

APPENDIX E
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A public meeting for the Environmental Assessment was held on January 12, 2012, from 6pm to 8pm at the City of Grayling's City Hall. The public was encouraged to participate in an open house session. The purpose of the open house was to obtain comments and answer questions on the proposed improvements to the I-75 at North Down River Road interchange and associated widening of North Down River Road.

The 2008 Grayling Area Transportation Study's design team presented the alternatives to the community for review and additional comment at four public meetings. These meetings included gallery walks, audience participation technology, and individual interviews were several methods utilized to gather public input. The gallery walk allowed individuals to share their opinions and ask questions about the interchange displayed in an informal setting.

**I-75 at North Down River Road
PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING
January 12, 2012
SUMMARY**

The Public Meeting for the I-75 at North Down River Environmental Assessment (EA) and Interchange Adjustment Justification Report (IAJR) was held on January 12, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the City of Grayling.

In addition to notifications published in the local newspaper (Crawford County Avalanche) on January 5th – January 12th, the Grayling Area Transportation Study Steering Committee and study participants received notification of the meeting through direct mail and email.

Approximately 25 people attended the public meeting with seven completing comment cards.

Presentation

Don Babcock, Managing Director of the Crawford County Road Commission, opened the meeting with introductions and a background summary for the study. Theresa Petko, Project Manager from URS Corporation, presented an overview of the purpose of the meeting and the exhibits displayed in the room. Mr. Babcock also provided an overview of the Tiger Grant submitted jointly by the Crawford County Road Commission and the City of Grayling. After a brief period of questions, attendees dispersed and discussed issues with the project representatives present.

Questions and comments brought forward during the discussion focused on the need to include widening of North Down River Road, concern about traffic diverting and bypassing the City of Grayling, incentive for traffic to travel on North Down River Road instead of cutting through the residential streets like Clark or Lake Street and linking non-motorized trails.

Comments

1. “This is a wonderful long needed Project – I will assist any way possible-just ask!
2. “It would be very important to have northbound signage for passenger traffic going to Traverse City be directed through town. This would ease the concerns of business owners in town.”
3. “I like the idea of Wixom Bridge Road being paved: concerned with speed and extra traffic. I would also support the bike trail connection and upgrade. To be able to enter & exit at N. Down River Rd. from both N & S would be great. Concerns w/getting to recycle center during construction.
4. “We live on Beaver Is Rd. I’m concerned about the increased traffic on North Down and the ability to access North Down from Beaver Is. Also it is currently difficult to enter North Down (west) from the I-75 exit. I see this as a huge problem with more traffic on N. Down. Will you be putting lights?
5. “Full steam ahead.”

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Crawford County Road Commission Public Meeting Announcement
Proposed Improvements to I-75 at North Down River Road**

The Crawford County Road Commission invites the public, area businesses and others who are interested to attend and participate in an open house session at the Grayling City Hall, 1020 City Blvd., Grayling MI 49738 on Thursday, January 12, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The purpose of the open house is to obtain comments and answer questions on proposed improvements to the I-75 at North Down River Road interchange and associated widening of North Down River Road. The proposed project along with comments will be incorporated into an Environmental Assessment to be presented for approval by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). Approval by these agencies is necessary for the proposed project to move forward toward implementation and to receive funding.

The 2008 Grayling Area Transportation Study prepared by the Northeast Michigan Council of Governments (NEMCOG) recommended improvements to this interchange to add ramps to make the interchange a full functioning interchange in addition to other road and trail improvements in the area. The Crawford County Road Commission is applying for TIGER Grant funding for this interchange and is working with the City of Grayling, County Commissioners, Charter Township of Grayling and MDOT to prepare the Environmental Assessment, a required part of the grant application.

Various options to complete the interchange and improve traffic operations will be presented in an informal, open house setting where citizens may browse and review various displays and information. Officials and transportation consultants hired to prepare the report will be available to answer questions. After the meeting, the consultant team will continue to analyze the anticipated impacts of the proposed project and develop strategies for mitigating impacts. There will be another opportunity to comment on the document in the spring of 2012.

