

# MEETING MINUTES

## WILLOW ROAD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING (Meeting #9)

January 7, 2008

Attached are meeting minutes from the Steering Committee Team Meeting for the Willow Road Context-Sensitive Enhancement Plan held December 13, 2007 at the Village Hall in Northfield.

<b>Steering Committee Members</b>	<b><u>Absent</u></b>	<b><u>Present</u></b>
Ken Behles, Village of Winnetka	_____	<u>    X    </u>
John Birkinbine, Village of Northfield	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Peter Fischer, Village of Northfield	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Fred Gougler, Village of Northfield	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Becky Hurley, Village of Winnetka	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Mark Kurensky, Village of Winnetka	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Ian Sherman, Village of Winnetka	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Scott Turban, Village of Northfield	_____	<u>    X    </u>
 <b>Alternates</b>		
Carolyn Kurtz, Village of Winnetka	<u>    X    </u>	_____
 <b>Staff Liaisons</b>		
Stacy Sigman, Village of Northfield	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Steve Saunders, Village of Winnetka	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Doug Williams, Village of Winnetka	_____	<u>    X    </u>
 <b>Consultants</b>		
Scott Freres, The Lakota Group	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Daniel Grove, The Lakota Group	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Kevin Clark, The Lakota Group	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Jason Sauden, Christopher Burke Engineering	_____	<u>    X    </u>
 <b>Additional Participants</b>		
Richard Cates, Resident, Village of Winnetka	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Jeffery Liss, Resident, Village of Winnetka	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Ervin Hobson, Resident, Village of Northfield	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Larry Horist, Thomas & Joyce, Inc.	_____	<u>    X    </u>
Xiong Her, Thomas & Joyce, Inc.	_____	<u>    X    </u>

### **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

- Lakota distributed meeting minutes for Steering Committee meeting #8. Ken Behles motioned to adopt, Peter Fischer seconded the motion. Vote was taken and motion passed.

### **REVIEW/DISCUSSION OF WORKSHOP #3**

- John Birkinbine commented on some of the e-mailed comments. He indicated that they appeared to put travel times to the airport and shopping in front of safety and that he hoped that these sentiments were atypical.
- Ian Sherman mentioned that several people mentioned preference for four lanes, and that the Workshop notes don't seem to reflect this or minority discussions at the tables.

### **FORMULATING COMMITTEE CONCLUSIONS**

- Fred Gougler indicated he would like to spend the appropriate amount of time on the summary report to accurately represent the process.
- The Committee discussed timeline and ability to extend it to accommodate additional review and discussion.
- Stacy Sigman indicated that IDOT wanted to resurface the road in spring and did not want to have roadwork influence the public process.
- Peter Fischer commented that he didn't think that the e-mails should be attached to the report, but only summarized, so that any one person's voice does not receive specific attention.
- Ken Behles agreed with idea that Committee needs time with the draft report to review, study, and discuss it.
- Becky Hurley suggested that the Committee go through the same process that the public did in Workshop #3 to evaluate the Corridor and recommend a plan direction. John Birkinbine supported Becky's suggestion.
- Peter Fischer raised the issue of alternate plans and suggested that while the Committee may review and discuss alternates, that only one plan be sent forward to the Boards. Ken Behles supported this approach.
- The Committee discussed if there was an issue on having the process take longer to accommodate the Committee discussion and review. The Committee agreed that additional time was needed, and should not negatively affect the Board reviews or other issues.
- Scott Freres suggested drafting a process summary letter to be sent to the Village Presidents and the State Senator. The Committee agreed and directed The Lakota Group to draft the letter.
- Doug Williams acknowledged that the Steering Committee was requesting additional services from the consultants beyond the initial work scope, and requested a summary of additional services and an estimate of hours and cost.
- Fred Gougler requested that the notes from the Workshops be reorganized and reviewed to capture the distinct issues and elements raised throughout the process.
- Scott Freres suggested that the Committee review each segment of road at a time. Peter Fischer suggested the Committee move from East to West and to start in Winnetka. Ken Behles agreed that this would give the Committee a chance to

establish a process and flow while discussing the less controversial portions of the Corridor. Doug Williams indicated that Winnetka would appreciate this approach because it would help with Winnetka's timing as it related to their planning of Willow Road.

- Fred Gougler requested that engineering be brought into the discussion, through review of accident history and engineering studies from the 1999 plan. Mark Kurensky recommended the Committee focus mostly on character and keep engineering to a minimum. Scott Freres suggested that enough engineering information be brought in to make planning level decisions.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- The Committee discussed dates for meetings. Ian Sherman suggested evenings because it is difficult for some Committee members to attend multiple morning meetings. Stacy Sigman indicated she would have Northfield staff send out multiple possible meeting dates and times and coordinate the dates.
- Stacy Sigman and Doug Williams indicated that the Boards would need one week to review the draft report before they meet. The target Board meetings would be in March, depending on the timing of Spring Break.
- Peter Fischer asked that Lakota start drafting the first section of the report covering the Context Sensitive Solutions/public input process, so the Committee can start reviewing.

### **NEW ITEMS/COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

- No new items.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Richard Cates of Winnetka commented that particular e-mails that John Birkinbine commented on at the beginning of the meeting were vocalizing a perceived need for increased volume on the Corridor. Mr. Cates indicated that the Context Sensitive Solutions process does not mean that engineering does not need to be addressed or addressed last. He stated that he believes that the lack of engineering data in this process is a weakness. He also commented that the participants at the workshops were mostly from Northfield, and that he believes that skews the results and the Workshop #3 summary overshadows individual's comments. He suggested that the Committee consider other forms of input and not just what the majority at the Workshop supported.
- Larry Horist of Chicago indicated that he believes the Workshop #3 summary memo does not reflect the discussions that occurred on safety, costs, and need for analysis of the gains in time generated by additional lanes.
- Jeffery Liss of Winnetka discussed the trade-offs of improvements. Mr. Liss indicated that he believes the Committee needs to understand the improvements affects on safety, capacity, and flow, so that they understand if improving flow also improves the driving conditions of the road, or does capacity also need to be improved. He also recommended that in the report, the Committee should weigh the pros and cons of potential improvements, and indicate their desired goal or affect each improvement is intended to have. Mr. Liss also requested that the

Committee include the sequence and priority of improvements in the report, including which are “wish list” items.

- Committee chair Becky Hurley called Larry Horist back to the podium and asked what his role or involvement with the process was. Mr. Horist indicated he was a representative for Northfield on traffic and community character related issues. He was asked where he lived, and he indicated the City of Chicago.