

#### **WORKING SESSION MINUTES**

Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project Local

MEETING SUBJECT: Advisory Committee #25 RECORDER: Carla Mykytiuk

MEETING DATE & October 17, 2016 at 6:30 pm PREPARATION DATE: October 27 2016

TIME:

MEETING LOCATION: One Pierce Place, Hamilton Lakes, Itasca

ISSUE STATUS: ☐ Draft for Review ☐ Final

ATTENDEE NAME	ORGANIZATION
Manar Nashif	Illinois Tollway
Rocco Zucchero	Illinois Tollway
Kevin Donohue	Illinois Tollway
Lidia Pilecky	CH2M HILL
Carla Mykytiuk	CH2M HILL
Pete Stukas	V3
Emily Tapia-Lopez	HNTB
Rodney Craig	Hanover Park (LAC Chair)
Nunzio Pulice	Wood Dale
Ron Lunt	Hamilton Partners
Paul DeMichele	Bensenville Chamber of Commerce
Karyn Robles	Schaumburg
John Loper	DuPage County
Ellen Leahy	Itasca
Maggie Jablonski	Elk Grove Village
Scott Viger	Village of Bensenville
Len Maniscalco	Bensenville Chamber of Commerce
Scott Viger	Bensenville
Scott Marquardt	HR Green
Erik Llewellyn	Pace
Chris Rose	Pace
Leif Anderson	Congresswoman Tammy Duckworth's Office

The twenty-fifth meeting of the Elgin O'Hare–Western Access Project Local Advisory Committee (LAC) was held at One Pierce Place in Hamilton Lakes at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, October 17, 2016. Mayor Nunzio Pulice, called the meeting to order and took roll call with those present being:

Rodney Craig Karyn Robles
Nunzio Pulice Len Maniscalco
Mark Hamilton John Loper
Paul DeMichele

Without the required number of members present, a quorum was not established; the minutes from the June and August 2016 meetings were therefore not approved and will be revisited at the next meeting. There was no old business to discuss. No public comment was received.

## Feedback on Local Issues

Construction Contract Manager, Pete Stukas, said that he had sent a thank you to area police department's for their assistance with the frontage road transition. He said this was a major issue and their help was very much appreciated. LAC Member Nunzio Pulice of Wood Dale said he had some constituents asking for lower tolls. LAC member Ron Lunt said that Hamilton Lakes would continue to

monitor travel patterns but that currently, Pierce, Park, Ketter and Arlington Heights traffic is blocking exits from the Jewel Osco building. Rocco Zucchero of the Tollway asked if Hamilton Lakes has observed any rerouting in the park. Ron Lunt said that the observed traffic backups are occurring in the evenings. Mr. Lunt also mentioned that Gallagher would be relocating to Rolling Meadows resulting in a reduction of 1200 employees. Mayor Pulice asked when Wood Dale Road would open. Pete Stukas said that all lanes are scheduled to open the week of October 24<sup>th</sup>. Ron Lunt said that Hamilton Lakes will be changing the directional signage in the park.

### **Design and Construction Status**

Lidia Pilecky/CH2M provided a summary of ongoing design activities east of IL 83. Design of the IL 390 Tollway from IL 83 to IL 19, which includes the new interchange with the Western Access Tollway (I-490) is well underway, with construction slated to begin in 2017. The design of the I-294 at IL 64 (North Avenue) interchange project being advanced with support from the Village of Northlake, City of Elmhurst and Cook County is nearly complete. The design of the Touhy Avenue project being led by Cook County will be complete in 2017, with construction beginning in earnest in 2018. The Tollway is now advancing design for the Western Access Tollway near I-294. The final project segments to be advanced for design include the remaining portions of the West Access Tollway between I-90 and I-294.

LAC member Ron Lunt asked how the Canadian Pacific Railroad (CPR) is going to affect design and construction. Rocco Zucchero said that the Tollway will continue to advance implementation of the EOWA in usable project segments as conditions allow, and is working to accelerate the ROW acquisition, design and construction schedule for the north leg of the Western Access Tollway between IL 390 and I-90. Rocco noted that the Tollway's ability to advance several segments of the EOWA requires CPR cooperation. LAC Chair Rodney Craig noted that CPR's position on the EOWA, a project of regional and national significance, is disappointing.

Ron Lunt asked about the I-90 corridor status. Rocco said that I-90 construction would be substantially complete by the end of the year, with wrap-up activities continuing into 2017. The Smart Corridor gantries would be installed and operational. Ron Lunt mentioned the tollbooth at Rosemont and asked how the smart corridor affects that. Rocco mentioned that transit will be far more viable on I-90 once the Smart Corridor infrastructure is operational.

LAC member Paul DeMichele asked if the Tollway has a Plan B. Rocco responded that there are no alternatives at this point. Mr. DeMichele asked what commitment the Tollway received from CPR in 2009. Rocco responded that CPR was among the groups that provided input to the Western Access Tollway location during the Elgin O'Hare West Bypass EIS effort. While CPR has never given a firm commitment, the selected location is the one that CPR previously indicated would work for them. Mayor Craig said that EOWA will improve regional and national commerce and that congressional action is needed. Paul DeMichele said that at one time there had been a plan to build a tunnel. Rocco Zucchero said the plan is to go under the tracks on the west end of the Bensenville Yard. Rocco summarized that CPR's current position is that the entire road should be built west of York Road.

