

Potential I-55 Improvements at Airport Road and at IL Route 126/Essington Road

Community Advisory Group

Meeting #1

May 17, 2011





Introductions

Village of
Romeoville



Bolingbrook
a place to grow



Illinois Department
of Transportation



CAG Members





Meeting Agenda

- Distribute CAG notebooks
- Public Involvement Process
- Project Overview
- Community Context Audit
- Next Meeting
- Open to Public Comments





CAG Ground Rules

1. All input is valid and is considered.
2. All participants must come to the process with an open mind and participate openly and honestly.
3. All participants in the process must treat each other with respect and dignity.
4. All decisions made by the Project Study Group must be arrived at in a clear and transparent manner and stakeholders should agree that their input has been duly considered.





CAG Ground Rules cont'd . . .

5. The project must progress at a reasonable pace based on project schedule.
6. The general public is welcome at all CAG meetings as observers, and opportunities to ask questions and make comments will be provided.
7. Individual CAG members may be replaced if they are deemed unable to fulfill the duties of a member or do not follow the ground rules.





CAG Ground Rules cont'd . . .

8. The overall goal is to develop a general agreement for interchange improvements along I-55. However, general agreement may or may not be achieved on every issue.
9. Once a decision has been made by the PSG it will not be revisited.





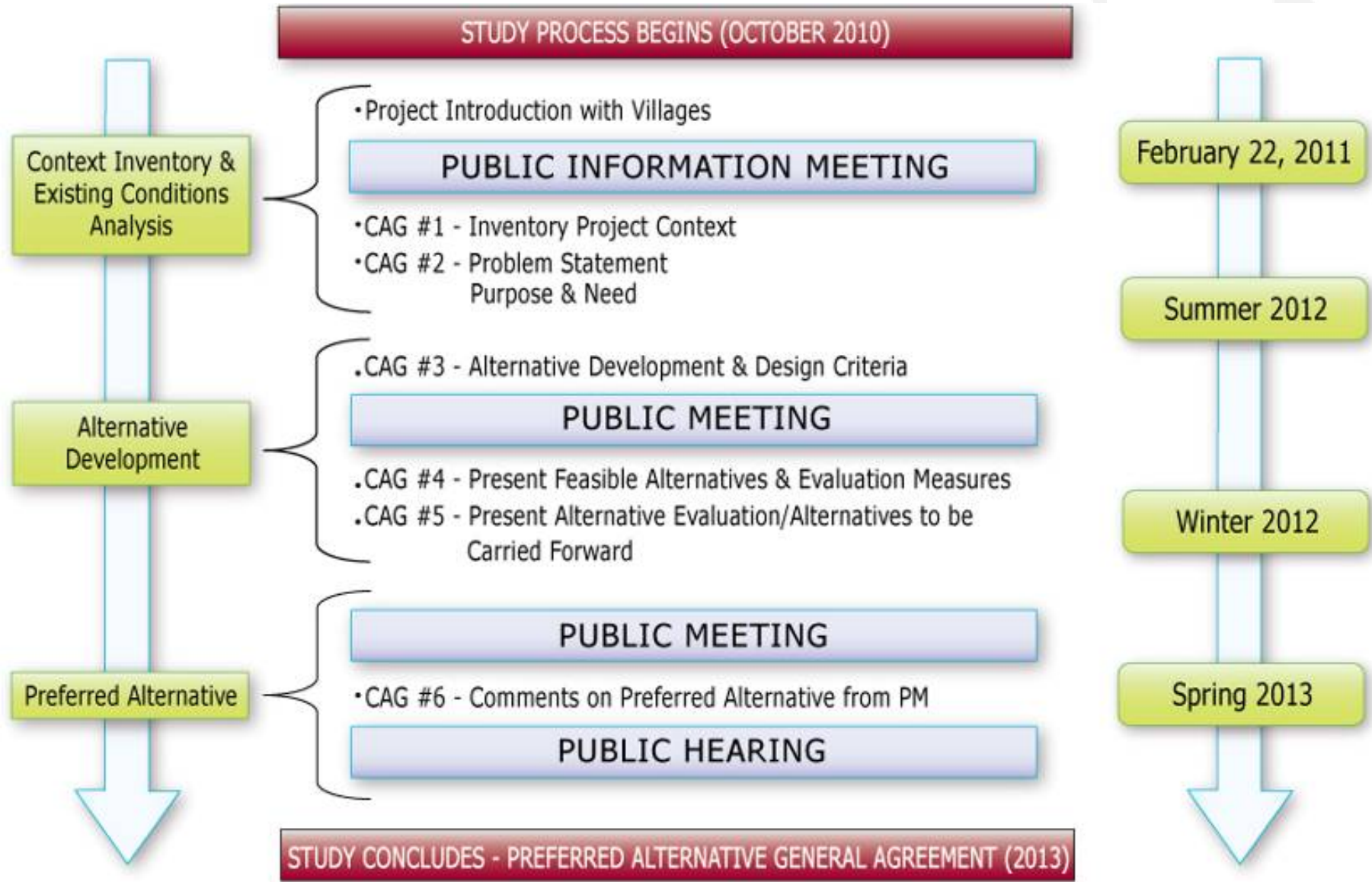
National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

