



Springfield Rail Improvements Project Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #2 Summary Wednesday, March 26, 2014

Overview

The second meeting of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) was held at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 26, 2014 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel Conference Center. Fourteen participants and four members of the study team attended the nearly two-hour session, which provided as an opportunity to share information on project planning, design, funding and public engagement. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Present comprehensive updates on the project's progress;
- Share information about upcoming efforts and activities; and
- Solicit advisory group members' feedback.

Jimmie Austin, of Hanson Professional Services, opened the meeting with an introduction of the project team and a brief description of team members' responsibilities. He then invited meeting attendees to state their organizational affiliations. A list of meeting participants is presented below.

Advisory Group Members:

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| ■ Bill Logan | Executive Assistant – Springfield Mayor's Office |
| ■ Darrell Schaver | Springfield Public Schools |
| ■ Gail Simpson | Alderman – City of Springfield |
| ■ Gary Giacomelli | SIU School of Medicine |
| ■ Joe McMenamin | Alderman – City of Springfield |
| ■ Kevin Mikeleic | Harvard Park Neighborhood |
| ■ Mike Anderson | Grand Improvement Neighborhood Association |
| ■ Mitch Johnson | Memorial Health System |
| ■ Norm Sims | Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission |
| ■ Paul O'Shea | City of Springfield |
| ■ Ruth Knight-Anderson | Grand Improvement Neighborhood Association |
| ■ Steve Combs | Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement |
| ■ Teresa Haley | Springfield Branch - NAACP |
| ■ Tom Gihl | Illinois National Bank |

Project Team Members:

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| ■ Jimmie Austin – | Hanson Professional Services Inc. |
| ■ Kevin Seals | Hanson Professional Services Inc. |
| ■ Rebecca | Vector Communications Corp. |
| ■ Mandi Voegle | Vector Communications Corp. |

Technical Presentation

After participant introductions, Kevin Seals – the project’s environmental and public engagement lead – gave a presentation on the project’s technical components. Copies of his PowerPoint presentation were provided to attendees, but presentation highlights included:

- A review of the project’s history, purpose and need (delivered by Jimmie Austin);
- Information on funding and the project’s schedule;
- An update on Carpenter Street construction, the project’s DBE construction goals, minority training programs and the community benefits agreement;
- A look at work on the Ash Street underpass;
- A description of the land acquisition process; and
- An overview of the public engagement program, other Springfield rail projects and the new minority participation plan.

In response to Mr. Seals’ presentation, SAG members offered both questions and comments. Where appropriate, project team members provided answers and feedback. The exchanges are summarized on the following pages.

| Question / Comment | Team Response |
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| ■ Besides the TIGER grant, which you mentioned would be difficult to get, what other grant sources of funding will you be looking for? | <p>■ Team Response: The Interstate Commerce Commission is providing money for some of the projects. There are other members of the team who are more well versed on public funding sources. Congressional support is critical to obtaining federal funds.</p> <p>■ SAG Member Follow-up: The city is trying to see if planned expenditures on 3rd Street can be transferred to 10th Street. It is also looking for federal transportation dollars and IDOT funding. With regard to federal monies, the current transportation act runs out next year and no one knows if Congress will maintain its existing priorities.</p> |
| ■ Is the TIGER grant funding for construction of Carpenter Street? | ■ Yes, TIGER provided \$14 million out of the \$21 million project expense. |
| ■ There is work happening on North Grand along the 3 rd Street corridor. We want to move forward with some landscaping projects to create a visible boundary for the area. Do you know what the landscaping plans are for 3 rd Street? | ■ This is not our project, but we can put you into contact with Parsons Brinkerhoff. It is leading the 3 rd Street effort. |
| ■ The team is doing great work on this project. Thank you. Years ago there was funding for a multi-modal facility on 11 th Street. Where do things stand on this? | ■ The multi-modal facility is a separate project being led by SMTD. This project is being overseen by the Federal Transit Authority since its focus is on buses and not rail. There should be a public meeting at the end of May or in June. |

