

**Alden Road: Charles Road to State Line Road  
McHenry County**

**Stakeholder Meeting  
NOTES**

**McHenry County Administration Building, Conference Rooms B & C  
Friday, November 20, 2009; 11:00 A.M.**

<b>Stakeholders: (In Attendance)</b>	Alan Plane	Alden Road Alliance
	Kurt Beystehner	Alden Road Alliance
	Cyndie Erckfritz	Alden-Hebron School District 19
	Dan Ryan	McHenry County Board District 6
	Lori Plane	USPS Hebron Office
	Evert Evertsen	Hartland Township
	Nancy Schietzelt	Environmental Defenders of McHenry County
	Preston Rea	Alden Township
	Tony Cundiff	McHenry County Sheriff's Office
	<b>Staff:</b>	Joe Korpalski
Wally Dittrich		McHenry County Division of Transportation
Cha Lee		McHenry County Division of Transportation
Jeff Young		McHenry County Division of Transportation
Anna May Miller		McHenry County Board; Trans. Comm. Chair
Diane Lukas		HLR
Amy Vanourek		HLR

- Introductions
  - The MCDOT would like stakeholders to feel comfortable during the meetings and to feel free to share ideas and comments without fearing criticism from others. To that end, it was asked that recording devices be turned off as they may hinder peoples' comfort levels.
  - Everyone went around the room and introduced themselves and stated who they represented (see list above).
  - An invitation was made to any of the stakeholders not familiar with the history of the project and the proposed design, as presented at the May 2009 Public Hearing, to contact Wally Dittrich, MCDOT Design Manager, to discuss the project and get more information.
  - The Alden Road project website address is: <http://www.AldenRoad.info> .
  
- Stakeholder Group Purpose
  - The definition of a stakeholder, as used by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is "someone who could be affected by the project and has a "stake" in the success or failure of the project.

- The purpose of being a stakeholder is to advise – as representatives of various interest groups, each of the stakeholders will serve as a bridge to bring back what is discussed at the meetings to their respective interest groups and to convey the ideas of the group. Each person at the meeting was invited to participate as the representative of a specific and distinct interest group. The representatives include elected officials, public services, McHenry County Conservation District and Alden Road property owners.
- Moving forward, the process will be to evaluate what can be done, and if something can't be done, to show why not. These meetings are intended to be a forum for the free exchange of ideas.
- Proposed Project Objectives
  - MCDOT is entering this phase of the project based on the comments received from the public about the project. Usually, the detailed engineering is done as a separate, second phase of a project's development. However, in response to comments and feedback received at and following the public hearing, MCDOT is continuing into the detailed engineering phase now.
  - The objective is to review the design as it stands and continue engineering to make further refinements to the design based on comments received through the public involvement process.
  - At this time, HLR is conducting a supplemental topographic survey to gather additional detailed information. The focus is on areas along the frontages of homes and businesses along Alden Road. Surveyors started at Nelson Road and are working towards the north. The original survey gathered information within the existing right-of-way. As the design has developed, it was found that this was not enough information.
  - The additional information will be added to the plans. All potential impacts will be studied in detail – septic fields, wells, fences, trees, etc. HLR will continue to engineer refinements to the design that can reduce or eliminate additional right-of-way, minimize property impacts, but still comply with standard engineering practice concerning safety of the road user. It is possible that with design refinements, no proposed right-of-way will be needed in some areas. Other areas may be able to reduce the proposed right-of-way. Some areas may still need the proposed right-of-way shown on the public hearing exhibits.
- Project Schedule
  - There will be additional stakeholder meetings as work continues on the refinement of Alden Road's proposed improvement. No specific dates are being set now because this is intended to be a free-flowing process with an open exchange of ideas with the ability to have the time needed to fully evaluate the feasibility of those ideas. The need for further stakeholder meetings will be based on what type of feedback is received and how it helps in refining the design and presenting the project to the public.
  - The next stakeholder meeting is anticipated to be held in the spring of 2010. A refined design will be presented to and reviewed by the stakeholders. The plan

will be brought to the stakeholder's group before it is presented to the public. MCDOT wants to have stakeholders' comments and feedback on this design.