NEPA 1969 was established to foster and promote the general welfare, to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans



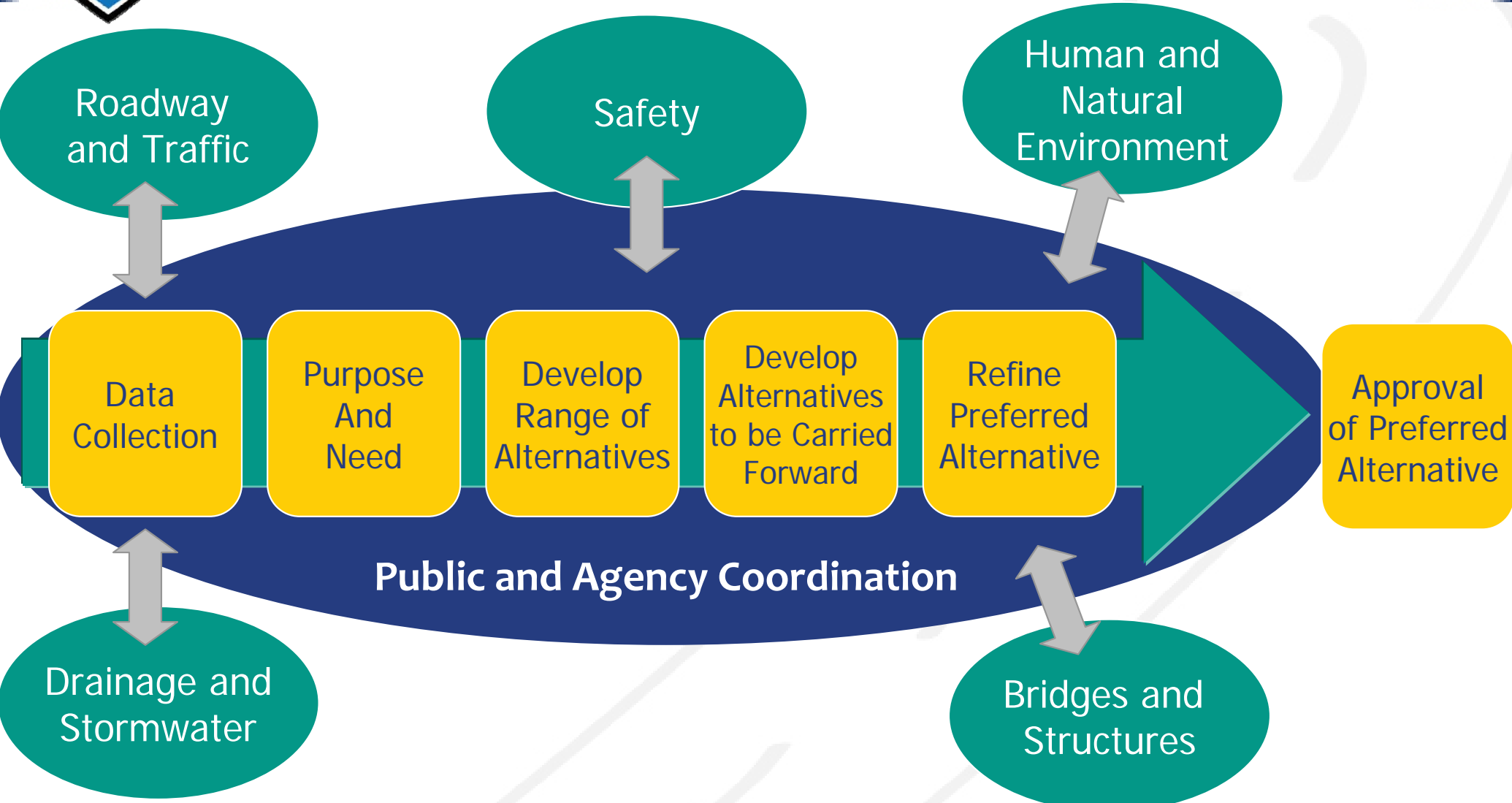


Project Schedule



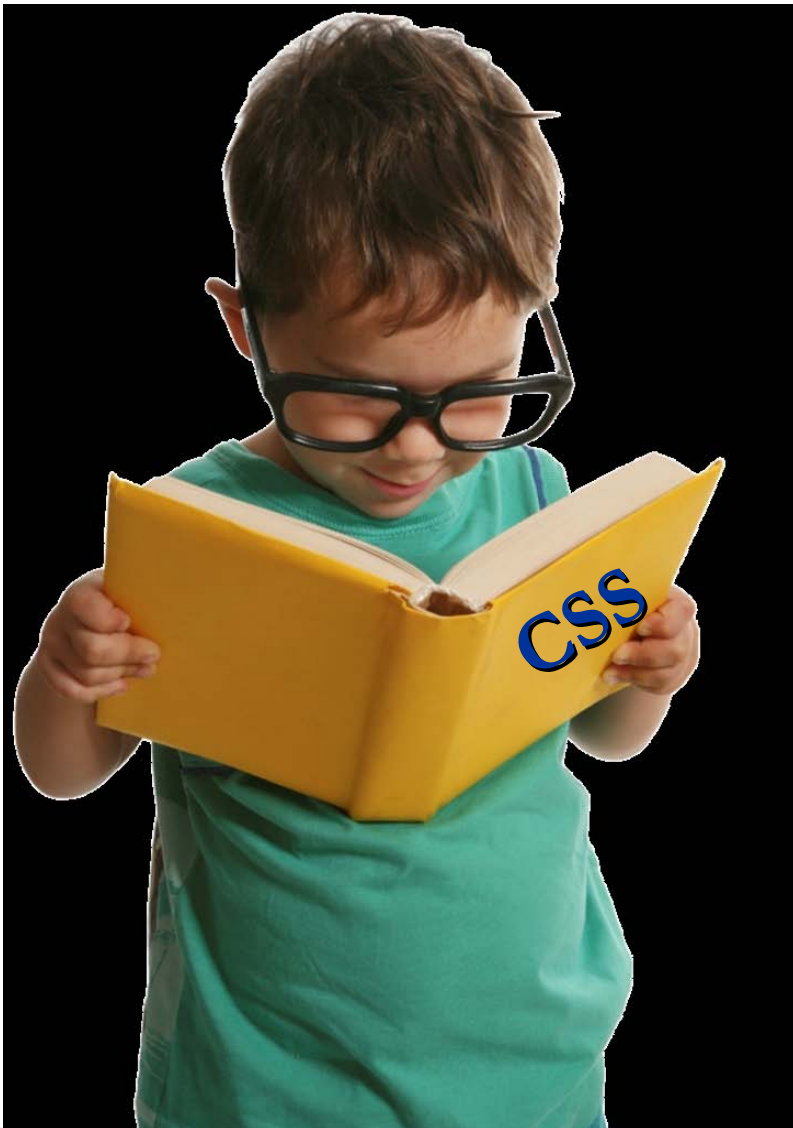


Phase I Study Process





What is Context Sensitive Solutions?



“... a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach that involves all stakeholders to develop a transportation facility that fits its physical setting and preserves scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources, while maintaining safety and mobility.” – Federal Highway Administration





CSS Guiding Principles

- Involves all stakeholders
- Fits into its surroundings
- Cost effective
- Multiple modes of transportation
- Preserves resources
- Maintains safety and mobility





CSS Elements

- Considers the project's context
- Fosters communication and collaboration
- Is environmentally sensitive
- Exercises design flexibility





