

Meeting Minutes
Transportation Corridor Committee
February 26, 2004

- The purpose of this meeting was to update the Transportation Corridor Committee on the status of the Caton Farm-Bruce Road Phase I Study.
- A Scoping Meeting was held in May 2003 with all of the regulatory agencies affected by the proposed improvement. Concern was raised at that time by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) as to the appropriateness of the Caton Farm-Bruce Road corridor as the preferred location for the river crossing. This current study had relied heavily on previous studies that selected Caton Farm-Bruce Road as the preferred corridor. USACOE felt that more documentation would be necessary to limit studies to this river crossing location.
- The project team has been working to develop a formal Purpose and Need Statement that satisfies the requirements of the regulatory agencies. A meeting was held in February 2004 to present the draft Purpose and Need document and coordination with the affected agencies is on-going.
- The regulatory agencies have identified several sensitive environmental resources in the study area including the potential habitat for several endangered species in the river valley. The actual species have NOT been identified to date but the river valley provides a suitable habitat. The Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources will be doing further detailed studies this spring and summer regarding the potential presence of these species.
- The regulatory agencies also requested that a salt study be completed for this project detailing the impacts to the Des Plaines River Valley. The study will investigate the impacts of spray, run-off, and ground water in the project area by the salt from the new bridge and roadway.
- The project team has also been moving forward in regard to the Alternatives Analysis. A detailed analysis of all the original alternates has been developed and documented in a report to be transmitted to the regulatory agencies once the Purpose and Need has been officially approved. A summary handout was distributed. The findings recommend that all alternates on the west side of the river be carried forward for further study and, on the east side of the river, that Options G, H, and I be carried forward for further study.
- The issue of funding for this project was then discussed. Due to the recent transportation funding constraints both in the State of Illinois and at the federal level, it was agreed that the Committee, as well as the individual communities, should send letters to Judy Biggert's office expressing continued support for this project and the importance of securing funding in order to keep this project moving forward.
- The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 A.M.