

4.0 Comments and Coordination

A detailed public involvement plan was created and submitted in April, 2005 for this project. The plan defined when to engage stakeholders and what tools are planned to encourage involvement. This plan involves stakeholder, public involvement meetings, newsletters, an updated website, and a mobile display.

4.1 Implementation Committee

A stakeholder group, call the Implementation Committee, was established for the project. The committee is comprised of representatives from the community groups, public and private organizations, businesses, and local government officials. The purpose of this group is to provide input on the project for the duration of the process. Continuing stakeholder meetings are held as a part of the project's progress. A list of stakeholders is found in Table 4-1.



Figure 4-1: Implementation Committee Meeting

Table 4-1: Implementation Committee

Name	Title	Representing
William Brayshaw, P.E., P.S.	Hamilton County Engineer	Hamilton County Engineer's Office
Tim Gilday, P.E., P.S.	Planning & Design Engineer	Hamilton County Engineer's Office
Joe Vogel, P.E.	Principal Engineer	City of Cincinnati Transportation
Martha Kelly, P.E.	Principal Engineer	City of Cincinnati Transportation
Douglas Heesten	VP for Institutional Advancement	Cincinnati State
Michael H. Setzer	CEO & General Manager	SORTA
Tim Reynolds		SORTA
Steve Schuckman		City of Cincinnati Parks
Nancy Ellwood	Executive Director	Mill Creek Conservancy District
Dale McGirr	Sr. VP for Planning, Finance and Community Development	University of Cincinnati
Greg Vehr	VP for Government Relations and University Communications	University of Cincinnati
Kathy Schwab		Cincinnati Zoo (Uptown Consortium)
Lou Jannazo	Chief, Project Development	Ohio Rail Development Comm.
Donald Damron, AICP	State Rail Planner	Ohio Rail Development Comm.
Joe Gorman		Camp Washington
Mayor Richard Ellison	Village Mayor	Village of Elmwood Place
Gerry Wiedmann	Director of Development	City of St. Bernard
Joe Kempe	Director of Service	City of St. Bernard
Mayor John Estep	City Mayor	City of St. Bernard
Tim Hill	Office of Environmental Services	ODOT Central Office
Larry Hoffman	Office of Environmental Services	ODOT Central Office
James Young	Office of Roadway Engineering	ODOT Central Office
Mark Locker, AICP	Office of Urban & Corridor Planning	ODOT Central Office
Stefan Spinosa, P.E.	Technical Services Engineer	ODOT District 8
Diana Martin	Planning Administrator	ODOT District 8
Mark Clark	Planning Department	ODOT District 8
Rex Dickey	Production Administrator	ODOT District 8
Jay Hamilton	Planning & Programs	ODOT District 8
Hans Jindal	Planning & Environmental	ODOT District 8
Tom Arnold		ODOT District 8
Brandon Collett		ODOT District 8
Mark Vonder Embse	Urban Programs Engineer	FHWA
Andy Johns, AICP		OKI Regional Council
Bob Koehler, P.E.		OKI Regional Council
Bob Sala		Northside Business Association



The stakeholder group was contacted for all implementation committee meetings throughout the project's progress.

Meeting 1: A kickoff meeting for the implementation committee was held on November 29, 2004 at the ODOT District 8 office. The purpose of this meeting was to introduce the committee to the project and each other. As well as explaining the role of the committee. The study area, relationship to other projects, public involvement plan, and the study process and schedule were explained. Comments and concerns about the project from the implementation committee were noted by the study team.

Meeting 2: This meeting was held on January 24, 2005 at the St. Bernard municipal building. Susan Swartz did a presentation on the purpose and need of the project. Following the presentation attendees were asked to point out any concerns or points of interest for the project on project area maps, these ideas and suggestions were then summarized at the end of this exercise. The group worked towards and succeeded in creating a problem statement for the project.

Meeting 3: The third meeting for the Mill Creek Expressway project was held on March 14, 2005. At this meeting an update on the Project Development Process (PDP) was given to the group. The group was informed that goals were established and the traffic and accident analyses were complete with existing plans reviewed, putting the project in Step 3 of the PDP process. The group was also updated on documents in the process. The Purpose and Need document had been submitted revised and resubmitted, and the Existing and Future Conditions report was in its initial submission. VISSIM models were discussed and shown at the meeting and conceptual alternatives for the project were discussed.

Meeting 4: A fourth meeting was held on June 6, 2005. This meeting included a discussion on alternatives and receiving comments from the implementation committee.

Meeting 5: This meeting was held on November 14, 2005. An update on the status of Step 5 studies including engineering, environmental, park coordination, etc. was given to the group. The alternatives developed for Step 5 were shown to the group to get their thoughts on them along with the exhibit format and comparisons to help prepare for the public meeting in January, 2006.

Meeting 6: A sixth meeting to discuss the January public involvement meeting and outcome thereof was held on April 24, 2006. A comment summary was discussed. A recap of the schedule and progress of the project was discussed and Step 6 of the PDP process was outlined for the group. Also an update on when the next mobile display was given.

Meeting 7: A seventh meeting was held on August 21, 2006, to display the feasible alternatives presented in this document. At this meeting, the project team also provided an introduction to the Aesthetic Committee process that will occur in early 2007.

All materials from the stakeholder meetings including sign-in sheets, invitations, handouts, and minutes are found in Appendix E.

4.2 Public Mailings and Notifications

A mailing list developed for this project to contact property owners with property within and near the study area of the project. The database includes 2827 property owners and is updated throughout the process with the names and contact information from meeting attendance sheets and submitted comment forms. The database is used to keep those property owners up-to-date on the latest project progress, as well as informing them on necessary environmental studies that include their properties, and upcoming public meetings.

Newsletter April, 2005 The introductory newsletter sent out gives basic background information on the project, the purpose of the project, and study area. It also included website information, project team contact information, implementation committee and future challenges information, as well as project schedule.

Newsletter May, 2005 This second newsletter gave a more in-depth description of the purpose and need for the project. A detailed description of the study area is also included in this installation.

Newsletter July 2005 The third issue of the newsletter gave insight to the conceptual alternatives developed by the study team and pre-recommended for further work. This issue included graphics showing each of the various alternatives with brief descriptions of each.

Newsletter December 2005 This fourth installation of the newsletter gave public involvement meeting information for the January 11 and 12 meetings held in two locations for convenience along with directions to each of the meeting locations. This newsletter also gave some insight on what type of alternatives were on display at the meetings and what is expected in the future of the project and where on the project schedule the current progress is at. The newsletter also gave ways to access information on related projects.