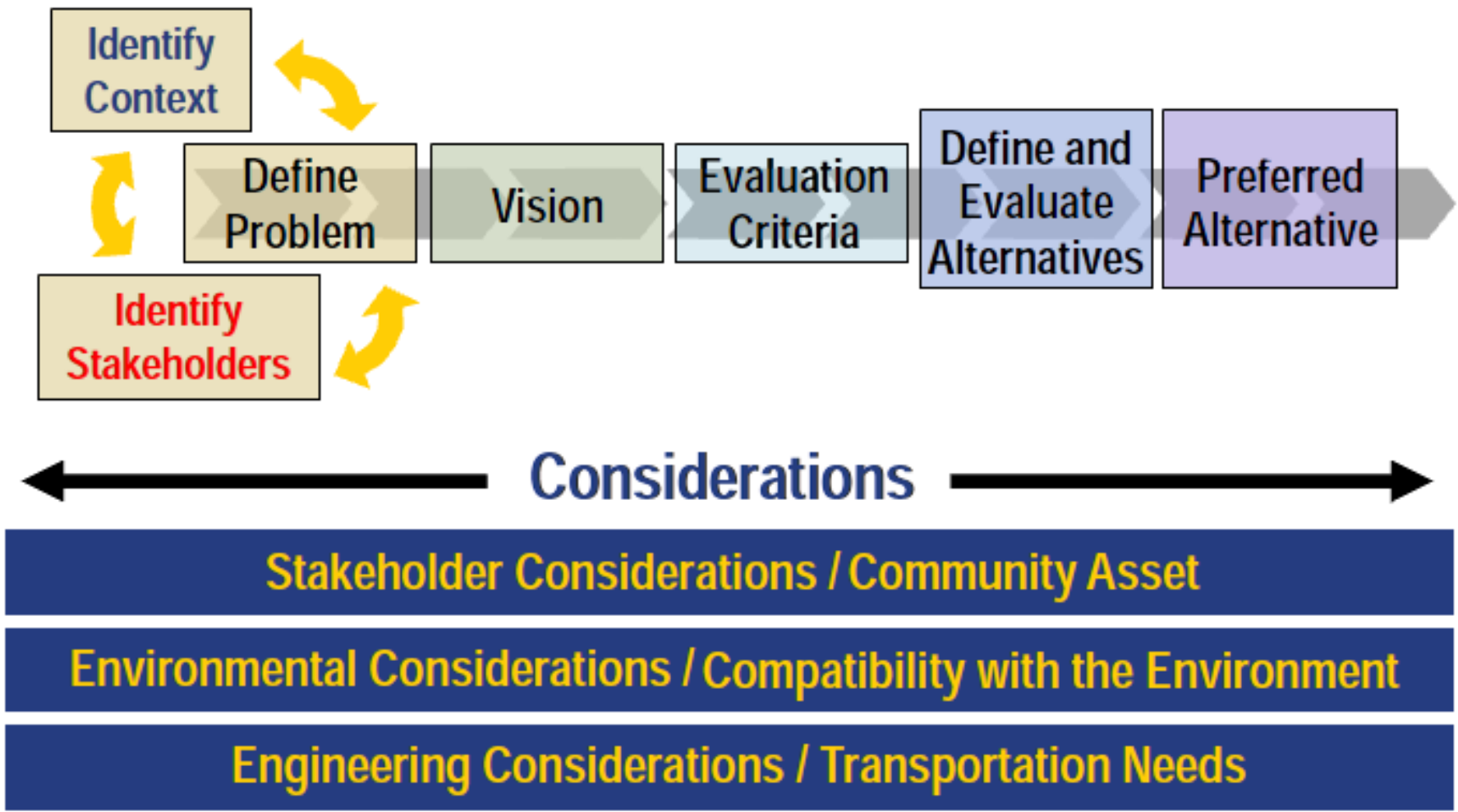
Why CSS?

- Project History
- Complexity of the project
- Open and transparent process
- Solutions for transportation and community issues
- Establish working relationships with those affected





CSS Process





Community Advisory Group (CAG)

What/Who?

- Group of 44 stakeholder representatives and 7 resource agencies
- Broad community cross section and interests (local and regional)

Responsibilities

- Provide insight about community and stakeholder interests
- Advise the Project Study Group
- Attend and participate in CAG meetings
- Adhere to the CAG ground rules
- Share information and encourage broader community input





Role of the CAG

- Identify corridor concerns that reflect the ideas and interests of the entire community
- Develop a Problem Statement
- Assist in preparing a Purpose and Need Statement
- Provide feedback on alternatives
- Comment on public involvement activities





What is the PSG?