Pete Stukas gave a brief overview of construction progress and mentioned that the I-290 flyover bridge construction is moving rapidly and may be open to traffic by the end of the year. When this happens, the remaining traffic signal will be removed. Pete said they would know the schedule for opening the flyover in the next two to three weeks. Ron Lunt asked if it would complete the entry to Park Boulevard. Pete Stukas said yes, but it would be a temporary connection. Pete pointed out that the Wood Dale Road Bridge is also almost complete.

## **Upcoming Construction**

Rocco Zucchero said that the Tollway has negotiated an agreement with the Chicago Department of Aviation. Ron Lunt asked if there has been any more discussion about a terminal development on the west side of O'Hare and about a potential timeframe. Mayor Pulice mentioned a recent press release, but said they are still trying to figure out how they will do it.

#### Elmhurst Road Diverging Diamond Interchange (DDI)

Rocco Zucchero said that the Tollway is doing everything they can to get the DDI and the new ramps open in 2016. Once the DDI is open, there will still be a lot of construction remaining to complete on Elmhurst north and south of the interchange. Traffic will be shifted onto the new diverging diamond interchange in November – with 1 direction of travel to start. Rocco Zucchero suggested everyone visit the recently completed I-88 and IL 59 DDI project, which is the first DDI in Illinois. A DDI eliminates all left hand turns. Ron Lunt asked how many sets of lights are used. Rocco said there will be two sets of lights. Mayor Craig said DDIs are smooth and extremely easy.

## **Business and Community Outreach**

Lidia Pilecky/CH2M shared the public outreach events that project staff had participated in since the last LAC meeting had been held, as well as upcoming events. She asked the LAC members to share outreach opportunities with the Tollway team.

#### Illinois Route 390 Tollway Usage

Rocco Zucchero/Tollway gave a brief update on the overall usage of the newly opened tollable segment. Rocco said that the Tollway has been monitoring traffic, via purchased cell phone data records, since before the tollway was opened to traffic. He shared a graphic that showed the travel times and speeds for the new tollway and parallel/alternate roadways. He said that there has been an 8 mph increase in speed since tolling started on IL 390. Rocco said that there were less discretionary trips on the Tollway, with less overall traffic on the road. He said that the Tollway is meeting toll revenue projections and that they are seeing commercial vehicles using the road.

Ron Lunt asked when the Ketter Drive ramp would be tolled. Rocco said that it would be tolled at the end of 2017 as part of the opening of the IL 390: IL 53 to IL 83 project segment. Mayor Pulice said he thought tolling was originally scheduled for July 2017; Rocco said that tolling was always intended to start at the end of 2017.

It was mentioned that DuPage County has done some signal timing changes. Mayor Craig said that the Mayor of Bloomindale has noticed more truck traffic on US 20. Rocco said that the Tollway is working with IDOT to monitor traffic on alternate roadways. Mayor Craig asked about truck toll rates. Ellen Leahy/Itasca asked if the night toll rate discount also applied to cars. Rocco said the night toll rate discount applies to trucks only. He pointed out that based on trucks are generally not diverting from IL 390.

### **New Illinois Tollway Website**

Rocco showed a few images of the newly revamped Tollway website which went live in September. The site is intended to be easier, customer focused and more intuitive. He said the Tollway heard concerns about paying missed tolls and tried to simplify the online process. He mentioned the option of registering rental car plates for a limited time.

Regarding the "Use Search by Plate" feature, Mayor Pulice asked if you can search anyone by plate. While any license plate can be input, the search feature only shows missed tolls but does not provide location information.

# **Cook and DuPage County Update**

John Loper/DuPage County said that County's ITEP Phase 2 application had been unsuccessful. He also said that the next round of Tiger Grant applications is scheduled for release in December. The EOWA has a few project elements that may be eligible including the Franklin Avenue/Green Street Interchange.

Ron Lunt asked about the funding status for the EOWA, in particular the \$300 million funding from non-Tollway sources. Lidia Pilecky said that about half of the funding (approximately \$150 million) has already been secured in just a couple of years through the joint efforts of county and local agencies.

#### Pace Illinois Route 390 Tollway Corridor Service Study – Status Update

Eric Llewellyn/Pace provided an update on the study. The Existing Conditions and Market Assessment is under review and will be available in advance of the next LAC meeting for review. He asked the group as they review the assessment to let Pace know if they have any comments.

Mayor Craig suggested that Pace consider meeting with the mayors along the corridor and the CDA representative. Erik said that he would follow-up on that. Mayor Pulice asked if it made sense for Pace to attend one of the Suburban O'Hare Coalition (SOC) meetings. Mayor Craig said he sends a representative to SOC, but he doesn't want the two meetings/issues to be confused.

#### **Next Steps/Next Meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for December 12, 2016, and will be dedicated to the Pace Illinois Route 390 Tollway Corridor Service Study. Maggie Jablonski volunteered Elk Grove meeting space for the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m. with no public comment or executive session. Minutes taken by: Carla Mykytiuk, CH2M for the LAC.

**Action Items:** The next meeting will be a working meeting run by Pace for the Pace Illinois Route 390 Tollway Corridor Service Study and will take place on December 12, 2016 at Elk Grove Village Hall.