



## WORKING SESSION MINUTES

MEETING SUBJECT: Elgin O'Hare Western Access Local Advisory Committee #19 RECORDER: Carla Mykytiuk

MEETING DATE & TIME: July 13, 2015 at 6:30 pm PREPARATION DATE: August 6, 2015

MEETING LOCATION: One Pierce Place, Itasca

ISSUE STATUS:  Draft for Review  Final

ATTENDEE NAME	ORGANIZATION
Manar Nashif	Illinois Tollway
Rocco Zucchero	Illinois Tollway
Kevin Donahue	Illinois Tollway
Carla Mykytiuk	CH2M HILL
Rodney Craig	Hanover Park (LAC Chair)
Nunzio Pulice	Wood Dale
Nellie Beckner	Mount Prospect
Derek Peebles	Des Plaines
Ellen Leahy	Itasca
Ron Lunt	Hamilton Partners
Scott Kegarise	Schaumburg Township
Paul DeMichele	Bensenville Chamber of Commerce
Karyn Robles	Schaumburg
Michael Zonsius	City of Chicago
James Petri	Elk Grove Village
Mariann Gullo	Gullo Properties
Shirlanne Lemm	Elk Grove Township
John Loper	DuPage County
John Yonan	Cook County
Eric Richard	Village of Franklin Park
Scott Viger	Village of Bensenville
Paul O'Connor	Hamilton Partners
Ron Krall	HR Green

The nineteenth meeting of the Elgin O'Hare–Western Access Project Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was held at One Pierce Place in Itasca at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 13, 2015. Rocco Zucchero of the Illinois Tollway, called the meeting to order for Rodney Craig. Roll call was taken with those present being:

Rodney Craig	Karyn Robles
Nunzio Pulice	Michael Zonsius
Nellie Beckner	James Petri
Derek Peebles	Mariann Gullo
Ellen Leahy	Shirlanne Lemm
Ron Lunt	John Loper
Scott Kegarise	John Yonan
Paul DeMichele	Eric Richard for John Schneider

With the required number of members present, a quorum was established; the minutes from the May meeting were unanimously approved with no discussion. There was no old business to discuss. No public comment was received.

LAC members were asked to provide feedback on local issues and provided insight into what they were hearing from members of their communities. There was no feedback on local issues. The LAC did thank Ron Lunt for hosting the July LAC meeting.

Rocco Zucchero updated the LAC on some changes in leadership at the Tollway, including Robert Schillerstrom as the new Chair of the Tollway Board and Greg Bedalov as the new Executive Director.

Lidia Pilecky began the presentation by sharing a photo of one of the two tolling gantries that were constructed in June at Roselle Road and Mitchell Boulevard. Rocco Zucchero then shared with the group that the toll to be collected at the Ketter Drive ramp had been reduced to \$0.20 based on origin and destination surveys conducted in the area, which indicated that approximately two-thirds of ramp traffic will exit at the I-290 Interchange, while one-third will continue along Illinois Route 390 to the west. Based on these travel patterns, the Tollway concluded that \$0.20 is an equitable toll charge for the Ketter Drive ramp. The reduced toll charge is estimated to result in a \$110,000 year loss of revenue. An LAC member asked if the tolls collected would be the same for trucks. Rocco Zucchero said no, that truck toll charges will be higher and similar to charges on I-355.

Rocco explained that as the usable segments of roadway are completed the Tollway will take jurisdiction and begin collecting tolls. The Tollway expects to assume jurisdiction and begin tolling along Illinois Route 390 west of I-290 in mid-2016, and to assume jurisdiction and begin tolling along Illinois Route 390 from I-290 through IL 83 at the end of 2017. Rocco also mentioned that the Tollway is still developing business rules pertaining to non I-PASS customers as well as rates for trucks.

Mayor Pulice said that people are asking why the tolls are so close together. Rocco Zucchero explained that the Tollway decided to install gantries along mainline only, rather than the typical combination mainline and ramp gantry system. The mainline-only system is equitable in that customers are charged based on the distance traveled of the tollroad, and minimizes potential traffic diversions onto adjoining local roadways. With the mainline-only system, gantries must be placed between each of the closely spaced interchanges along Illinois Route 390.

