



August 24, 2010

Mr. Jarrod Cebulski
Project Manager
Patrick Engineering
4970 Varsity Drive
Lisle, IL 60532

Re: Washington Street Thoroughfare Phase I Study
Second Public Meeting– 8/12/10, 5:00-7:00 P.M.
Prairie View School - Hainesville, IL

Dear Mr. Cebulski,

In reviewing the comments received at the second public meeting regarding the Washington Street Phase I Study from Hainesville Road to Lake Street, a number of key issues were identified as important to the residents and commuters that live near or make use of Washington Street in the target area of study. Their comments are summarized in this letter.

Feedback was quite positive related to the improvement. Many residents who attended the first public meeting and have subsequently participated in the ongoing Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings hosted by the Lake County DOT were appreciative of some of the changes made to the plan since the previous public meeting held in February 2009.

- **Positive response to the addition of a 6' sidewalk along the north side of Washington Street.** Residents had previously commented that crossing Washington Street from the north to the south in its current two-lane configuration was dangerous. The addition of this sidewalk would provide linear connectivity to signalized and controlled crossings at Hainesville Road, Lowlands Drive, and Lake Street.
- **Improved access to the Metra station.** A number of residents were in favor of aligning Lowlands Drive with Haryan Way and adding a signalized crossing, pending future development. This would improve access to the Haryan Farms subdivision to the south and would provide a safer crossing for pedestrians.
- **Wetland and natural features preservation.** During previous CAG meetings, residents identified the area south of Washington Street adjacent to Highland Lake was a very sensitive area to which residents had worked previously with Lake County DOT to construct. This area is a spawning area for fish and the high-quality wetlands in the area provide aesthetic appeal. Residents were happy that this area was remaining preserved.
- **The underpass will help alleviate traffic backups.** Commuters along the corridor indicated that waiting for trains every day during morning and evening rush caused significant delays and safety concerns. Many were happy to see this proposed plan moving forward.

- **No major land acquisitions for detention.** Residents were happy to see the plan was to expand existing detention facilities rather than obtain a large portion of currently developed land in order to provide stormwater detention.

While most residents were happy to see the widening and associated sidewalk improvements, a number of individual homeowners expressed concern over a few key items:

- **Property loss.** Many of the residents feared losing large, mature trees and ornamental stone fences according to the proposed Right-of-Way exhibits shown at the meeting. Individual homeowners wanted to be sure that any land acquisition negotiations took into account the privacy trees and fences which are highly valued.
- **Noise.** Residents are concerned that going to a full five-lane cross-section will cause the noise level to rise. They feel it is already bad in the current state and wanted to see how the noise study and selected receptors would affect their homes as none of that information was available at the meeting. Those losing trees want them to be replanted and their fences relocated.
- **The current level of service provided is not as bad as similar east-west routes.** Some existing homeowners do not find traffic to be as big of an issue as in other parts of Lake County and feel that any potential funding for this project would be better served in other areas the County, namely the Route 120 Bypass.
- **Construction impacts.** Residents are concerned about their lives being disrupted while the project is under construction. A common concern was that of construction and worker vehicles parking on their quiet side streets. Residents do not want construction workers infringing on their privacy along side streets while Washington Street is under construction. Residents in the Highland Lake and Deerpoint Sanctuary and Deerpoint Settlement neighborhoods feel that commuters will cut through their subdivisions to avoid construction traffic while the road is being built. Enforcement preventing this cut through traffic is important.

Miscellaneous Comments

- **Temporary railroad location.** Moving the railroad—even in a temporary state—closer to homes in the Haryan Farms subdivision may come as a shock to those who have not participated in this public information process and should be contacted individually.
- **More contact with residents.** Some of the residents were unaware of the formation of the CAG or the website. As the project moves forward more effort should be given to letting residents know about the project. Possibilities such as posting some signs with the

website address along the corridor to let people know where to find information would be beneficial.

A log of all attendees at the meetings as well as a log of all comment forms has been prepared for your reference. It is important to note that not every resident who voiced a concern or expressed optimism about the project filled out a Public Comment sheet, as many of the people prefer to submit their comments electronically through e-mail or through the project website and stated as such during the meeting. This letter serves as a summary of the Public Comments received at the initial public meeting and may only be a sampling of future concerns.

Sincerely,

BOLLINGER, LACH & ASSOCIATES, INC.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Flower', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Cynthia R. Flower, P.E.
Project Manager