

# Central Avenue at BRC Railroad Grade Separation Study CAG Meeting #5 Summary

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## Summary

The fifth Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for the Central Avenue at BRC Railroad Grade Separation Study was held on August 7, 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 #5 presentation were passed out to CAG member to include in their binders

To announce the August 7, 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 July 18, 2014 to 30 CAG members. The meeting was attended by seven (7) CAG members (see attached Sign-In Sheet) and nine (9) project team members.

## PowerPoint Presentation

The major topics of the PowerPoint presentation were:

- Project Status
- Selection of Preferred Alternative
- Preferred Alternative Description
- Closing Remarks/Next Steps

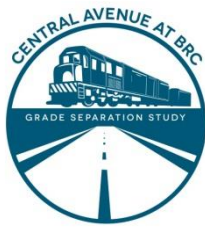
Questions, issues and concerns were brought up during the presentation and are summarized in the Summary of Comments section of this document.

## Project Status

The project team provided a brief update of the project status that included a summary of the previous CAG meeting (CAG #4) and Public Meeting #2.

## Selection of the Preferred Alternative

The project team presented the range of alternatives as shown at Public Meeting #2. The reasons for eliminating each alternative were discussed and the Preferred Alternative, a modified version of CU2-SEE, was presented. The alternatives that include depressing Central Avenue under the BRC railroad and a partially depressed intersection of Central Avenue and Archer Avenue were eliminated from further consideration (CU1, CU3). The depressed



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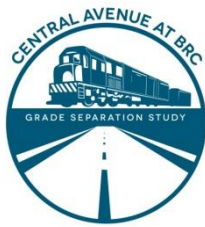
intersection would result in severed access to properties on all four quadrants of the intersection, which would displace numerous businesses, particularly along both sides of Archer Avenue. The alternative that shifts the Central Avenue alignment to the west (CU3-SEE) impacts City owned property with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) navigation equipment. The alternative that shifts the Central Avenue alignment to the east (CU5-SEE) impacts City owned property that was purchased with funding from FAA. While not strictly prohibited, acquisition of property that was purchased with FAA funds or that includes FAA navigational equipment would require extensive coordination with and review by the FAA in order to be approved. Alternatives CU3-SEE and CU5-SEE both rely on multiple curves in the horizontal alignment to make the shifts. These shifts can be done, but it is not desirable to shift the horizontal alignment while also shifting the vertical alignment down into and up out of the underpass, and passing under two bridges with a signalized intersection between them. Primarily based on the issues noted above, alternatives CU1, CU3, CU3-SEE, and CU5-SEE were eliminated from further investigation.

## **Preferred Alternative Description**

The project team presented the Preferred Alternative which is a refined version of Alternative CU2-SEE, and discussed the modifications that were made after Public Meeting #2. The project team also displayed graphics of the proposed roadway improvements and discussed the traffic operations, potential property and parking impacts, underpass drainage, construction staging and maintenance of traffic for the Preferred Alternative. There were several reasons for selecting this alternative as the preferred. Alternative CU2-SEE keeps the same horizontal alignments for Central Avenue, Archer Avenue, and the BRC railroad. By passing Central Avenue under Archer Avenue as well as under the BRC railroad, Archer Avenue remains at its current grade and minimizes impacts to adjacent businesses. This alternative utilizes the area to the west of the underpass for the relocation of utilities. One of the drawbacks of all of the alternatives that rely on a single connector ramp between Central Avenue and Archer Avenue is that the southbound to westbound movement would involve passing under Archer Avenue, traversing the connector ramp to the east up to Archer Avenue, and then backtracking west across the Archer Avenue bridge over Central Avenue. A concern was also raised that some travelers may decide to cut through the adjacent neighborhood to avoid the backtracking. This was addressed by adding a proposed ramp from southbound Central Avenue to Archer Avenue, which eliminates the backtracking and the cut-through concern. Based on coordination with the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), other refinements were made to the proposed alternative relative to pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, local access, and safety.

## **Next Steps**

The project team is currently working on the Environmental Assessment (EA) document that summarizes the full range of alternatives considered and includes a comprehensive



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environmental review of the Preferred Alternative. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approval of the EA is anticipated in late fall or early winter 2014. Following FHWA approval of the EA the project team will present the Preferred Alternative at a public hearing and seek public comments to be included in the project record.

