



US 50 Expressway Project Public Meeting #1 Summary

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) held the first set of Public Informational Meetings for the proposed study of the US 50 Expressway Project from 2.5 miles west of Illinois Route 130 (near Olney) to 3.5 miles east of Illinois Route 1 (near Lawrenceville) on October 24 and 25, 2011 at Olney Central College and Parkside Elementary School in Lawrenceville, respectively from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the meetings was to solicit early input from the public about the project for use in engineering and environmental studies. A public notice was placed in the October 12 and October 19, 2011 editions of the *Olney Daily Mail* and *Vincennes Sun Commercial* newspapers. The *Lawrenceville Daily Record* placed the ad in their October 17 and 19, 2011 editions. Letters of invitation were sent to public officials and agencies, representatives of local communities, utilities, other governmental agencies, and property owners within the study area. Approximately 566 letters announcing the public meeting were mailed. The meetings were held in an open house format beginning with a registration table near the entrance to the meeting space. A total of 56 people signed the attendance roster in Olney and 73 signed in Lawrenceville. This likely represented great than 129 individuals in attendance as several couples and parties only signed once – or preferred not to sign in. Our estimate for meeting attendance is approximately 142 people. Each attendee was provided with a project brochure, a series of Community Advisory Group (CAG)/Context Sensitive Solutions handouts, and a Comment Form/CAG membership request form. After signing in and receiving their handouts, attendees were asked to view the meeting exhibits. The 10 meeting exhibits were arranged as follows:

- Welcome and Goals of the PIM
- Project Location
- Project Timeline/Schedule
- The Big Picture – Study Process Overview
- How Can I Get Involved?
- Typical Cross Section
- Expressway Access Examples
- Large-scale Aerial Mosaic of Project Corridor with Environmental Features
- Comment Station and Thank You Board

IDOT, Hutchison Engineering, Inc., and CH2M HILL staff were available to provide information, answer questions, and discuss individual concerns with members of the public at the meeting. Comment sheets were provided for those choosing to provide written comments at the meeting or for mailing after the meeting. Lastly, a space was provided on the Comment Form for attendees to complete and submit if they desired to be involved in the upcoming CAGs that will be used as part of the stakeholder involvement process for the project.

IDOT received 27 written comments and one telephone call about the project from 26 different individuals that were provided at or following the Public Meetings. Sixteen (16) individuals requested to be a part of the CAG on the comment forms.