| Question / Comment | Team Response |
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| <p>■ It sounds like the team is proceeding with construction on a project that is not yet fully funded. Do you have any reservations</p> | <p>■ Team Response: You are correct. This project is being designed, funded and constructed in phases. The Carpenter Street segment of the project is fully funded and this is the area where we are engaged in construction. Our project has a \$315 million price tag, so the funding will come over time in \$15 million to \$20 million installments.</p> <p>■ SAG Member Follow-Up 1: Carpenter Street can stand-alone. It will provide a better means for people to get to emergency services through the underpass. This has great value to the community whether or not railroad relocation happens. We are looking for sections that will be individual benefits to the community.</p> <p>■ SAG Member Follow-Up 2: We've prioritized the pieces of the project so that the stand-alone projects get done first. Also, we have been looking at federal Sustainable Communities funding, but recent changes have shifted this funding away from brick and mortar projects to unemployment assistance.</p> <p>■ SAG Member Follow-Up 3: We were informed that no TIGER grants have been given to the same community in consecutive years, but we are still applying for this money.</p> <p>■ SAG Member Follow-Up 4: The large national infrastructure bill could fund a lot of this.</p> |
| <p>■ I'm hopeful about funding for the rest of the project. I don't think Congress will leave us in the lurch. There has been enough talk about railroad relocation and lobbying for change that Congress knows Springfield has a need.</p> | <p>■ We agree.</p> |
| <p>■ If I were a property owner on Ash Street, I would want to know how things progressed on Carpenter Street. How was property acquired and did people walk away satisfied?</p> | <p>■ There were no residential displacements on Carpenter Street. The interests affected were the city, the hospital, the sun spa and the gas station. All were happier than before. We needed an easement with Citgo gas station, but this was not an issue. With regard to land acquisition, it is a negotiable process that is designed to be fair and equitable. We have not heard much negative sentiment from the public about properties being taken. Lots of people want to be bought out now with hardship dollars. However, many residential properties in the area are rentals.</p> |

| Question / Comment | Team Response |
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| ■ Will 10.5 Street be closed? | ■ Yes it will, along with the street next to Isles. The closed road might create more available parking for the park. |
| ■ Do you anticipate that there will have to be street closings or detours related to Carpenter Street? I ask this question to know whether or not construction will affect SMTD routes? | ■ The road by MB Heating will be closed. I do not, however, think that there will be any SMTD disruptions. I also have not heard of anything that will disrupt school buses and emergency services. |
| ■ Related to the flyover, we still have people wanting to do projects and land divisions in the area. If at some point we could get some guidance on what we should be telling people, this would be good. | ■ We intend to have a public meeting in May and our preliminary plans will be completed in April. We've been working with some of the developers in the area – Linconshire will be developing to the east. We too are very interested in development. |
| ■ When the Carpenter Street underpass is done, will 9 th and 11 th Streets be affected? | ■ No. The underpass takes about a block to get back up to grade again, so we will not have as much impact and it is cheaper (to do underpasses than over passes). |
| ■ In May of 2015, Springfield will host the Abraham Lincoln funeral procession. I know that the Carpenter Street project is further to the east, but are there any anticipated impacts? What about for the 3 rd street corridor? | <p>■ SAG Member Follow-Up 1: I do not think that this will be a problem. The route does not cross any railroad tracks. The route might result in the temporary closing of Jefferson east and west, but not for long.</p> <p>■ Team Member Response: We'll follow up with the group that is organizing this so that we are on their radar.</p> <p>■ SAG Member Follow-Up 2: It can also be brought up at SATS to make sure that everyone is up to date.</p> |
| ■ I remember when Union Pacific put in new tracks and local labor was not used. Who keeps the pressure on the railroads to make them responsive to labor? | ■ The railroads are basically untouchable. They are independent and play by their own rules. What is keeping them at the table on this project is that they are losing 25 grade crossings, which provides liability savings. This is really the only issue that has their attention. |
| ■ How do you associate high speed with safety? They do not seem synonymous. | ■ The safety is in the quad gates at the crossings and in the fencing in urban areas. This keeps pedestrians and cars from weaving and being careless. |
| ■ While you do not have control over rail construction, the other aspects of construction you can influence regarding labor and minority participation. | ■ This is true. |

| Question / Comment | Team Response |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I'd like to thank Hanson for working with the NAACP. We thank you all for continuing to keep us engaged and informed. I do see this partnership growing in the future. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ We are committed to working with the community. Your input has informed and shaped much of what we are doing, particularly on minority participation initiatives. We are very excited to see where this all goes. |