

Meeting Summary

IMPROVE I-70 ADVISORY GROUP

13th Meeting

Columbia Activity and Recreation Center
1701 W. Ash Street
Columbia, Missouri

May 4, 2005

This is a summary of the key informational and action items from the final meeting of the Improve I-70 Advisory Group.

GENERAL

Members Present: Bernie Andrews, Jeff Barrow, Bob Bechtold, Elaine Blodgett, Skip Elkin, Dave Griggs, Chris Janku, David Mink, Larry Moore, Tom Moran, Justin Perry, Keith Schnarre, Ed Siegmund, Pat Smith, Lorah Steiner and Bob Walters.

Dennis Donald and John Huyler of The Osprey Group facilitated the meeting.

Materials Available at the Meeting

In addition to the agenda, materials, available for discussion at the meeting included:

- A handout listing all the public outreach events that have occurred during the preparation of the Draft EIS for I-70 in the Columbia area.

Meeting Goals

1) Hear about recent activities; 2) Hear from the MoDOT Director about statewide transportation priorities; 3) See the final visualization of I-70 through Columbia; 4) Gain an understanding of input received and the impact on the Draft EIS; 5) Identify next steps in the planning and implementation process.

Preliminary Items

Dennis Donald opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, noting that this would be the Advisory Group's last meeting and reviewing the proposed agenda.

Bob Brendel provided information about the public hearing that took place on February 23, 2005. He also passed out a one-page handout that detailed the 32 public events that have taken place to provide information and solicit public input as the Draft EIS was developed. Since September 2002, and not counting this evening's meeting or CATSO coordination, a total of 1408 people have met to discuss the EIS during the 32 different events.

Bob thanked the Advisory Group particularly for their hard work and timely input that had helped a proposal of this magnitude to proceed with a minimum of public controversy.

ADVISORY GROUP DISCUSSION

The discussion portion of the meeting began with Michelle Graham, of HNTB, showing the “I-70 Central Columbia Visualization” that had been prepared to run continuously at the public hearing. This animation consists of a “fly-over” of the preferred alternative and the ability to simulate circling around the major intersections.

After the visualization the Director of the MoDOT, Mr. Pete Rahn, was invited to address the Group. He also thanked everyone for their work over almost 3 years and spoke about the current big picture in transportation in Missouri. This included his observation that Missouri ranks 43rd in the country in highway revenue per mile.

In answer to a question, Mr. Rahn explained that the current estimate of funding needed to improve I-70 across the state is \$3.1 billion. Several Group members complimented the entire Advisory Group process. Kathy Harvey and Bob Brendel were both mentioned for their particular responsiveness and effectiveness in dealing with the Advisory Group and other Columbia groups and individuals.

The next portion of the agenda involved an overview of comments received in response to the Draft EIS. Buddy Desai of CH2MHill, stated that a total of 12 public comments had been received during the comment period and noted that it is unusual to receive so few comments on an EIS of this magnitude. He cited the issues that had been raised, none of which will require any substantive alteration in the EIS. He noted that the Final EIS will be a shorter document than the Draft.

Mr. Desai then described the schedule and next steps. He expects the Final EIS to be available by the end of June.

On the topic of Implementation, Ms. Kathy Harvey of MoDOT highlighted the approach the Department will use to approach this large project and major financial investment. She noted that the Department is placing an emphasis on practical design and planning and there are ways to reduce the overall project cost for improving I-70 across Missouri. She also clarified that priority areas along I-70 will likely receive funding for construction long before the entire project is complete.

At the end of the meeting Advisory Group members were given the chance to provide closing comments. Many expressed their gratitude for the open and responsive manner in which MoDOT and the consulting team had worked with the Group over its 13 meetings.

The meeting was adjourned with Dennis Donald and John Huyler thanking the Group and committing to provide a meeting summary to the Osprey Group email list as usual.

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4:00-6:00 p.m.
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- 4:00 Convene Meeting**
The Osprey Group
- 4:05 Updates**
Bob Brendel, MoDOT
- 4:15 Remarks from MoDOT Director**
Pete Rahn, MoDOT
- 4:45 I-70 Central Columbia Visualization**
Michelle Graham, HNTB
- 5:00 Comments Received in Response to the Draft EIS**
Buddy Desai, CH2MHill
- 5:15 Schedule and Next Steps for the EIS and Final Decision**
Buddy Desai, CH2MHill
- 5:25 Implementation**
Kathy Harvey, MoDOT
- 5:45 Closing Comments**
Advisory Group
- 6:00 Adjourn**

