



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Planning Division

m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Urbana Plan Commission
FROM: Robert Myers, AICP
DATE: January 12, 2007
SUBJECT: IL 130/High Cross Road Corridor Draft Plan

Introduction & Background

In 2003, the City of Urbana received an Illinois Tomorrow grant from the Illinois Department of Transportation to prepare a Corridor Plan for the Route 130 Corridor. The primary goal of the study was to promote logical development that considers interconnectivity of land uses and transportation networks for the City of Urbana, its rural surroundings, and the urbanized area.

This Corridor Plan was prepared by staff of the Champaign County Regional Planning Commission under the direction of the City of Urbana (lead agency) and other participating agencies, including Champaign County, Somer Township, Urbana Township, and the University of Illinois. The Corridor Plan was timed so as to accommodate completion of the City's 2005 Comprehensive Plan. Over the three years of its preparation, the Corridor Plan pursued an extensive public involvement process that was used to inform the Preferred Scenario for transportation improvements in the study area.

A Draft of this Plan has now been completed and is within a public review period. The Urbana Plan Commission and City Council are asked to review the Draft Corridor Plan to offer any comments during this period.

The Corridor Plan is a lengthy document, and includes several hundred pages which document the public involvement process and the transportation modeling effort. Plan Commissioners and Councilmembers are provided with an electronic version of the Plan in CD format, unless a paper copy has been requested. Copies of the Plan may be downloaded from:

<http://www.ccrpc.org/planning/transportation/130/draftreview.php>

Or purchased directly from the Regional Planning Commission at 328-3313 according to the instructions at this website.

Additional background material on the Plan and on the public involvement process is also available at the website noted above.

Discussion

The IL 130/High Cross Road Corridor is defined by Oaks Road on the north and Old Church Road on the south. The Plan has focused on transportation and land use issues throughout the diverse corridor. Proposed recommendations include new road construction, widening existing roads, bicycle path construction, traffic signal installation and modernization, and urban design of anticipated development.

Goals for the study area included the following (see page 2-3):

- Improve mobility
- Improve safety
- Improve accessibility
- Preserve the environment
- Serve residential communities
- Serve planned regional commercial centers

Figure 2-1 of the Corridor Plan presents the Preferred Alternative Transportation Projects that emerged from the traffic modeling and public involvement process. This exhibit shows roadway improvements proposed without any new lanes for Route 130 north of Interstate 74 and that additional lanes are proposed south of Interstate 74. Bicycle and pedestrian improvements are shown as a network of paths feeding into and along Route 130 south of the Interstate. Bridge improvement projects are also shown at two locations north of the interstate. The Preferred Alternative recognizes the differing land use goals for the Route 130 corridor north and south of the Interstate and accommodates an emphasis on enhanced mobility for all forms of travel. This Alternative is also fully reflective of the goals and land uses shown in the 2005 Comprehensive Plan.

Throughout the planning process, CCRPC has received a variety of input from the general public, other public agencies, Plan Commissioners, City Council members, and City staff.

The following offers a summary of the Plan's public input process.

March 2004: Kick-Off Open House

This meeting was a chance for the public to meet staff and learn about the existing transportation and land use conditions in the study area.

September 2004: Question and Answer Session

The public was invited to ask questions of public agencies (i.e. City of Urbana, CU-

MTD, CCRPC, etc.) regarding the intent and scope of the corridor study.

Year 2005: Hiatus

The Plan was put on hiatus while work was completed on the 2005 Urbana Comprehensive Plan.

February 2006: Public Workshop

Using a “strings and ribbons” interactive activity, participants indicated which potential projects they desired to see completed in the corridor.

April 2006: Business and Developer Focus Group

Using the same format as the February workshop, business owners and developers in the corridor identified preferred projects.

June 2006: Public Workshop

Based on the results of the previous public workshops, participants voted on a preferred scenario out of four possibilities

October 2006: Public Workshop

Public input was collected regarding the preferred alternative, and participants identified design preferences for the corridor.

December 2006: Public Open House

The draft Plan was available for viewing at the Urbana Free Library, with staff available to answer questions.

For more detailed information on the background of the Plan, please refer to the introductory chapters of the draft document and to the information posted on the website. CCRPC staff will conduct a presentation on the Plan for the Plan Commission at the January 18th meeting. A handout of the presentation will be available at the meeting.

Action Requested

Staff is asking that the Plan Commission review and provide input for CCRPC staff on the IL 130/High Cross Road Draft Corridor Plan. A final version of the Plan will be presented to the Plan Commission and City Council in early 2007 for formal City acceptance.

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Enclosure: Exhibit A: IL 130/High Cross Road Corridor Plan DRAFT (CD)

Figure 2-1: Preferred Alternative Transportation Projects

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS ONLY; NO NEW LANES PROPOSED

BRIDGE PROJECTS

BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN PATHS

ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS WITH ADDITIONAL LANES PROPOSED

Traffic signals are planned for IL 130 at Washington Street and at Florida Avenue

- Olympian Drive
Termini: US45 to Cottonwood
Configuration: 2 lane with shoulders
- High Cross Road
Termini: Olympian to University (US150)
Configuration: 2 lane with shoulders
- Airport Road
Termini: US45 to IL130
Configuration: 2 or 3 lane as warranted
- Saline Ditch at High Cross Road
Configuration: widen to 2 full lanes
- Saline Ditch at Cottonwood Road
Configuration: widen to 2 full lanes
- Along US150
Termini: Smith Road to Cottonwood
- Along Washington (bicycle lanes)
Termini: Lierman Road to IL130
- Along Florida
Termini: existing path to IL130
- Along IL130
Termini: University to Windsor
- University (US150)
Termini: IL130 to Cottonwood
Configuration: 4 lane
- Washington Street
Termini: Dodson to Cottonwood
Configuration: 3 lane
- New road
Termini: Washington to University
Configuration: 2 lane
- Florida Avenue
Termini: Aberdeen to IL130
Configuration: 3 lane
- IL130
Termini: University to Curtis
Configuration: 4 lane with median