Rocco Zucchero said that with the recent installation of gantries drivers will have time to prepare for future tolling. Mayor Craig said that he is glad that the "No Tolls Taken" signs are up to minimize potential confusion.

An LAC member asked if we would be covering frontage road jurisdiction during tonight's meeting. Rocco said that coordination is still ongoing with several local agencies, but that information regarding the jurisdictional agreements will be shared at a future meeting when available.

Ron Lunt asked if the LAC could get an update on when items will be complete and drivers could start using them.

After it was determined there were no additional questions to be addressed, Lidia Pilecky began the project status update:

#### **Design and Construction Update:**

- *Design Status.* Design phase of development for the EOWA is ongoing. Design phase work includes preparation of final design plans and specifications, land acquisition, and preparation of required permits and agreements. Design is substantially complete from the west end of the Illinois Route 390 corridor to Meacham/Medinah Road, with the exception of the ongoing design of a wrap-up landscaping contract that will be let soon and wrap up the western end. Design for the easterly extension of Illinois Route 390 through Busse Road and all elements of I-90 and Elmhurst Road will be complete this summer. Design is underway for the next usable segment from Busse Road to Irving Park Road, off-system drainage improvements at Franklin Avenue, the Touhy Avenue Corridor and the Taft Avenue connector, as well as enhanced access at the I-294 and North Avenue interchange. Design of remaining portions of the Western Access corridor will be advanced in the future.
- Detailed information regarding individual construction contracts can be viewed on the Construction Contract Resources section of the Tollway's website.
- Thirty-one contracts totaling \$241.8 million have been awarded to date to provide design and construction management services.
- Twenty-nine construction contracts totaling \$560.8 million have been awarded through July, with four additional construction contracts anticipated to start in 2015. Five construction contracts are complete or substantially complete.
- *Construction Status.*

- Lidia noted that by all major construction contracts along the IL 390 corridor would be awarded. Manar Nashif described upcoming construction milestones, including: the scheduled opening of the new flyover ramp and two other ramps at the I-290 and Illinois Route 390 interchange in July, the new Rohlwing Road bridge and roadway improvements around September, and substantial completion of the widening and rehabilitation of Illinois Route 390 from Lake Street to Rohlwing Road by the end of 2015,
- Michael Zonsius asked about the total number of engineering and construction contracts. Lidia noted that design is ongoing or completed for approximately two thirds of the EOWA project. The number of construction contracts will be refined over time based on designer recommendations and Tollway contract sizing preferences.
- Manar provided information regarding construction activities including: ongoing construction near Hamilton Lakes; in August, work will begin from Lively Boulevard to Supreme Avenue, with the majority of construction located off of Thorndale Avenue; this summer, utility and bridge construction work will begin from Park Boulevard to Arlington Heights Road; the ongoing construction of the I-90 at Elmhurst Road interchange; the ongoing construction of the last noise wall section west of Roselle Road. Regarding the ongoing construction of the eastbound I-290 flyover ramp, Manar noted that while this was an IDOT awarded contract, the Tollway is managing the construction activities as part of the overall I-290 interchange construction.
- Ron Lunt asked about ongoing work at Lee Street. Manar noted that the Lee Street improvements include replacement of the Lee Street over I-90 bridge as part of the I-90 Widening and Reconstruction Project.
- Based on discussion at the May 2015 LAC meeting, a prototype of a potential maintenance facility was shared with the group. Rocco Zucchero said that approximately eight acres would be required for the EOWA maintenance facility. Based on a current prototype design, the facility would be approximately 65,000 square feet and would house equipment inside the facility, and that salt storage does not need to be dome shaped. Rocco emphasized that prompt and effective maintenance operations are a priority for the Tollway.
  - An LAC member asked if a maintenance facility could be sited on airport property. Rocco said that we've looked at about 40 sites on airport property and that each has its own issues.
  - An LAC member asked where the ideal location for the facility would be. Rocco noted that a site east of I-290 is preferred in order to provide effective maintenance operations for both the Illinois Route 390 and Western Access corridors.
  - An LAC member asked when the Tollway would decide on location. Rocco said that IDOT and the Tollway have agreed to temporarily share the IDOT Biesterfield Yard to accommodate the Tollway's near-term maintenance needs. Rocco noted that the Tollway still needs to determine a suitable permanent EOWA maintenance yard location with direct tollroad access. This permanent site is needed for the Tollway to efficiently maintain the Illinois Route 390 and the Western Access corridors.

