



Central Avenue at BRC Railroad Grade Separation Study CAG Meeting #4 Summary

Summary

The fourth Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for the Central Avenue at BRC Railroad Grade Separation Study was held on January 30, 2014, at the Garfield Ridge Public Library at 6348 W. Archer Avenue, Chicago IL 60638 from 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. The meeting included the following:

- PowerPoint presentation
- Copies of the CAG #4 presentation and updated Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) were passed out to CAG member to include in their binders

To announce the January 30, 2014 CAG meeting, an E-invitation and printed invitation were created (note: printed invitations were sent to those that requested them in their CAG membership forms). The invitations were sent out on January 14, 2014 to 30 CAG members. The meeting was attended by thirteen (13) CAG members (see attached Sign-In Sheet) and ten (10) project team members.

PowerPoint Presentation

The major topics of the PowerPoint presentation were:

- Recap of CAG Meeting #3
- Purpose and Need Benchmark
- Alternatives Evaluation
- Alternatives Studied Further
- Narrowing of Alternatives
- Closing Remarks/Next Steps

Questions, issues and concerns were brought up during the presentation and are summarized in the Summary of Comments section of this document.

Recap of CAG Meeting #3

The project team provided a brief recap of the topics covered in the previous CAG meeting.

Purpose and Need Benchmark

The Purpose and Need as discussed at CAG Meeting #3 was reviewed. It was noted that the Purpose and Need serves as a benchmark against which all of the alternatives must be measured. Alternatives that do not meet the Purpose and Need will be dismissed on that basis. Those that do meet the Purpose and Need will be evaluated using the criteria that are developed for the project.



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Alternatives Evaluation

The project team gave a brief summary of the Alternatives Evaluation and the metrics used to eliminate each alternative. Six (6) alternatives were eliminated based on CAG input at CAG Meeting #3 and three (3) alternatives were eliminated based on comments from the Chicago Department of Aviation (CDA). The remaining six (6) alternatives, including the No Build and two alternatives added after CAG Meeting #3 (CU3-SEE and CU5-SEE) were then carried forward to the next step of analysis.

Alternatives Studied Further

The remaining alternatives to be studied further were presented with residential and commercial displacements shown. The displacements were based on the preliminary geometry and the approximate limits of construction that would be required for each. The residential displacement parcels were shaded in pink and the commercial displacement parcels were shaded in green.

Review and Comparison of Remaining Alternatives

The project team presented the six (6) remaining alternatives and reviewed the pros and cons of each. A table comparing the differentiating impacts for each alternative was also shown. The CAG reached a general understanding that two of the remaining alternatives (CU1 and CU3) should be eliminated due to high residential and commercial impacts. In addition, these alternatives which eliminate the Central Ave at Archer Avenue intersection and the at-grade railroad crossing provide enhanced performance with respect to traffic congestion and intermodal connectivity. Additional CAG comments on the alternatives comparison are summarized in the Summary of Comments section.

Next Steps

A second public meeting will be held on March 4, 2014 from 4pm to 7pm at Mayfield Banquets to discuss the range of alternatives and obtain public input. Additionally, members of the project team will present a project update to the United Business Association of Midway on February 12, 2014.

Summary of Comments

The following is a list of comments and questions heard during the meeting:

1. One CAG member asked to see examples of underpasses through residential neighborhoods (similar to Central Avenue).

Response: The project team will post Google map links to the CAG members so they can take more time to browse through the examples shown.

- [101 Robert T Palmer Dr Elmhurst, IL 60126](#)
- [510-592 N County Farm Rd](#)



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- [890-898 N Naper Blvd Naperville, IL 60563](#)
- [18231 S Park Ave, Homewood, IL 60430](#)

2. Have any studies been conducted to avoid impacting the Shop and Save Market with the jughandle?

Response: The proposed jughandle location is the most efficient route to connect Central Avenue to Archer while maintaining a maximum of 3% grade and minimizing impacts to the surrounding area. Moving the jughandle further east or west would still impact the Shop and Save Market.

3. The business displacement criterion does not take into account the cost of displacing businesses. For instance, displacing the Shop & Save will cost more than displacing a single residence.