- Future newsletters will be published to provide additional information about issues that relate to the Alden Road project and its further development.
  - After the stakeholder meetings, MCDOT will meet with the County Board Transportation Committee to advise them on the process and its progress. A public hearing will be held after that.
  - Notes are being taken at the stakeholder meetings and copies will be sent to the stakeholders. Please include an email address, if available, on the sign-in sheet.
- Questions and Answers
    - Are we starting with the design that was presented at the public hearing?  
*Yes, the starting point for the engineering refinement process is the design that was presented at the public hearing.*
    - Why this project? There are three reasons why Alden Road shouldn't be reconstructed: 1. The residents don't desire the improvements, 2. It is environmentally disruptive and 3. The funds are needed in other parts of the County.  
*Wally Dittrich, MCDOT Design Manager, offered to go over the project history with Nancy at the end of the meeting to bring her up to date about the project.*
    - Some sections of Alden Road are in very bad shape (approx. 10%) but the rest is fine for the next 10 to 15 years. Why is MCDOT reconstructing the entire roadway now?  
*Alden Road, on the surface, appears to be in better shape than it really is. Two pavement testing companies, PSI and IMS, did studies of the pavement and the material under the pavement.*
    - How much of the approved funding is left?  
*The current funding covers the Phase I part of the project; MCDOT staff will have to look in the records to see what is left. Phase II engineering (detailed design plans) and construction are not currently funded.*
    - The next meeting will be in the spring? Are individual property owners being met with as the engineering refinements are being done?  
*Yes, the next meeting will be in the spring. HLR will work on a refined design based on comments received by the public and elected officials and the additional survey data collected. When this is done, the refined design will be presented to the stakeholders. MCDOT will not be meeting with individual property owners during the project refinement process. After the refined plan is presented to the stakeholder group, it will be made available to the public through another public meeting.*
    - Do we have all the property owner lot information (house location, wells, septic, etc.)?  
*The current survey work will provide the required property owner information. Septic field data will be requested from County records.*
    - What about when land acquisition causes a property to be in non-conformance with the zoning requirements? Will MCDOT help property owners deal with this issue?

- The impact to zoning requirements will be taken into account as the design is refined. Mitigation and avoidance options, if any, will be determined.*
- How much is the extra engineering costing MCDOT?  
*The extra engineering is included in the original funding agreement.*
  - Will this Phase of the engineering include title searches?  
*Title searches will be done as part of Phase II engineering (detailed design).*
  - Are the surveyors locating trees? Will information about the trees be included?  
*Yes, the surveyors are locating trees. The size and type of all trees within the existing and proposed right-of-way will be determined. The typical rule is that all trees six inches and larger are surveyed individually; anything smaller is noted as a brush line (not individually surveyed, but shown as a grouping). On Alden Road, the surveyors will also pick up all trees that were planted by property owners (no matter what the size).*
  - Between now and the next meeting, will MCDOT work to address the concerns of the residents?  
*Yes, that is the goal of the continuing engineering process.*
  - When will MCDOT be getting more information to the stakeholders?  
*In February MCDOT plans to select a date for the next stakeholder meeting. If it seems valuable, another newsletter may be written. Notes from this meeting will be distributed to the stakeholders. Typically, the notes will be circulated a week after the meeting. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, this meeting's notes should be sent out the week after Thanksgiving.*
  - What is the purpose of the stakes (lathes) currently being used by the surveyors? Why are they there?  
*The lathes and spray paint markings are used by the surveyors to mark the survey bench marks (the location and elevation of reference points used to locate all other points being surveyed). These markers help the surveyors keep track of their work; leaving them in place for the next few weeks would be helpful to them. MCDOT will add details about the survey work to the website.*

Notes prepared by: Amy McSwane, P.E., PTOE  
Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick, Inc.