**Business and Community Outreach:** Since the last LAC meeting, the project team has continued coordination meetings with community staff, participating in nine local coordination meetings and providing a project update at the Greater O'Hare Area Regional Business Association's membership luncheon. Rocco Zucchero mentioned that the luncheon had been well attended and that those attending asked several questions about the project while sharing some concerns.

**Off-system Improvements – Touhy Avenue:** Lidia Pilecky briefly described features of the significant improvements being constructed off-system as part of the EOWA Project, including the Touhy Avenue corridor improvements. John Yonan indicated that Cook County is leading design and construction of the Touhy Avenue improvements in collaboration with Des Plaines, Elk Grove Village, the City of Chicago, and other stakeholders.

**I-294 Access and Taft Avenue Improvements:** Lidia Pilecky next discussed features and benefits of the I-294 access improvements. The improvements include new ramps providing direct access between I-294 (to/from the south), Franklin Avenue/Green Street, and Irving Park Road via the new Taft Avenue Connector roadway. These improvements are intended to reduce congestion at the I-294 and I-290 system interchange and adjacent secondary roadways, and eliminate out of direction travel destined for the Bensenville/Franklin Park Industrial Area, CP Intermodal Facility and the O'Hare South Cargo Area. Ultimately the I-294 access improvements will provide far more direct access and significant savings in travel time. The project team shared a rendering illustrating the preliminary layout of the new local connections that will be built with the I-294 to Franklin Avenue/Green Street and Taft Avenue projects.

**Funding to Date from Others:** Lidia Pilecky briefly reviewed the updated funding amounts. Since the October 2014 LAC meeting, an additional \$1,164,241 has been identified, bringing the total to over \$112 million to date.

**Cook and DuPage County Update:** John Yonan of Cook County provided an update regarding the status of grant applications. He talked about how seven counties and the City of Chicago had worked closely together on the June TIGER grant submittal for Touhy Avenue. He thought it was one of the strongest applications for the state and thanked the CAG members for their letters of support. He suggested that they keep reminding their congressional leaders of the importance of the project and mentioned that Senator Tammy Duckworth and Representative Mike Quigley were particularly active advocates. He said that the grant would provide \$18 million of the \$70 million project costs.

John Yonan also mentioned that on June 18, a CMAQ memo indicated that improvements at I-294 and North Avenue had made the shortlist of potential CMAQ grant project awards, with an announcement regarding final CMAQ awards expected later this fall. John emphasized that strong County and municipal support for the project as a top regional priority is critical to securing grant funding.

John Loper of DuPage County thanked Cook County for all their effort on the TIGER and CMAQ grant applications. He then mentioned that all the consultants for the counties Local Technical Assistance Bike/Ped plan grant had been selected and will be contacting all of the communities from Franklin Park to Hanover Park and that the project would be complete in the next 1.5 years.

Prior to concluding the meeting, the **next steps for the LAC** were discussed briefly. The next meeting will be held on September 14, 2015 at the Elk Grove Village Hall.

Suggested topics for the September 14 meeting include:

- 2016 Construction Contracts/contract completion dates

Mayor Craig suggested that noise walls be a topic for the next meeting. However, the project team had come prepared with an appendix to the presentation that included a map of noise wall locations in the project area and information about traffic noise impacts and when noise barriers are warranted based on an earlier request from Mayor Craig. CAG member Scott Kegarise of Schaumburg Township asked what dollar figures justify the decision to build a noise wall and then, as a follow-up, what the \$30,000 allowable cost covers. The project team provided Mr. Kegarise information from the EIS for the project regarding where noise receptors were placed/tested in the project corridor; the results, and how the decisions were made regarding where noise walls would be constructed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:51 p.m. with no public comment or executive session.  
Minutes taken by: Carla Mykytiuk, CH2M for the LAC

**Action Items:** The next meeting will take place on September 14, 2015.