Response: The costs of displacements will be determined and evaluated once the alternatives are refined further. The number of displacements presented is based on preliminary geometry and is subject to refinement.

4. A representative from the CDA stated that the remaining alternatives appear to satisfy the airport parameters previously discussed with the project team.
5. One CAG member asked if traffic could be routed along 55th St. and take a side street to head north instead of grade separating Central Avenue.

Response: This scenario would not meet the Purpose and Need because it would reroute traffic into residential neighborhoods causing additional residential displacements, safety concerns and would not improve travel time for motorists.

6. Will this study result in just one alternative recommended for construction?

Response: The Environmental Assessment document will include the alternatives analysis and recommendation of a preferred alternative for design approval.

7. Is funding available for this project beyond this study?

Response: The Illinois Department of Transportation has some funds allocated for construction but no funding for Phase II engineering (contract plan preparation) or land acquisition.

8. If the No Build alternative is selected, can the extra funds that IDOT has set aside be used for other projects such as the Central-Central Underpass?



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Response: The Central-Central Underpass is a separate project. IDOT would need to assess their budget and determine funding priorities system wide.

9. Seems as though the jughandle will cause more traffic delays for motorists traveling on Central Avenue to access Archer Avenue.

Response: The existing Central Avenue and Archer Avenue intersection would require additional lanes to reduce the current delay. Adding the jughandle would create a more efficient route by improving the flow of east-west and north-south traffic. The newly created three-legged intersection will work well more efficiently than the existing 4-legged intersection, by eliminating the effects of train delays.

10. The jughandle poses ADA and pedestrian concerns for people using public transit and transferring from Central Avenue to Archer Avenue.

Response: The design for the Preferred Alternative will accommodate pedestrians and comply with ADA guidelines.

11. Will the underpass be designed to prevent flooding?

Response: The design will incorporate a pumping system independent of Midway Airport that will pump the water out of the underpass and into an underground system. The location of the storage will be determined once the Preferred Alternative is selected. Runoff will be released from the storage tanks at a rate that the existing sewers can accommodate and as approved by the Chicago Department of Water Management.

12. What is the signal timing for the Central Avenue and Archer Avenue intersection?

Response: The project team will send the requested data to the CAG member.

13. Removing businesses and residences along Central Avenue would diminish the residential feel of the neighborhood.

14. Residential displacements give people an opportunity to relocate off of a busy street and into a more residential neighborhood.

15. CU5-SEE seems to be the most clean of all the alternatives.

16. Will CU5-SEE require a detour during construction?

Response: A detour will be required but Central Avenue may remain open during a portion of the construction since the proposed alignment of Central Avenue is offset from the existing alignment.



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17. Would it be wise to design the Central Avenue underpass as a six lane road to accommodate future traffic?

Response: The project team has not reached this level of design yet, but this option can be considered.

18. When will the final decision on the Preferred Alternative be made?

Response: The preferred alternative will be determined near the end of the Phase I Study which is anticipated to be at the end of 2014.

19. If Central Avenue and Archer Avenue are grade separated, CTA bus service would most likely improve along Archer Avenue by eliminating the signalized intersection.

20. The United Business Association of Midway will host a meeting on February 12, 2014 at 8:15 am for area businesses to get a briefing on the Central BRC project by IDOT representatives.



