



MEETING NOTES

Project: East Side Highway Environmental Assessment
Subject: Sustainability FWG Meeting #1
Date: March 15, 2012, 6:00 PM
Location: Bloomington Cultural Center, Bloomington, IL

Minutes of this meeting were prepared by Lindsay Birt of Huff & Huff, Inc (H&H). Please inform her of corrections or modifications.

Project Team Attendees: Sarah Merchan Paniagua (HDR), Lindsay Birt (H&H), Linda Huff (H&H), and Eric Schmitt (McLean County). The meeting was facilitated by Linda Huff.

See attached sign-in sheets for FWG attendance.

1. Introduction

- Attendees introduced themselves and explained what sustainable practices they used at home.
- Participants included Angelo Capparella (Friends of Kickapoo Creek, JWP Audubon Society and ISU), David Lamb (City of Bloomington), Robin Weaver (Director of Public Works, Town of Normal), and Dale Stain (Resident-Bloomington).
- Agenda and ground rules were presented.

2. What are the environmental resources most important to them?

- Linda reviewed the results of the Illinois Natural History Survey regarding avian census, bat survey, aquatic community survey, high quality vegetation identified, National Wetland Inventory, and parks identified within the project study area.
- Dave had concerns that high-quality vegetation present in Kickapoo Creek is not highlighted on the map. Angelo explained that restored areas are not considered high quality; high-quality would be historic native prairie.
 - Linda asked Dave to provide her with information/location of the restored vegetation areas. She will then send it to the INHS for their information.
 - Angelo suggested that we contact Don Roseblum with regards to the Phase 3 prairie restoration project at The Grove. Angelo asked, "How might there be coordination among the Phase 3 prairie restoration and the East Side Highway?"

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- Angelo discussed potential impacts from salting of roads on Little Kickapoo Creek – impacts on water quality from road runoff.
- Angelo also mentioned there is a Nature Preserve located in the southern region (outside of the Environmental Inventory map) that the East Side Highway project should not cut through. There is an on-going study on the small creeks that flow into Little Kickapoo Creek.

3. Illinois Livable and Sustainable Transportation (ILAST) manual and scorecard

- Linda presented the ILAST manual that summarizes over 180 sustainability features for roadway projects. She also presented the ILAST scorecards and asked the participants to comment on anything that was not clear or could be of importance to this project study.

4. Where are opportunities to enhance the environment?

- Linda asked the participants to review the list of categories within the ILAST scorecard and inform the project team where some of these features might apply to the ESH.
- Irrigation
 - Dale said, “It seems like water quality issues will impact land use. I was thinking about water uses limited to agricultural lands and that it might be a further downstream impact.”
 - Robyn responded by saying, in this area irrigation is limited and natural rainfall is used for agriculture.
- Sand Filters
 - Robyn said she has a concern with water freezing. She suggested that we need to make sure there is way for the water discharge and we need to consider maintenance.
- Wetlands
 - David mentioned that wetlands are more natural approach for water to filter. Angelo responded that constructed wetlands can be tricky with regards to maintenance.
 - Linda explained that bioswales or detention basins with a vegetative shelf could be considered.
- Buffer areas (David suggested)
- Sound wall for fauna, birds (Robyn suggested)
- Non-native vegetation planted to minimize salt impacts
 - Angelo commented that you can use alternatives to road salt.

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- Robyn mentioned that the city has looked into pre-wetting, but the difficulty is the surface temperature and the rate of change to freeze cycles.
 - Linda reassured the FWG that there will be a water quality assessment to evaluate pollutant loads and chloride potential impacts.
- Bridge Design
 - Angelo asked have heard about bridge designs to maintain wildlife patterns? Linda said IDOT has recommendations for culverts that are designed to consider fish passage
- Materials
 - Robyn said they have a construction demolition facility to recycle our materials. A quite of bit of recycled material is used for roadway. Robyn suggested that the recycled material could be used because the facility is in close vicinity to the project area.
 - Robyn also mentioned how they used recycled glass for roadways, and how there might be some opportunities to consider this as a sustainable material.
- Noise
 - Dale asked whether the elevation would be increased as a result of this project for sound mitigation purposes
 - Robin explained the area is very flat. Linda explained the noise evaluation process to Dale. Once the noise impacts are known, the affected neighbors will decide whether or not they want a noise wall.
 - Angelo then asked will there be consideration for a wall by the park near The Grove?
 - Concerns that, after the project, there might be more traffic and a different kind of traffic (i.e., more trucks). Robin explained that trucks would stay on I-55 and would likely not use the freeway.
- Permeability
 - Angelo asked if there are any considerations to permeability. Linda responded by stating that it is mentioned under the stormwater section of ILAST.
- Planting/Buffers
 - Robin expressed concern with maintenance of vegetation/buffer – New vegetation has to be self-sustainable because funding frequently

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changes and it is unknown whether the town will be able to provide maintenance.

- Robin also brought up aesthetics – It would be beneficial to plant vegetation in clusters. Clusters are low in maintenance and preparation is easier than vegetation planted in line. In addition, if any tree dies off, it looks better if they are in cluster.
- Avian Studies
 - Angelo asked what methodology was used to identify the areas to conduct avian census. He mentioned sandpipers are changing habitats. They now preferred no-till soybean fields. Linda will send him a copy of the INHS report.

5. Meeting Wrap-Up

- Angelo took copies of the meeting materials to distribute to attendees who were not able to come to the meeting, but who are interested in providing input.
- Linda encouraged everyone to review the ILAST manual and scorecard and identify the items of the most concern/interest to them by April 6th. Each participant will then email their items of interest to Linda.
- Next meeting will be scheduled in late April – TBA.