

OLYMPIAN DRIVE

Issue #1
Fall 2010

EXTENSION

Update

DESIGN PHASE NEXT STEP TOWARD CONSTRUCTION FUNDING

The Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase follows the Location Study that was completed in 1997 and is the required next step toward seeking construction funding. The purpose of this phase is to design what the extension should look like and to prepare construction plans and specifications. This process is similar to building a house. You cannot secure a home construction loan without first having blueprints together with estimated costs.

Part of the design phase also involves conducting a limited update of the Location Study. The Location Study, which can be found at www.olympiandriveproject.com, recommended a four-lane arterial road along Olympian Drive from I-57 in Champaign over the Canadian National railroad tracks through the north end of Urbana to U.S. Route 45. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) approved this recommendation for design and construction.

Updating the Location Study includes reviewing the environmental effects of the approved extension to determine if any significant changes to the natural environment have occurred since the study was approved. Also, like the completed portion of Olympian Drive between I-57 and Apollo Drive, only two lanes will be required and built now, with the intersections of Lincoln Avenue, Willow Road and U.S. Route 45 needing to be designed for two lanes in the interim. These designs will be submitted to IDOT for approval as part of the Location Study update.

Last but not least, because of stakeholder input, extending North Lincoln Avenue to Olympian Drive has emerged as a priority to include in the design phase. Stakeholders feel North Lincoln Avenue provides a needed north-south access to Olympian Drive. Now, the Steering Committee is looking at how to secure funding to design North Lincoln Avenue.

It is anticipated that the Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase will be completed in Spring 2012.

Public Open House

Wednesday

October 6, 2010

4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

(Stop by any time)

Urbana Civic Center

108 East Water Street

Urbana, IL 61801

** This facility is ADA accessible.*



www.olympiandriveproject.com

info@olympiandriveproject.com

217-384-2377

Stakeholder Engagement	Location Study Update	Community Outreach	Public Meeting	Detailed Design	Public Meeting
Prior to preliminary engineering work, opportunity for the project team to meet face-to-face with representatives of the business community, elected and municipal officials, property owners and residents to identify issues and concerns.	Based on stakeholder engagement, determine updates to typical section, construction staging, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations and a review of the environmental effects of the approved alternative.	Presentations at community and business group meetings so the project team and the public can exchange information about the project and its progress.	The general public will have an opportunity to provide input early in the design phase.	Begin preparation of construction documents.	The public will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the design.
Summer 2010	Fall 2010	Fall 2010	Fall 2010	Winter 2010	Spring 2011

PUBLIC MEETING SET FOR OCTOBER 6

The Steering Committee for the Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase is hosting a public open house on Wednesday, October 6, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Urbana Civic Center, 108 E. Water Street. The purpose of this event is to present the options for designing the Olympian Drive and North Lincoln Avenue extension. At the open house, attendees will be able to review the same information that was presented during the last few months to stakeholders and give their input. This information will consist of the design options, including project priority, earthwork, intersection type, medians, landscaping and pedestrian and bicycle facilities, and their estimated costs. You are welcome to stop by anytime to learn about the project firsthand and to talk directly with committee members and their consulting team.



FUNDING LED TO OLYMPIAN DRIVE EXTENSION DESIGN PHASE

The 2009 estimated total cost for design, land acquisition and construction for the Olympian Drive Extension is \$27.5 million and \$3.6 million for the North Lincoln Avenue extension to Olympian Drive. To date, \$17.1 million of this total cost has been secured. Of this amount, \$5 million is for the current design phase of Olympian Drive. This was secured after the Champaign-Urbana Urbanized Area Transportation Study (CUUATS), our local metropolitan planning organization, unanimously approved and included the Olympian Drive Extension in its 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program. The Illinois Jobs Now! Capital Program provided the \$5 million specifically for the Olympian Drive project allowing it to move into the design phase.

CUUATS has also allocated \$2.5 million in federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) – Urban money for construction in fiscal year 2013.

Also secured is a maximum \$9.6 million from the Illinois Commerce Commission Grade Crossing Protection Fund for construction of the bridge over the Canadian National railroad tracks. This funding is specifically allocated to local governments and is generated from the state Motor Fuel Tax.

Even without additional federal funding, construction of the extension can still proceed. However, it would take longer to complete, be phased in, and cost more local money. If the construction dollars that have been secured are not used for the Olympian Drive Extension, then state government officials can take the money and reallocate it to another Illinois transportation project.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ESSENTIAL TO DESIGN PHASE

Because of the public's interest in Olympian Drive, the Steering Committee decided to implement a public engagement process that is favored by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and transportation departments nationwide, including the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). This process calls for involving stakeholders more closely in the decision-making, especially when it comes to major transportation decisions and highways. Stakeholders include organizations or people, such as residents and landowners with property adjacent to or near the project, who will be directly affected by the project's outcome.

Although the Olympian Drive Extension is not a major interstate highway project, the Steering Committee felt the community's high interest in the project warranted following the FHWA's stakeholder process. Thus, the first few months, prior to preliminary engineering, have focused on engaging stakeholders through face-to-face interviews and roundtable meetings to get their input. Now you will have the opportunity to view the same information, to see what the stakeholders had to say and to give your input

at the October 6 open house. In addition to this open house and another one to be held when the designs are complete, the public engagement process includes: presentations to community and business groups; an interactive website; newsletters; and a Facebook page.

It is important to keep in mind that even though the Steering Committee is engaging stakeholders and the general public on the Olympian Drive Extension design, IDOT, which has three members on the Olympian Drive Steering Committee, must also support the final design. This is because "safety, the integrity of the transportation system and good stewardship of the public's transportation dollars," are the agency's responsibility.



PROJECT TEAM AVAILABLE TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS

Part of the public engagement process for the Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase involves making presentations to interested business, community and neighborhood groups. The presentation includes an update on what has occurred on the project; a question and answer period; and an opportunity to give your input. If your group would like to schedule a presentation, call 314-621-5566 or send an email to info@olympiandriveproject.com

OLYMPIAN DRIVE

EXTENSION

City of Urbana Public Works Department
706 South Glover Avenue
Urbana, IL 61802

STEERING COMMITTEE LEADS DESIGN PHASE

Representatives from the Cities of Urbana and Champaign, Champaign County and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are leading the Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase. They are:

- **Rita Morocoima-Black** – Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Director of Planning and Community Development
- **Jeff Blue** – Champaign County Engineer
- **Dave Clark** – City of Champaign Assistant City Engineer
- **Bill Gray** – City of Urbana Public Works Director
- **Darla Latham** – IDOT Region 3, District 5, Federal Aid Coordinator
- **Dennis Markwell** – IDOT Region 3, District 5, Program Development Engineer
- **Cameron Moore** – Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Executive Director
- **Dennis Schmidt** – City of Champaign Public Works Director

- **David Speicher** – IDOT Region 3, District 5, Local Roads Engineer
- **Elizabeth Tyler** – City of Urbana Community Development Director
- **Roland White** – City of Champaign City Engineer

Committee members hired a consulting team, led by Hanson Professional Services, Inc. of Springfield, IL., to provide design engineering and public engagement services. The team includes:

- **Berns, Clancy and Associates** (Urbana, IL)
- **Clark Dietz** (Champaign, IL)
- **James H. Webster and Associates, Ltd.** (Urbana, IL)
- **Midwest Engineering and Testing, Inc.** (Champaign, IL)
- **Vector Communications** (St. Louis, MO)
- **Whitsitt & Associates, Inc.** (Champaign, IL)