

Meeting Summary

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Meeting #1

The first CAG meeting for the Charles Road and Queen Anne Road intersection was held on November 14, 2023. The meeting was held in-person at the McHenry County Administration Building from 10:00 am to 11:00 am and included a presentation and time for discussion.

ATTENDEES

In addition to the study team, the meeting had five attendees including:

- McHenry County Sheriff's office
- Residents
- Woodstock Community School District 200

The CAG meeting invitation was sent to adjacent residents, Woodstock School District, Greenwood Township, McHenry County Sheriff's office, HOA of Timberline Trail residential subdivision.

PRESENTATION TOPICS

The presentation included an overview of the study and CSS process, public outreach, proposed and existing conditions of the project area, crash data, and feasible improvement alternatives that were evaluated for the intersection. The attendees were informed of the CAG goals and rules for the meeting. The intersection alternatives presented included two-way stop-controlled, with alignment reconfiguration and addition of turn lanes, and roundabout intersections.

During the facilitated discussion, attendees were asked to provide comments. The discussion was orderly, and attendees were respectful of the process. The following issues and concerns were identified by the attendees:

Stakeholder Input

The attendees expressed the following concerns:

- The travel speeds on Charles Road are high, averaging 63-65 mph.
- The intersection has limited sight distance and cars crossing Charles Road have difficulty seeing vehicles on Charles Road
- The barn in the southwest corner may be identified as historic.
- The utility poles block visibility of cars traveling on Charles Road.
- Attendees inquired about the curve on Charles Road west of the intersection and how it could be improved.
- The intersection is challenging for school buses, and they often avoid the Queen Anne Road intersection.
- The intersection does not experience pedestrian and bicyclist traffic.
- There is no space for emergency vehicles to pull over due to narrow shoulders.
- Alcohol was not a common contributing factor in crashes.
- Turn lanes should be considered to remove turning vehicles from the through lanes.
- Trees surrounding the intersection create a tunneling effect.
- Intersection skew requires creeping into the intersection to turn right to see vehicles.
- Drivers do not realize the road curves near the intersection.

Meeting Summary

In summary, the attendees agreed that the safety concerns at the intersection should be addressed to make the intersection safer.

Alternatives

Alternative analysis evaluated alternative traffic control and geometric revisions. An all-way stop controlled intersection and a traffic signal is not warranted at the intersection. Three alternatives were presented; two alternatives maintain the two-way stop-controlled intersection and the other alternative is a roundabout intersection. The improvements will include shoulder widening and regrading of ditches to meet standards. The alternatives will involve land acquisition in all four corners of the intersection. The attendees had the following questions about the roundabout alternative:

- Will the intersection be lit?
- Will the center median have a raised berm?
- How will the drainage be handled to avoid drainage issues similar to the Raffel Road intersection

Attendees also inquired about the possibility of reducing the speed limit on Charles Road. The County indicated that any changes to speed limit requires County Board approval. Charles Road is also classified as a SRA that serves as a major roadway for through traffic in the region.

NEXT STEPS

The project team will review the input provided by the CAG attendees and draft a problem statement that incorporates the issues and concerns identified. The intersection concepts will be evaluated in detail for their feasibility and potential for safety improvements. A public meeting is anticipated in the first quarter of 2024. The preferred alternative will be selected after the public meeting. If needed, a second CAG meeting will be held before the final public meeting.