



Meeting: Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee Meeting

Time and Date: October 27, 2022, 11:30AM to 12:15PM

Location: Southeast Community Services

Attendees:

Name	Organization & Role	Name	Organization & Role
Bruce Colville	ReThink Coalition	Berry Craig IV	Parsons – Public Involvement Specialist
Caitlin Morgan	Mayor’s Office Liaison	Juliet Port	Parsons – Environmental Lead
Terri Fair	INDOT	Keaton Veldkamp	Parsons – Environmental Planner
Kari Carmany-George	FHWA		
Mindy Peterson	Parsons – Public Involvement Director		
John LaBlonde	Parsons – Deputy Project Manager		

Meeting Purpose: The meeting served as an introduction to the I-65 Safety and Efficiency project, introduced the role of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Committee and started a discussion with committee members.

1. Welcome and introductions
 - a. Mindy Peterson (MP), Parsons public involvement director, welcomed the group.
 - b. Self-introductions were made.
2. Project Presentation
 - a. The project presentation was led by John LaBlonde (JL), Parsons project manager and MP. It was interactive with discussion during the presentation.
 - b. Topics included the role of the EJ committee, project overview, anticipated improvements, next steps and project contact channels.
3. Role of EJ/Meeting Preferences
 - a. EJ members focus on issues with the potential to impact low-income or minority populations. Members serve as liaisons between their organization and the Project Team. They share their views and identify local concerns for discussion with the Project Team.
 - b. Meeting participation was limited with a discussion of how to get more people involved. Many of the EJ stakeholders, including neighborhood associations, SENSE Charter School, SEND, and Southeast Community Services, attended the CAC meeting held earlier on this day.
 - c. Caitlin Morgan (CM) suggested evening meetings beginning at 6:30 pm. Meeting preference is for hybrid meetings.





- d. Additional EJ members are always welcome, and meeting minutes and materials will be shared with all invitees.
- 4. Project Overview
 - a. I-65 Safety and Efficiency includes added capacity mainly using the existing inside shoulder, bridge widening/replacement, pavement work and drainage improvements.
 - b. The 5-mile corridor stretches from the I-465 interchange to Fletcher Avenue in downtown Indianapolis.
 - c. Most of the work is happening within existing right of way (ROW), and no changes are expected for vehicular access to on and off ramps.
 - d. Environmental analysis and preliminary design work are underway with construction expected to begin in 2025 and last up to two years. I-65 will remain open during construction.
- 5. Anticipated Improvements
 - a. The project will result in four travel lanes in each direction in the corridor with the majority of project limits using existing pavement/inside shoulder for added capacity.
 - b. The Hanna Avenue bridge is expected to be replaced and will accommodate a future pedestrian pathway. CM was pleased to hear of the connectivity.
 - c. The northbound bridge over Morris/Prospect Street is expected to be rehabilitated and widened.
 - d. The northbound bridges over Naomi Street and E. Pleasant Run (North and South) parkways are expected to be widened.
- 6. Next Steps
 - a. The draft environmental document is expected in fall 2023. A public hearing and formal comment period will be held.
 - b. Two public meetings will be held next week. The in-person meeting is November 1 at SENSE Charter School, 5:30 to 7pm with a 6pm presentation.
 - c. A virtual meeting is planned for November 2 at 6pm. A registration link was provided.
 - d. CM will share public meeting information on the Nextdoor app.
 - e. Meeting fliers were shared electronically with EJ members and printed copies were available at the meeting. Meeting fliers are being provided to parents at SENSE Charter School. English language fliers include a Spanish language contact. A Spanish-language flier will be developed for the public information meeting, school, etc., and will be posted on the website.
- 7. Contact Channels
 - a. The project website, [I65SafetyandEfficiency.com](https://www.i65safetyandefficiency.com) has project information, FAQs, maps and more. CAC and public meeting materials will be posted there. Sign up for project updates via email (on the project website) or text (text "INDOT I65SandE" to 468311).
 - b. INDOT4U contact channels are used with all feedback shared with the Project Team. Be sure to mention I-65 Safety and Efficiency when contacting INDOT4U.



8. Group Discussion

- a. Input received to date has focused on improved pedestrian connectivity, signal improvements and improved lighting. Several comments mentioned the Raymond Street interchange as an area for needed improvements. The Project Team is evaluating current facilities and lighting.
- b. INDOT can only improve what is in their ROW (ramp to ramp). The Project Team has regular touchpoints with the Indianapolis Department of Public Works (DPW).
- c. With limited meeting attendance, attendees reviewed the groups invited to the EJ meeting. It included the Burmese American Community Institute, the Chin Community of Indiana, Greater Indianapolis NAACP Branch #3053, Indiana Commission on Hispanic and Latino Affairs, Southside Missionary Baptist Church, Masjid Al-Taqwa Muslim Community Center, Perry Senior Citizens Services, Southeast Community Services, University of Indianapolis, Friends of Garfield Park, Historic Urban Neighborhoods of Indianapolis, University Heights Baptist Church, University Heights Independent Christian Church, Big Car/South Indy Quality of Life Plan, Falam Baptist Church of Indiana, Calvary Tabernacle, Concord Neighborhood Center, Indianapolis Urban League, Indiana Latino Institute and others.
Comment: The Carson Avenue Neighborhood Association has disbanded.
Comment: The Fountain Square Alliance may be a resource.

9. Questions and Answers

Q: Has DPW been receptive to potential improvements that fall outside of INDOT ROW?

A: The Project Team has regular touchpoints with DPW, and the group is receptive to discussing potential improvements and will coordinate as part of this project.

Q: How widely distributed should information be? Are people interested south of the project area?

A: The Project Team advised CM to share information with her colleagues and contacts in the area. Anyone with interest – people traveling through the area – are welcome to take part in PIMs and to share feedback.

Comment: CM will share information with Franklin and Perry Townships as well as share information on NextDoor.

Comment: Bruce Colville said he will reach out to some churches in the Bean Creek community and help to identify other potential committee members.

Q: What future pedestrian connectivity is planned for the Hanna Avenue bridge?

A: We are working with DPW on the planning in this area. Preliminary design proposes Hanna Avenue with 12-foot travel lanes, a 6-foot sidewalk, and a 10-foot pathway that can accommodate future connectivity.

Comment: CM indicated that would likely be well received by the public.

Q: Who is the electorate for benefitted receptors for potential noise walls?



A: The Project Team is conducting a noise study in accordance with INDOT's Noise Policy, linked on the Project Website FAQs. Where abatement measures are reasonable and feasible, survey cards will be sent to benefitted receptors. A separate noise meeting is expected early next year. The opinion of both property owners and occupants will be considered for residential receptors. For non-residential receptors it is the opinion of the property owner that determines consideration. It is important to get as many responses as possible so when the time comes, we hope to work with CAC and EJ members to help us get the word-out, especially with low-income and/or minority EJ communities. A noise meeting, which is separate from the public meetings, is planned for early next year. The Project Team urged both CAC and EJ members to encourage their neighbors to attend the noise and public meetings.

The above-summary and attached PowerPoint Slides represent our recollection of the pertinent discussion points, decisions, and action items from the meeting. Please contact the preparer, Berry Craig, at Berry.Craig@Parsons.com, within thirty (30) days from your receipt of this document if you wish to make any additions or corrections. If revisions are made, the updated summary will be re-sent to all the attendants. Otherwise, this summary shall stand as the official record of the meeting.

