



Springfield Rail Improvements Project Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting #4 Summary Thursday, May 19, 2016

Overview

The fourth meeting of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) was held at 5:30 pm on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. Sixteen participants and four members of the study team attended the hour and half-long session, which provided an opportunity to share information on project planning, design, funding and public engagement. The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Present comprehensive updates on the project's progress;
- Share information about upcoming efforts and activities; and
- Solicit advisory group members' feedback.

Kevin Seals, of Hanson Professional Services, opened the meeting with an introduction of the project team and a brief description of team members' responsibilities. He then invited meeting attendees to state their organizational affiliations. A list of meeting participants is presented below.

Advisory Group Members:

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| ■ Josh Collins | The Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce |
| ■ Gary Giacomelli | S.I.U. School of Medicine |
| ■ Pat Grady | State Representatives La Shawn Ford & Litesa Wallace's Office |
| ■ Teresa Haley | Springfield Branch NAACP |
| ■ Mitch Johnson | Memorial Medical Center |
| ■ Leroy Jordan | Randall Court Neighborhood Association |
| ■ Nathan Hoffman | Congressman Darin LaHood's Office |
| ■ Jim Langfelder | Mayor, City of Springfield |
| ■ Mark Mahoney | City of Springfield |
| ■ Rev. T. Ray Mcjunkins | Faith Coalition for the Common Good |
| ■ Joe McMenamin | Springfield City Council |
| ■ Polly Poskin | Harvard Park Neighborhood Association |
| ■ Brad Ruppert | U.S. Senator Richard Durbin's Office |
| ■ Darrell Schaver | Springfield Public Schools-District 186 |
| ■ Herman Senior | Springfield City Council |
| ■ Paul Wappel | The Horace Mann Companies |

Project Team Members:

- Jimmie Austin Hanson Professional Services Inc.
- Kevin Seals Hanson Professional Services Inc.
- Mandi Voegele Vector Communications Corp.
- Eve Blackwell-Lewis Project Ombudsman

Technical Presentation

After participant introductions, the project Ombudsman, Eve Blackwell-Lewis, presented on the land acquisition process and took questions from SAG members.

Following that, Kevin Seals – the project’s environmental and public engagement lead, and Jimmie Austin – Senior Technician – gave a presentation on the project’s technical components. Mandi Voegele – the project’s public engagement consultant, presented on the public involvement and information distribution to date.

Copies of the project’s recent City/County/IDOT agreement were provided to attendees, in addition to the latest project newsletter and a funding chart. Presentation highlights included:

- A brief review of the project’s purpose and need, benefits, and approved alternative;
- Information on funding and the project’s schedule;
- An update on Usable Segment I, Carpenter Street Underpass construction completion;
- A overview of the Carpenter Street Archaeological Site, history of the site, and the Section 106 process;
- An update on Usable Segment II, the Ash and Laurel Street Underpasses, and funding received to date;
- Discussion of Usable Segment III, the Madison and Jefferson Street Underpass;
- An overview of the public engagement program, and resource center;
- The project’s DBE construction goals, minority workforce numbers to date, and minority training program;
- Other Springfield rail projects;
- Potential bridge and fencing aesthetic treatments.

In response to the presentation, SAG members offered both questions and comments. Where appropriate, project team members provided answers and feedback. The exchanges are summarized on the following pages.

QUESTIONS DURING AND FOLLOWING PRESENTATION

Question / Comment	Team Response
POLLY POSKIN: How is it (land acquisition) going in general once you visit and talk with people?	EVE BLACKWELL-LEWIS: Most people are not happy, but we talk to them and we want them to be as happy as they can be. If they have a place they would like to move we ask them to

	let us know. Sometimes you can't tell the value of the house by the outside.
POLLY POSKIN: Are you on 10½ street, north of Laurel?	EVE BLACKWELL-LEWIS: Yes.
POLLY POSKIN: What about 11 th street?	EVE BLACKWELL-LEWIS: No, that street will not be affected. You can email or text me and I'll get back to you as soon as I can.
LEROY JORDAN: How many businesses will have to be relocated past the Journal Register?	JIMMIE AUSTIN: We don't have that number but we can get it for you tomorrow. KEVIN SEALS: There was one on Carpenter and three on Ash. As we get more defined in our design for each segment we will know exactly which properties will be affected and can move forward.
POLLY POSKIN: Is Evans Mason going or staying?	EVE BLACKWELL-LEWIS: I think they are staying. JIMMIE AUSTIN: We have talked to them. We are not sure on the final design so we're not sure how that is going to work out yet.
LEROY JORDAN: So the buildings north of 11 th might stay?	JIMMIE AUSTIN: Yes. But the final design has not been completed yet, so we might be able to buy some of the property and they won't have to relocate.
LEROY JORDAN: I recently read an article about California that they can measure the vibration of the trains. Are we going to have any of that going on? I live on Weldon and I don't know how you can measure how it will affect the home without going in to the houses.	KEVIN SEALS: We actually completed the studies with the newer tracks and there is a significant decrease in the vibrations. That work was done as part of the study. They have seismographs that they put on the ground that measures the vibration without having to go in the homes.
LEROY JORDAN: How many homes will be lost on Randall Court?	JIMMIE AUSTIN: There should not be any on Randall Court.
LEROY JORDAN: I also don't think the project is hiring enough minorities to work on the project.	KEVIN SEALS: The federal requirement for hiring minorities in Sangamon County is 4.5%. The contractors on the project have been consistently hired minorities workers to complete an average of 25% of the work.
LEROY JORDAN: We all need to get on the same page. That doesn't line up with what I've been hearing from the Faith Coalition.	KEVIN SEALS: It's the contractors' job to make sure they meet requirements. They have been working hard, and if they weren't you would see a lot less minorities out on the job site. I think they should be commended for keeping the minority percentage so high above the county's federal requirement.

<p>JOSH COLLINS: Something that is a little confusing to some folks is that the Flyover project is part of the High Speed Rail project but not part of the Springfield Rail project.</p>	<p>KEVIN SEALS: That is correct. They all kind of blend together, but you're right that is a whole separate project. The travel times for trains are a big deal. They get in trouble if they don't get where they are going on time but they have to stop and wait a lot through Springfield. Springfield is the biggest bottleneck for trains between Chicago and St. Louis.</p>
<p>DARRELL SCHAUVER: Is Usable Section Four North Grand?</p>	<p>KEVIN SEALS: We don't know yet. A lot of that depends on funding. The more money that comes in the larger the segment can be that is constructed next.</p>
<p>DARRELL SCHAUVER: Has anybody discussed what will be done with the EPA building?</p>	<p>KEVIN SEALS: We'll be going right through there. We've already talked to them and they will work with us on relocating.</p>
<p>DARRELL SCHAUVER: Is North Grand similar to what the other underpasses will look like?</p>	<p>KEVIN SEALS: Yes, all the underpasses will look like the design of Carpenter Street.</p>