

Meeting Summary

Waukesha West Bypass Advisory Group

Workshop 1

Retzer Nature Center,
March 24, 2010
4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

General

The first Advisory Group workshop for the Waukesha Bypass was held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Retzer Nature Center in Waukesha County. Buddy Desai of CH2M HILL, facilitated the meeting. Approximately 18 members of the Advisory Group and 27 members of the community at-large were present at the meeting. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel and the Daily Reporter were also present.

Advisory Group Members Present at the Meeting

David Bahl, Jr.	Perry Lindquist	Dale Pfeiffle
Joe Banske	Bruce Massman	Steve Schmuki
Jennifer Becker	Maureen Millmann	Mark Stigler
Paul Day	Mike Murphy	Bob Tallinger
Jerry Gutjahr	Jeff Panosian	Jim White
Bob Johnson	Carlos Pena	Chris Hiebert (Ken Yunker)

Advisory Group Members Not Present at the Meeting

Suzanne Kelly	Megan Spreager	Ken Westlake
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Technical Resources Present at the Meeting

Waukesha County – Gary Evans
WisDOT – Doug Cain
CH2M HILL – Buddy Desai, Brad Heimlich, Dave Rodebaugh
Kapur – Kurt Farrenkopf

Meeting Agenda

- 4:00 Convene the Meeting
 - Welcome and Introductory Comments (Gary Evans, Waukesha County)
 - Agenda Review (Buddy Desai, CH2M HILL)
 - Introductions (Buddy Desai, CH2M HILL)
- 4:15 Application of CSS for Waukesha West Bypass (Buddy Desai, CH2M HILL)
- 4:25 Overall CSS Planning Process and the Timing of Key Decisions (Buddy Desai, CH2M HILL)
- 4:45 Proposed Operating Agreement for Advisory Group (Buddy Desai, CH2M HILL)
- 5:00 Definition and Documentation of Issues (Buddy Desai, CH2M HILL)
- 5:50 Next Steps (Buddy Desai, CH2M HILL)
- 6:00 Adjourn

Materials Available at the Meeting

Materials available for discussion at the meeting, in addition to the agenda, included a handout containing the following:

- Project team contact list
- Decision making flowchart
- Project schedule
- Waukesha West Bypass Advisory Group Operating Agreement

Introductions

The meeting was convened by Gary Evans, Waukesha County Department of Public Works. Gary welcomed the group and provided a brief history of the Waukesha West Bypass (Bypass) project. Gary explained to the group the reason for utilizing the context sensitive solutions process which involves the County working with the community to ensure that the project meets the County's transportation needs while addressing community goals and values.

Following the introductory comments, Buddy Desai proceeded by introducing the consultant team. After the consultant team and county resource staff were introduced, the Advisory Group was asked to introduce themselves along with their area of interest in the Bypass project. Once introductions were complete, Buddy thanked the Advisory Group members for accepting the invitation to become a part of the group and for participating in the night's meeting and committing to be involved in the upcoming Advisory Group meetings.

Application of Context Sensitive Solutions

Buddy Desai continued the meeting with a discussion on the application of context sensitive solutions (CSS) to the Bypass project. He noted that government agencies are recognizing the importance of involving the community in project development process. He explained that CSS provides an avenue for transportation agencies to balance the transportation needs of the agency with the values of that community. Buddy noted that the CSS process for the Bypass would involve a series of 5 meetings. The first meeting would be used to identify issues with the existing roadway and identify elements that the community would like to see addressed by the project. The second meeting will be to prioritize those issues and elements. The third meeting would be used to develop alternatives. The fourth meeting will be used to rate/measure the alternatives. And finally, the fifth and last meeting will announce the preferred alternative for the project. Buddy asked if anyone on the Advisory Group had any questions related to the CSS process. No comments were offered.

Next, Buddy discussed the decision making flow chart and the project schedule. Exhibits showing each of these items were on display. Buddy mentioned, while addressing the decision making flow chart, that the Advisory group was a mix of community residents, businesses, agencies and organizations and that they would be advising the County. Buddy indicated that by rule, Waukesha County must make project related decisions and would do so after considering the Advisory Group's input and information received from other county and/or state agencies.

Comments and Questions

Buddy then asked if there were any questions.

Question: One Advisory Group member asked if a list of the committee members would be made available to the public.

Response: Buddy indicated that if the committee was willing to share their contact information, the project team would share with those interested. He recommended however that only the name and their affiliation be provided. If Advisory Group members were willing to share their email addresses, he would make that available also.

Question: Carlos Pena, FHWA and Advisory Group member, wanted to know if the Notice of Intent, project's purpose and need statement, and the Coordination Plan would be provided to the Advisory Group. He mentioned that the project website would be a great way to disseminate that information.

Response: The project team will continually update the project's website with updated information related to the project and the NEPA study.

Group Exercise

Buddy then led the group in an exercise to identify issues and identify items that the group thought should be addressed by the project. A summary of those issues is listed below.

What are the issues affecting transportation on the west side of Waukesha?

- Congestion
- Accommodate growth
- Safety – Sunset/St Paul
- Safety – pedestrian/bike
- No useful roads connecting
- Speed
- Outdated geometrics
- Traffic control
- Access control/driveways

What should the future of West Waukesha look like?

- Protect conservancy
- Bike/Pedestrian accommodations
- Enhance environmental corridor
- Lighting – safety, light pollution, aesthetics
- Address sharp curves and hills
- Mobility
- Access
- Sound abatement
- Safety/Speed
- Limit Agricultural Impacts

During the discussion, some members of the audience suggested that “removing trucks” be considered as one of the functions of the future bypass. The project team explained that once constructed, the bypass would be a state highway and would allow trucks.

Adjournment

Buddy Desai asked that all people in attendance remember to fill out the sign-in sheet and provide their email address if they were interested in receiving periodic updates on the Advisory Group meetings and the overall project. Buddy concluded the meeting by reminding the Advisory Group about the next meeting and said he would send information about the meeting date once it was determined.