

US Route 50 Four-Lane Coalition

Meeting 1/14/15

The US Route 50 Four-Lane Coalition held a meeting on January 14th in Clay City. The meeting was well attended with members representing each of the six counties along the corridor. The goal of the coalition is a 119 mile rural expressway along the current US Route 50. At the meeting, the Coalition prioritized a list of concerns and will focus on these items when communicating with IDOT and members of the Illinois General Assembly.

The 4 lane will involve two Illinois Transportation District offices. The main priorities for IDOT District 8 involve US 50's bottleneck areas in Lebanon, Salem, and Carlyle. For IDOT District 7, the Coalition will focus on recruiting funding towards the Phase 2 studies and construction between Lawrenceville and Olney.

Mayor Hilmes, of Breese, Illinois, reported that IDOT District 8 is continuing work on the Lebanon Bypass. IDOT District 8 has authorized the Farnsworth Group to perform the Phase 1 and Phase 2 studies of the Lebanon Bypass. The US 50 Coalition is keeping in contact with District 8 as this process progresses and staying attentive to the type of interchange to be considered for IL Route 4, near Lebanon.

Mayor Raymer, of Salem, Illinois, discussed the proposed by-pass at Salem, and expressed his concern to the amount of backed up traffic in his city, a daily average of 1,200 trucks traveling through Main Street, and that these trucks have to pass through nine stop lights at eight different intersections.

The Coalition is working with IDOT District 7 to estimate the potential cost for the Phase 2 studies and construction from Lawrenceville to Olney. This construction planning is being approached in small reasonable sections, with logical start and end points. These estimates will allow the Coalition to have a more informed request for funding, with quantified data, when requesting state and federal dollars.

In other business, the Coalition discussed increasing membership levels, and how to give more recognition to supporters. The Coalition is developing a plan to secure representation of the coalition on Governor Rauner's transportation advisory board.

For additional information contact Mayor Trevor Bissey at tbissey1@gmail.com, Mayor Charlie Hilmes at mayorhilmes@breese.org, Courtney Yockey at cyokey@rcdc.com, or visit www.us50coalition.com