The Project Study Group (PSG) is a multi-disciplinary team that will guide the development of the project. The PSG is primarily composed of individuals who represent environmental, engineering, and technical disciplines from IDOT and the FHWA.

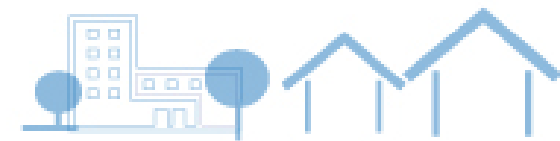




What is the PSG?

The primary objectives of the PSG are to:

- Expedite the project development process.
- Identify project development issues.
- Provide guidance to developing solutions to issues identified.
- Promote partnership with stakeholders to address identified project needs.
- Render ultimate recommendations based on the general agreement of stakeholders and engineering judgment.





Stakeholder Involvement Plan

- Provides guide for implementing stakeholder involvement
- Identifies stakeholders
- Defines responsibilities of study participants
- Describes opportunities for public involvement
- Provides schedule for public involvement activities





Project History

- In 1999, a feasibility study was prepared for IL 126 interchange
- In 2003, separate preliminary Access Justification Reports were prepared for Airport Road and IL 126
- In 2008, the FHWA requested that Romeoville and Bolingbrook combine the separate studies into one Phase I study
- In 2008, a feasibility study was prepared for Weber Road interchange improvements
- In 2010, a Phase I study for I-55 interchange improvements at Weber Road was begun by IDOT
- In 2010, the Phase I study of access improvements on I-55 within the study corridor between US Route 30 and Weber Road was begun





Public Meeting #1

- The first public meeting was held February 22, 2011 at the Romeoville Village Hall
- 124 members of the public signed in
- The project background and goals were presented
- The study process was defined
- Public input was received through 30 comment cards, 28 surveys, and 12 comments left on the aerial exhibit





Sample of Comments Received

- Both support and opposition expressed for a possible new interchange at Airport Rd, IL 126/Essington and 143rd Street
- Alternative interchange locations were suggested at Veterans Parkway and Caton Farm Road
- Questions regarding the status of previous studies and reports
- Frustration at a belief that decisions had already been made
- The effect on property values was questioned





Sample of Comments Received

- Truck traffic will increase and will cause congestion and safety concerns
- Severe traffic congestion occurs at the Weber Rd Interchange and at other locations in the region
- Access is needed to and across I-55 for vehicles and pedestrians
- Concern over increased traffic near 135th and Essington because of the proximity of several schools
- Accessibility needed for pedestrians and bicyclists





Sample of Comments Received

- Concerns were expressed about negative impacts to park and forest preserve properties due to a possible Airport Rd interchange
- Concerns over possible impacts to the environment, including air, noise and water pollution as well as negative effects to the cultural environment
- Plea not to disregard scenic and environmental resources
- A request was made for privacy walls





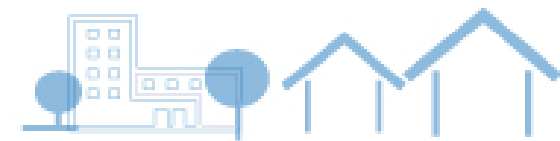
Break





General Agreement

Everyone's voice is heard and considered in the process, seeking an agreement of most participants. The intent is to maximize stakeholder participation and ownership of project decisions. General agreement may or may not be achieved on every issue.





Community Context Audit

- What safety, mobility and accessibility issues should be addressed by the project?
- What community, economic or environmental resources in the project area should be preserved or enhanced

Potential I-55 Improvements
AT AIRPORT ROAD AND AT IL 126/ESSINGTON ROAD

COMMUNITY CONTEXT AUDIT

Your feedback is vital. Please assist the study team in assessing the need for and purpose of potential interchange access improvements to I-55 between the existing interchanges located at US Route 30 and Weber Road. It is intended that any interchange improvements will provide access to I-55 traveling in both the north and southbound direction. Written comments where indicated are welcome.

