns regarding use of roundabouts by the older population, non-local traffic and others unfamiliar with roundabouts.
- CAC Member: Project is about economic revitalization. There were suggestions that we needed to make sure that was forefront of the project.
- CAC Member: Will there be parking along Chicago Street at Irving Park School. Project Team: The proposed plans have parking there. There was the suggestion that there is no parking there now and the school would prefer not to have parking there in the future. The project team indicated that parking could be removed.

ACTION ITEMS:

Need information on school crossings to ensure they are incorporated into design.

NEXT MEETING:

Hearing anticipated in November 2013

cc: Attendees
CAC Members

Very truly yours,
American Structurepoint, Inc.



Christine Meador