## Summary of Comments

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

1. The benefits of the proposed improvement are questionable and seem to be out of scale with the perceived transportation problem. If the real intent is to expand Central Avenue, then the project scope should be extended all the way to I-55 to create a continuous section of roadway. This view has been conveyed from the start of the project, but it does not seem like my concerns are being heard.

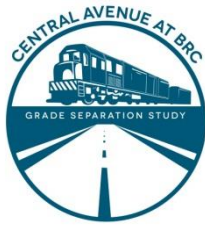
*Response: The project is being studied as a stand-alone project, but the selection of projects to implement and which projects to fund are determined from a regional perspective with input from local communities and elected officials. The purpose of this project is to address a long standing concern regarding traffic backups on Central Avenue caused by freight train crossings on the BRC railroad. This location was the subject of an earlier feasibility study and is included among a larger set of grade separation projects as part of the CREATE program.*

*In reference to the comment that concerns are not being heard, this phase of the project includes public meetings and Community Advisory Group meetings to provide an avenue for members of the community to provide input in the development of the project. Part of the project record includes comments received, responses provided, and documentation of the public involvement process. In some cases, similar comments are addressed with a single response that addresses the issues. The goal of the Department is to obtain consensus on proposed improvements before implementing them, with the understanding that some parties may not agree with the outcome, but that all concerns will be heard and considered in the process.*

2. Could the proposed green space on the southeast corner of Archer Avenue and Central Avenue be converted to parking instead?

*Response: Since off-street parking requires a local jurisdiction to maintain the lot, the project team will bring this request to the attention of the Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT) for consideration.*

3. Will there be stop signs at the intersection of Central Avenue and 52<sup>nd</sup> Street?



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*Response: There will be stop signs on 52<sup>nd</sup> Street but none on Central Avenue.*

4. Is the Walgreens on Archer Avenue going to be impacted?

*Response: The Walgreens building will not be impacted, but approximately 10 parking spaces will need to be removed or relocated.*

5. Will it be several years before construction begins?

*Response: If Phase I design approval is received by the end of 2014 and funding is secured for Phase II design, it would take a minimum of 2 years to complete Phase II design and the land acquisition process. Additionally, it would take approximately 3 to 4 years to complete construction. Currently, there is no funding identified beyond Phase I planning in the Illinois Department of Transportation's current Multi-Year Program.*