Regional Mobility

1. Please circle the characteristic(s) that best describe members of your household. (Circle all that apply)

<u>You Reside in:</u>	<u>You Work in:</u>	<u>You Attend School in:</u>
Romeoville	Romeoville	Romeoville
Bolingbrook	Bolingbrook	Bolingbrook
Plainfield	Plainfield	Plainfield
Will County	Will County	Will County
Other _____	Other _____	Other _____

2. How frequently do you travel on I-55?

Daily	1-2 times per week	Less
3-4 times per week	Once every 2 weeks	

3. Why do you travel on I-55?

Commute to work	School	Visiting Family/Friends
Shopping	Business Travel	Other _____

4. Where do you get on I-55 and how often do you experience traffic congestion or delays at that location?

<u>At Weber Road</u>	<u>At Essington/IL 126</u>	<u>US Route 30</u>
Every time	Every time	Every time
Most of the time	Most of the time	Most of the time
Some of the time	Some of the time	Some of the time
Rarely	Rarely	Rarely
Never	Never	Never

Comments: _____

5. What area roads do you use to travel to and from the I-55 interchanges listed in the prior question? _____

6. Do you have safety concerns at these existing interchange locations? (Circle all that apply)

At Weber Road	At Essington/IL 126	US Route 30
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Please Explain: _____

7. Please estimate how much time (list congestion and delay adds) to your travel time. _____

8. Do you feel that new access or full access at these locations would benefit you? (Circle all that apply)

New Interchange at 143rd Street	Not at all	Somewhat	A great deal
New Interchange at Airport Road	Not at all	Somewhat	A great deal
Full access interchange at IL 126/Essington Rd.	Not at all	Somewhat	A great deal

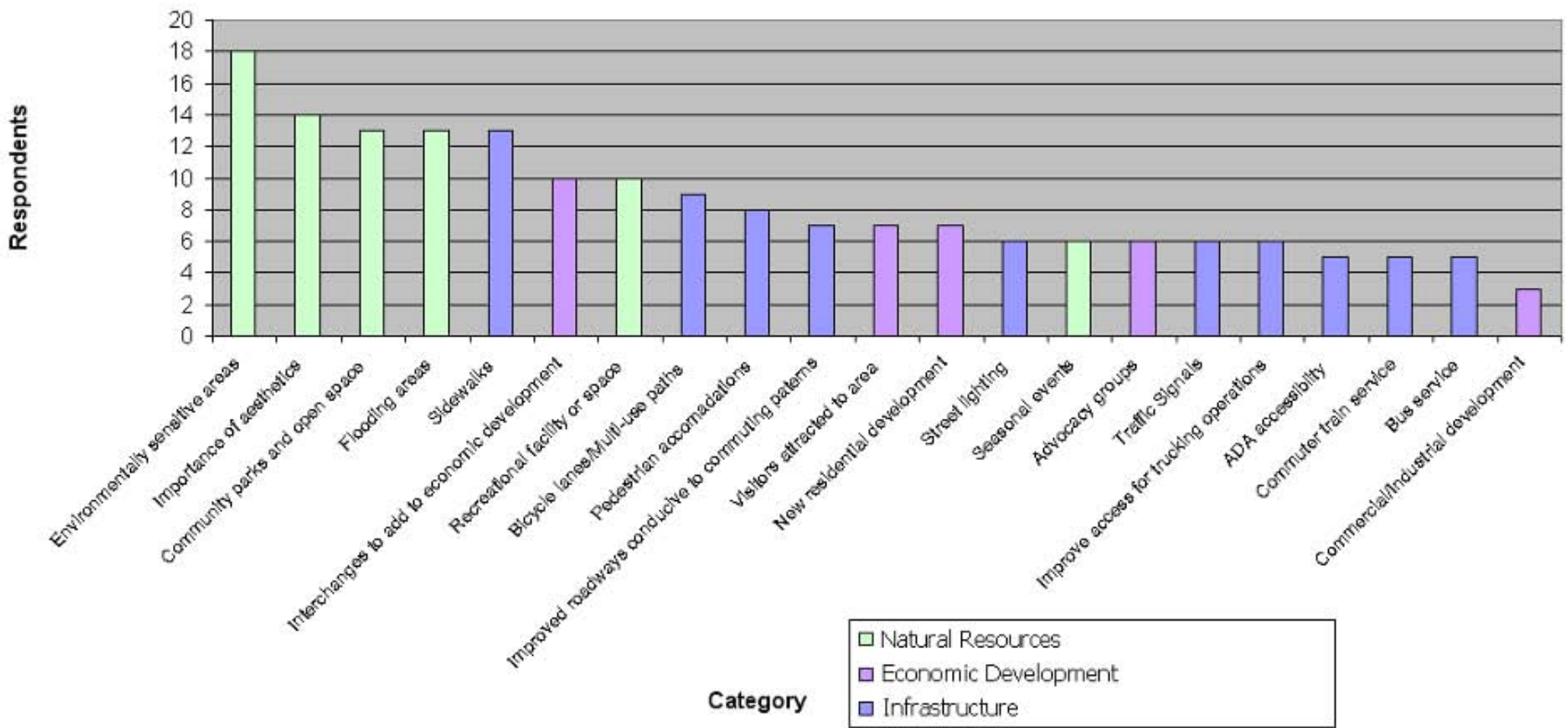
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Initial Survey Responses