CAG #4 ROSTER

Central Avenue at BRC Railroad Grade Separation Study

Meeting Date: January 30, 2014

#	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Email	Phone	Primary CAG Representative?		Attendance
1	Ahmed	Akheel	Chicago Transit Authority	aahmed@transitchicago.com	312-681-4180	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
2	Alonzo	Joe	City of Chicago	Joe.Alonzo@cityofchicago.org	312-744-1731	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
3	Barton	Sophia	Garfield Ridge Civic League	ssvs42@att.net	773-735-3415	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
4	Barton	Vincent	Garfield Ridge Civic League	ssvs42@att.net	773-735-3415	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
5	Brown	Mary Ellen	Midway Storage	meb6128@live.com	773-297-4975	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
6	Cacciottolo	Al	City of Chicago	alc22@sbcglobal.net	773-716-9902	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
7	Chalabian	Jack	Chicago Transit Authority	jchalabian@transitchicago.com	312-681-4176	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
8	Cummings	Anita	United Business Association of Midway	amconsultinghr@aol.com	773-771-4180	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
9	Deeman	Richard	Vittum Park Civic League	rjdeeman4906@aol.com	773-581-4623	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
10	DeLaurentis	Michael	Congressman Lipinski's Office	no email	773-524-7463	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
11	Dybala	Mary Ann	Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce	inrealtysells@yahoo.com	773-767-0014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
12	Garcia	Joe	11th Legislative District	jg@joegarcia.co	708.656.2002	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
13	Khudeira	Soliman	City of Chicago	soliman.khudeira@cityofchicago.org	3112-744-9605	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
14	Kozak	Ed	Garfield Ridge Civic League	no email	-	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
15	Lopresti	Phillip	Vittum Park Civic League	philyboomboom@hotmail.com	773-581-1287	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
16	Mahone	Duane	PACE Bus	duane.mahone@pacebus.com	847-228-2369	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
17	Maloy	Sean	Village of Bedford Park	smaloy@bedfordparkfd.org	708-563-4510	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
18	Martinez	Alice		acmartinez@cps.edu	773-542-9030 X1245	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT

Completion of this sign-in sheet is voluntary and helps the study team keep an accurate record of meeting attendance. Under the Freedom of Information Act, any identifying information provided above will become part of the public record and, as such, must be released to any individual upon request.

This meeting is going to be photographed. I give HDR, Inc., its collaborators, assigns, successors in interest, and legal representatives permission to use my picture in all forms and in all media, without restrictions as to changes or alterations for advertising, trade, promotion, exhibition or any other purpose. I also waive any right to inspect or approve the photograph(s), including written copy that may be created and appear in connection with the image(s). I understand that HDR owns the copyright in these photographs and I waive any claims I may have based on any usage of the photographs, including but not limited to claims for either invasion of privacy or libel. I agree that this release is binding on me, my legal representatives, heirs, and assigns. I have read this release and am fully familiar with its terms and contents.



#	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Email	Phone	Primary CAG Representative?		Attendance
19	Nowicki	John	Garfield Ridge Civic League	johnnowicki16@yahoo.com	312-259-6893	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
20	Ponio	Jerry	Village of Bedford Park	jponio@bedfordparkfd.org	708-563-4510	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
21	Pukala	Henry	Garfield Ridge Civic League	hpukala57@gmail.com	773-562-0071	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
22	Rod	Adam	City of Chicago	arod@ohare.com	773-894-6907	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
23	Sima	Paul		paul.sima@ymail.com	773-767-6868	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
24	Sima	Celina		celina.sima@gmail.com	773-767-6868			<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
25	Sriver	Jeff	City of Chicago	jeffrey.sriver@cityofchicago.org	312-744-7080	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
26	Techman	Richard	Garfield Ridge Civic League	garfieldridgescivicleague@yahoo.com	773-585-9094	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
27	Winter	D.		no email	-	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
28	Youkhana	Eddie	EZ Park	eddieyoukhana@gmail.com		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
29	Youkhana	Yonathan	EZ Park	yyoukhana@aol.com		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
30	Zilka	Marie	Clearing Civic League	zilka74@sbcglobal.net	773-586-4378	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
Advisors								
1	Baniewicz	Tom	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
2	Hurley	Mike	IDOT /CREATE - PMC					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
3	Kushto	Emily	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
4	Murphy	Kimberly	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
5	Norton	Beth	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
6	Olson	Bill	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
7	Peterson	Mark	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
8	Trotter	Jakita	IDOT/CREATE					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT

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#	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Email	Phone	Primary CAG Representative?	Attendance
Consultants							
	Acevedo	Antonio	CDI				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
	Dovalovsky	Stacie	CDI				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
	Gonzalez	Janet	HDR				<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
	Hochstatter	Ashley	HDR				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
	Mikottis	Steve	HDR				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
	Pechnick	Pat	HDR				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT

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