



SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS REPORTS

Prior to submission of the CAS, five reports regarding the I-75 Mill Creek Expressway project have been completed. The Public Involvement Plan was submitted April 2005, the Draft Purpose and Need report was submitted April 22, 2005, the Red Flag Summary was submitted April 27, 2005, the Existing and Future Conditions report was submitted May 2, 2005, and the Planning Study report was submitted June 10, 2005. Each of these documents provided the foundation for the creation and determination of the project's conceptual alternatives. These are provided on CD in Appendix 7. A brief summary of each report follows.

Public Involvement Plan

Objectives. The goal of the I-75 Mill Creek Expressway Public Involvement Plan (PIP) is to maintain the positive local success of the NSTI with active participation from stakeholders and the general public. Public involvement during a transportation planning study serves two basic purposes; it is necessary to disseminate information and to solicit input. It is important that the components of the Public Involvement Plan address both objectives. The Public Involvement Plan for the I-75 Mill Creek Expressway project was designed to:

- Solicit public input to identify problems and establish project objectives
- Provide the public with information on the progress of the study
- Provide information on the potential impacts and benefits of each alternative under consideration
- Solicit input for a preferred alternative

In order to achieve these goals, the Project Team proposes to use several methods during various stages of the PDP. Each method is described in detail below.

Implementation Committee. The Implementation Committee was formed in November, 2004, to utilize a technical and policy group of individuals who will represent the public and interested local agencies in the dissemination and collection of meaningful information, perspectives, alternatives, and general public issues. The meetings have been held periodically in conjunction with "milestone events" such as decisions and phase transitions.



To date, the following meetings have been held:

Implementation Committee Meetings		
Meeting Date	Milestone Event	Location
November 29, 2004	Project Kickoff	ODOT District 8
January 24, 2005	Purpose & Need Discussion	City of St. Bernard
March 14, 2005	P&N Submission and Existing & Future Conditions Discussion	City of St. Bernard
June 6, 2005	Planning Study Discussion	City of St. Bernard
November 14, 2005	Conceptual Alternatives Discussion	City of St. Bernard

The Implementation Committee includes personnel from ODOT Central Office, ODOT District 8, FHWA, Hamilton County Engineer's Office, City of Cincinnati, City of St. Bernard, Village of Elmwood Place, SORTA, OKI, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati State Technical College, Mill Creek Conservancy District, and Uptown Consortium. Other interested parties have been added to the committee including all neighborhood groups located within the project area. Additional groups may be added to the committee, if necessary, to ensure that all viewpoints have been represented. ODOT and TranSystems collaborate on the agenda for each meeting, notifying committee members of meeting dates and preparing meeting materials and exhibits.

In addition to the regularly scheduled Implementation Committee meetings, the Project Team has met individually with interested parties to discuss the status of the project and to answer any questions or concerns. The meetings are listed below:

Community/Organization Meetings	
Meeting Date	Location
February 18, 2005	Ohio Rail Development Commission
March 24, 2005	City of Cincinnati Transportation Department
June 6, 2005	City of St. Bernard
August 29, 2005	SORTA
August 29, 2005	City of Cincinnati Parks Department
October 13, 2005	Village of Elmwood Place
October 20, 2005	City of Cincinnati Transportation Department
January 12, 2006	City of Cincinnati Transportation Department

Public Meetings. Public meetings were held on January 11 and 12, 2006, to present the Conceptual Alternatives from Step 5. This meetings were conducted in an open-house format at the Este Conference Center near the Village of Elmwood Place (January 11th) and at the St. Bernard City Hall (January 12th).



Following the public meeting, there was a two-week period for the public to submit comments on provided sheets or through the project website. Between the two meetings, there were over 200 attendees and over 60 comments were received (approximately 30 written and 30 verbal). A summary of the results of the public comment period is provided in the Public Input section of the document beginning on page 90.

Mailing List and Notifications. TranSystems has developed a public contact list that served as the basis for notifications and mailings. The list is updated throughout the process with the names and contact information from meeting attendance sheets and submitted comment forms. Included in this database is information such as property or business owner name and mailing address.

Website. A project website was created and became active in April of 2005 (www.i75millcreekexpressway.com). The website provides all project related public information to the widest distribution of interested parties around the clock. Users will find an array of information on the project including the following key items: about the project, members, schedule, archive, alternatives, related links, news releases/updates and feedback and e-mail contact. TranSystems is responsible for the development, hosting, and maintenance of the project website including updating site content on an as needed basis and responding to feedback and e-mails daily.

Project Logo. TranSystems, with the input and cooperation of the Implementation Committee, developed a project logo to be used throughout the duration of the study. With numerous other ODOT projects along I-75 within Hamilton County and Southwest Ohio, the project logo is intended not only to add an aesthetic impact to all documents, but to create a unique identity for this project.



Project Newsletters, Fact Sheets and Reports. The project team has created project newsletters that update the stakeholders and general public of meetings, respond to their questions, and provide a schedule for the near future. All of the project newsletters are available on the project website as Adobe Acrobat files. In addition, the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County has additional copies available to be checked out in the periodical department. All other completed documents including the Public Involvement Plan, Draft Purpose and Need Statement, Existing and Future Conditions Report and Planning Study Report are available on the project website. Copies of the newsletters are provided in Appendix 1.

Mobile, Informational Study Display. An eight-foot by seven-foot mobile display that illustrates the study area, goals and proposed improvements has been circulated to various public locations throughout the study area. The display locations have been coordinated with the help of the Implementation Committee. To date, two versions of the mobile display have been shown. The



first version included detail about the project background and the second version focused on the Step 4 “concepts.” The locations of the display have included:

First Version (Project Background)

- St. Bernard City Hall – May 10, 2005 to May 26, 2005
- Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Northside Branch – May 26, 2005 to June 6, 2005
- Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Downtown Branch – June 6, 2005 to June 29, 2005

Second Version (Step 4 “concepts”)

- Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, Downtown Branch – August 17, 2005 to September 23, 2005
- St. Bernard City Hall – September 23, 2005 to October 20, 2005
- Elmwood Place Village Hall – October 20, 2005 to November 14, 2005

Public Contacts. Contact information for ODOT and consultant members of the project team is provided on Newsletters, notification letters, and mobile display materials. Phone calls and e-mails are taken by both ODOT and consultant staff, with the consultant maintaining a summary of inquiries received. As of February 1, 2006, e-mail, written and phone contacts have been received from approximately 100 individuals.

Modifications to the Plan. A Public Involvement Plan is never final until the project is complete. The approaches being used for this project will be examined during the progress of the work and adjusted as necessary for future steps. For instance, if the project team is not receiving appropriate representation from certain neighborhoods or communities, particularly in light of Environmental Justice populations in this area, additional methods will be employed.

Draft Purpose and Need

The Draft Purpose and Need document (see Appendix 7) contains the written determination of the problems and establishes a need for the project. It provides the underlying data to support the creation of alternatives in the following steps of the PDP. The project purpose and the identified needs are summarized as follows:

Project Purpose. The purpose of the I-75 Mill Creek Expressway study is to efficiently serve existing and future traffic volumes, reduce the number and severity of collisions, and correct substandard physical conditions that contribute to these problems. Data collection and technical analyses performed for the Draft Purpose and Need Statement revealed substantial traffic, safety, and physical deficiencies within the existing roadway corridor.