



Date: December 8, 2022
Time: 10:00 am
Location: Virtual – Webex Meeting
Topic: US 14 @ Hartland/Hughes Phase I Study
Working Group Meeting #2

Meeting Summary

The second Working Group (WG) meeting for the preliminary engineering and environmental study (Phase I) of US 14 at Hartland/Hughes intersection was held on December 8, 2022 at 10:00 am on WebEx. A save the date for the meeting was sent on November 21, 2022 via outlook and a follow-up WebEx link was sent to all meeting participants on December 1, 2022. A total of 18 people attended the meeting. The attendance list can be found at the end of the summary.

The agenda for the meeting was:

- Recap of the Public Outreach Event #2
- Existing Conditions Summary
- Alternatives Analysis Recap
- Preferred Alternative
- Discussion
- Next Steps

The presentation was done using PowerPoint and the presentation can be found on the project website here: <https://www.us14hartlandhughes.com/documents>. At the end of the presentation, the meeting was opened for discussion. The below recap highlights the presentation and questions/comments from meeting participants during the discussion period.

Recap of the Public Outreach Event

The first Public Outreach Event was held virtually over a three-week period from July 18 to August 7, 2022 on the project website. All of the meeting documents were contained on the website for attendees to view any time over the three-week period. Based on email and mailing addresses, those who completed the sign-in sheet were from McHenry County, Woodstock, Huntley, McHenry, Algonquin, Crystal Lake, Harvard, Marengo, Chicago and Bull Valley.

A total of 42 comments were received. The majority of the commenters mentioned safety issues and all of the comments recommended or advocated for a redesign of the intersection. The intersection recommendations included comments in favor of a roundabout and a traffic signal. 34 of the comments were in support of the roundabout and 5 of the comments were in support of the traffic signal. A traffic signal was analyzed at this intersection, but because of the low



traffic volumes on Hartland/Hughes Road it is not warranted. Therefore, it was not included as an alternative to be carried forward.

Responses were sent to all of the commenters via email.

Existing Conditions Summary

The intersection is located on US 14 in McHenry County, between the City of Woodstock and the Village of Harvard. Hartland/Hughes Road is a county highway providing access to agriculture, places of worship, and residents in the area. US 14 is a primary thoroughfare in McHenry County and is an important commercial route.

Predominant crashes were between drivers on US 14 traveling through and drivers attempting to turn onto or cross US 14. Since the last meeting, IDOT has released the crash data for the year 2021. Three additional incapacitating injury crashes occurred during 2021.

Alternatives Evaluation Recap

The first step in the alternatives evaluation process is to develop the project Purpose and Need and determine if the proposed improvement satisfies the project needs. The project study team defined the purpose of this project to improve safety and traffic operations at the intersection. The project team developed several build alternatives that satisfy the Purpose and Need. The following alternatives have been evaluated, the no-build alternative, and then three build alternatives, including a Right-In/Right-out, Modified R-cut, and a roundabout.

Preferred Alternative

Based on the alternatives analysis previously presented and input from the Public, the Roundabout alternative is the Preferred Alternative. This alternative has the least amount of impacts to adjacent properties and wetlands. Because this alternative does not eliminate turning movements it provides better connectivity to adjacent land use and has less impact to the traveling public. The roundabout will also improve safety through this intersection by slowing down traffic, raising the profile and by eliminating conflict points through the removal of opportunities for a collision from a left turn and head on. The roundabout also has the lowest estimated cost.

In addition, based on the comments collected at the last Working Group meeting and both Public Outreach Events, the roundabout is the alternative preferred by the public. Over 80% of comments received on this project are in support of the roundabout.

Over the last two months, the Project Team has further developed the Roundabout Alternative including adding bicycle/pedestrian features, more detailed drainage design, and profile revisions. The exhibit below shows an overall image of the refined design of the Roundabout and how it ties into the existing roadway on US 14 and Hartland/Hughes.



Discussion

The following is a summary of the comments/questions from stakeholders and the responses from the Project Study Team.

Comment (MCDOT): Has the design team considered the stopping sight distance of westbound vehicles coming over the hill east of the intersection?

Response: That is one of many sight distance checks we performed as part of the design. Sight distance is calculated from the crosswalk so incoming vehicles can stop for pedestrians or cyclists. Also, approaches to the roundabout are designed to slow traffic as they approach, which shortens sight distance.

Comment (McHenry County Farm Bureau): Be careful with respect to signs for farm equipment. Sometimes they can be too close together for farm implements to get through.

Comment (MCDOT): 20' from tip-to-tip of the signs provides necessary clearance. MCDOT has had to move signs installed by IDOT at Harmony and other roundabouts within the county.

Response: This will be added as a special design and construction consideration in the Phase I Project Report to be included in Phase II Design.

Comment (MCDOT): Agree that the roundabout is the best option and appreciate the clear presentation.



Comment (IDOT): Has MCDOT relocated the field entrance in the NE quadrant further to the north, as discussed in previous meetings?

Comment (MCDOT): There is also a field entrance on the south west side of the roundabout that needs to be considered too.

Comment (IDOT): Requested information from MCDOT on both field entrances.

Next Steps

The next steps for this project will be to begin preparation for Public Outreach Event #3 to share the information presented today on the Preferred Alternative with the general public. We anticipate this event will be held in January 2023. The Project Team will also finalize the Preferred Alternative design and prepare the necessary documents to receive Design Approval. This project is currently included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2023 – 2028 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Once this project receives Design Approval it will move onto Phase II (Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition) to develop design details, prepare construction documents and go through the land acquisition process.

Attendance List

Name	Organization - Position
Behzad Amini	Atlas Engineering
Bob Thoma	Atlas Engineering
Athena Erbs	Epstein
Beth Norton	Epstein
Greg Osborne	Epstein
Anna Kutryn	Illinois Department Of Transportation (IDOT)
Kenny Martinez	Illinois Department Of Transportation (IDOT)
Cary Lewis	Illinois Department Of Transportation (IDOT)
Brenda Alicea	Illinois Department Of Transportation (IDOT)
Samantha Dittrich	McHenry County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)
Rebecca Brazas	McHenry County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)
John Kremer	McHenry County Conservation District (MCCD)
Dan Volkens	McHenry County Farm Bureau (MCFB)
Scott Kuykendall	McHenry County Planning and Development (MCPD)
Chris Tiedt	City of Woodstock
Darrell Kuntz	McHenry County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)
Jazmin Vega	McHenry County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)
Joyce Delong	McHenry County Department of Transportation (MCDOT)
Rick	