No. of Respondents Rating with High Importance



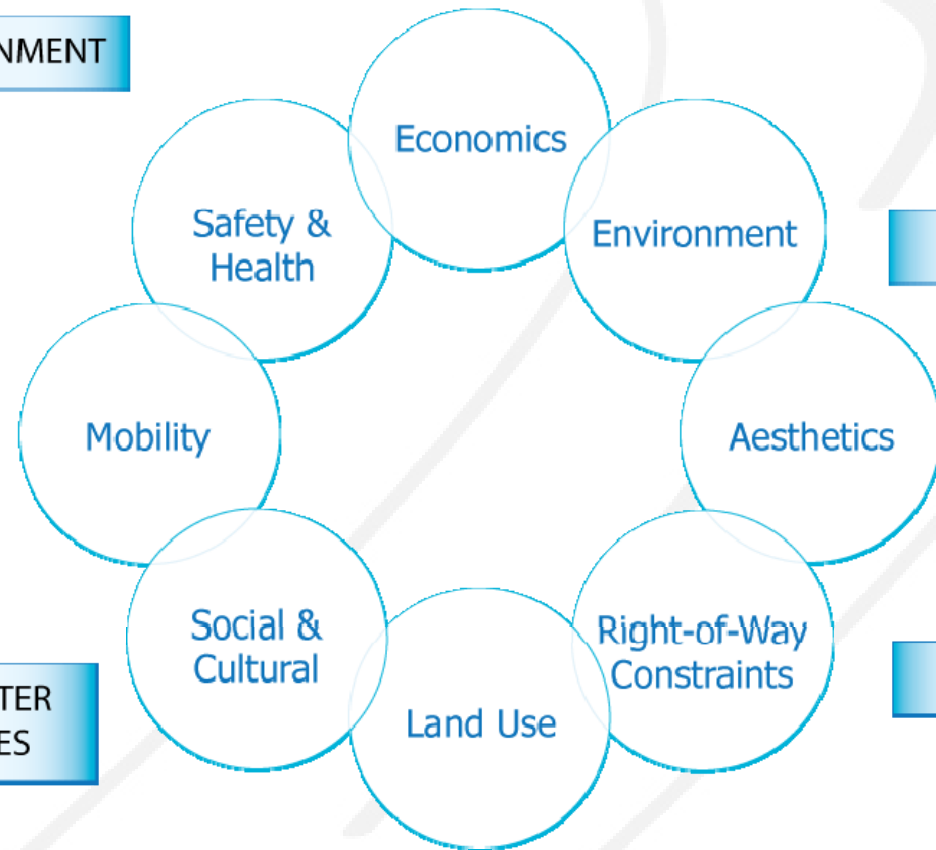


Identifying Context

Context is the interrelated condition in which something exists. It includes the environment, both natural and man-made and the character and values of the community

ENVIRONMENT

CHARACTER
& VALUES



REGIONAL

LOCAL





Local Context

Residential Areas, Forest Preserves, Parks,
Open Space, Businesses, Farmland





Regional Context

Roadway networks, Interstate Systems





Exercise #1a – small group

Is there a need for improved access to I-55 between the U.S. 30 and Weber Road interchanges?

Why or why not?





Exercise #1b – small group

If access improvements such as new interchanges are to be evaluated as part of this study, what are the community values, environmental resources and economic interests that need to be considered in this evaluation?





Exercise Results

Summarize Results





Wrap up

- Meeting Recap
- Next Steps
- Future Meeting Schedule





Thank You





Open Meeting

Open for Public Comment