# CAG #5 ROSTER

Central Avenue at BRC Railroad Grade Separation Study

Meeting Date: August 7, 2014

#	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Email	Phone	Primary CAG Representative?		Attendance
1	Ahmed	Akheel	Chicago Transit Authority	<a href="mailto:aahmed@transitchicago.com">aahmed@transitchicago.com</a>	312-681-4180	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
2	Alonzo	Joe	City of Chicago	<a href="mailto:Joe.Alonzo@cityofchicago.org">Joe.Alonzo@cityofchicago.org</a>	312-744-1731	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
3	Barton	Sophia	Garfield Ridge Civic League	<a href="mailto:ssvs42@att.net">ssvs42@att.net</a>	773-735-3415	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
4	Barton	Vincent	Garfield Ridge Civic League	<a href="mailto:ssvs42@att.net">ssvs42@att.net</a>	773-735-3415	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
5	Brown	Mary Ellen	Midway Storage	<a href="mailto:meb6128@live.com">meb6128@live.com</a>	773-297-4975	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
6	Cacciottolo	Al	City of Chicago	<a href="mailto:alc22@sbcglobal.net">alc22@sbcglobal.net</a>	773-716-9902	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
7	Chalabian	Jack	Chicago Transit Authority	<a href="mailto:jchalabian@transitchicago.com">jchalabian@transitchicago.com</a>	312-681-4176	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
8	Cummings	Anita	United Business Association of Midway	<a href="mailto:amconsultinghr@aol.com">amconsultinghr@aol.com</a>	773-771-4180	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
9	Deeman	Richard	Vittum Park Civic League	<a href="mailto:rjdeeman4906@aol.com">rjdeeman4906@aol.com</a>	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 type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
11	Dybala	Mary Ann	Garfield Ridge Chamber of Commerce	<a href="mailto:inrealtysells@yahoo.com">inrealtysells@yahoo.com</a>	773-767-0014	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
12	Garcia	Joe	11th Legislative District	<a href="mailto:jg@joegarcia.co">jg@joegarcia.co</a>	708.656.2002	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
13	Khudeira	Soliman	City of Chicago	<a href="mailto:soliman.khudeira@cityofchicago.org">soliman.khudeira@cityofchicago.org</a>	312-744-9605	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input 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	<a href="mailto:philyboomboom@hotmail.com">philyboomboom@hotmail.com</a>	773-581-1287	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
16	Maloy	Sean	Village of Bedford Park	<a href="mailto:smaloy@bedfordparkfd.org">smaloy@bedfordparkfd.org</a>	708-563-4510	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
17	Martinez	Alice		<a href="mailto:acmartinez@cps.edu">acmartinez@cps.edu</a>	773-542-9030 X1245	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
18	Mohammed	Taqhi	PACE Bus	<a href="mailto:taqhi.mohammed@pacebus.com">taqhi.mohammed@pacebus.com</a>	(847) 228-4287	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" 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	<a href="mailto:johnnowicki16@yahoo.com">johnnowicki16@yahoo.com</a>	312-259-6893	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
20	Ponio	Jerry	Village of Bedford Park	<a href="mailto:jponio@bedfordparkfd.org">jponio@bedfordparkfd.org</a>	708-563-4510	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
21	Pukala	Henry	Garfield Ridge Civic League	<a href="mailto:hpukala57@gmail.com">hpukala57@gmail.com</a>	773-562-0071	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
22	Rod	Adam	City of Chicago	<a href="mailto:arod@ohare.com">arod@ohare.com</a>	773-894-6907	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
23	Sima	Paul		<a href="mailto:paul.sima@ymail.com">paul.sima@ymail.com</a>	773-767-6868	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
24	Sima	Celina		<a href="mailto:celina.sima@gmail.com">celina.sima@gmail.com</a>	773-767-6868	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
25	Sriver	Jeff	City of Chicago	<a href="mailto:jeffrey.sriver@cityofchicago.org">jeffrey.sriver@cityofchicago.org</a>	312-744-7080	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
26	Techman	Richard	Garfield Ridge Civic League	<a href="mailto:garfieldridgecivicleague@yahoo.com">garfieldridgecivicleague@yahoo.com</a>	773-585-9094	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input 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	<a href="mailto:eddieyoukhana@gmail.com">eddieyoukhana@gmail.com</a>		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
29	Youkhana	Yonathan	EZ Park	<a href="mailto:yyoukhana@aol.com">yyoukhana@aol.com</a>		<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
30	Zilka	Marie	Clearing Civic League	<a href="mailto:zilka74@sbcglobal.net">zilka74@sbcglobal.net</a>	773-586-4378	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
<b>Advisors</b>								
1	Schilke	Steve	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
2	Murphy	Kimberly	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
3	Norton	Beth	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
4	Olson	Bill	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
5	Peterson	Mark	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
6	Kushto	Emily	Illinois Department of Transportation					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
7	Trotter	Jakita	IDOT/CREATE					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT
8	Hurley	Mike	IDOT /CREATE - PMC					<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRESENT

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#	Last Name	First Name	Organization	Email	Phone	Primary CAG Representative?	Attendance
<b>Consultants</b>							
1	Acevedo	Antonio	CDI			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRESENT
2	Dovalovsky	Stacie	CDI			<input type="checkbox"/>	PRESENT
3	Mikottis	Steve	HDR			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRESENT
4	Pechnick	Pat	HDR			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	PRESENT

Fitzgerald	Thomas	Bizz / Coin Laundry	thomas.fitzgerald58@yahoo.com	(312) 316-6831		X
TROTTER	JAKITA	IDOT	JAKITA.TROTTER@ILLINOIS.GOV		312 793 2790	X
Kushko	Emily	IDOT	emily.kushko@illinois.gov		312-793-5376	X
maryam	dybal	Pres garfield ridge	irealty_sells@yahoo.com		312 315 5269	
Taqi	Mohammed	pacebus	taqi.mohammed@pacebus.com		847 228 4287	
MARIE	ZILKA	clearing civic league			773-586-4378	
Henny	Pukalg	CRCL	hpukalg@comcast.net			

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