More information about this project is available by calling Don Babcock of the Crawford County Road Commission at 989.348.2281.

**I-75 AT NORTH DOWN RIVER ROAD
CRAWFORD COUNTY AND CITY OF GRAYLING
MICHIGAN
PUBLIC MEETING
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Thursday, January 12, 2012
6:00 p.m.
City of Grayling Office

Agenda

- I. Introductions
 - a. Project Sponsor & Steering Committee
 - b. Consultant Team
- II. Project Background
 - Grayling Area Transportation Study
 - TIGER Grant Application
 - Environmental Assessment & Interchange Access
 - Justification Report (IAJR)
- III. Purpose of this Meeting
 - a. Purpose and Need – Early Input
 - b. Project Information, Contacts and Resources
- IV. Meet with Project Representatives
 - a. Ask Questions
 - b. Submit Comments
 - c. Sign up for Mailing/Contact List

I-75 at North Down River Road

Contact Mailing List-Public Information Meeting #1

January 12th,2012

Notified by Email from Crawford County Road Commission

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989.348.2921

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Grayling Fire Dept.-Fire chief
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Notified by Email from Crawford County Road Commission-Continued

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Notified by Mail from URS

Crawford Co. Economic Dev.
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Grayling, MI 49738

Loren Goodale III
Grayling Downtown Dev. Auth.
P.O. Box 549
Grayling, MI 49738

Cadillac District Office
MDEQ
120 W. Chapin St.
Cadillac, MI 49601
(231) 775-3960

Gaylord District Office
MDEQ
2100 M-31 W.
Gaylord, MI 49735

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Grayling Uptown Dev. Assoc.
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Grayling Promotional Assoc.
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Grayling, MI 49738
(989) 348-4330

Janet Small
Kiwanis
P.O. Box 291
Grayling, MI 49738
(989) 348-7488 Ext:3640

Ilene Geiss-Wilson
Grayling Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 217
Grayling, MI 49738
800-937-8837

Mobile Medical Response, Inc.
834 S. Washington Ave
Saginaw, MI 48601
989-758-2900

Gaylord Post
Michigan State Police
563 Otsego
Gaylord, MI 47935

Houghton Lake Post
Michigan State Police
9011 W Lake City Dr
Houghton Lake, MI 48629

Kirk Wakefield
Crawford County Sheriff
200 W. Michigan Ave.
Gayling, MI 49738

Notified by Mail from URS-Continued

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Traverse City, MI 49686
(800) 922-6170

Dale Blum
Northflight-President
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Traverse City, MI 49686
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Notified by Email from URS

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Adam Wygant
MDOT
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I-75/North Down River Interchange EA
 JANUARY 12, 2012 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

| Name | Company | Phone | Email |
|-------------------|---------------------------|----------|---|
| Sim Humes | PENRODS | 348-2910 | SIMHE.PENRODS@NOE.COM |
| Sheila Dethoff | Hartwick Pines State Park | 348-8492 | dethoffs@emichigan.gov |
| Payle S. Tompkins | ADD Forest products | 348-9678 | payles@addforestproducts.com |
| Brad Summers | Sumner-Baker Service | 348-9755 | SDS@HRRP@NTPS@gmail.com |
| John Alef | Citizens Bank | 349-4003 | John.Alef@Citizensbank.com |
| Curt Jansen | JANSEN Warehousing/CI-21 | 350-8818 | JANSEN.CURT@gmail.com |
| ANDRIAN ANDREWS | ROUTE NORTH MOTEL | 348-5950 | - |
| David Jensen | Jensen Tens./GR4/Fishing | 348-6771 | jensenda@airk.com |
| Bryan Lydick | Morris Hospital Group Inc | 344-5203 | lydickb@frndy.health.org |
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I-75/North Down River Interchange EA
 JANUARY 12, 2012 PUBLIC MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD

| Name | Company | Phone | Email |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Don Babcock | Reed Commission | 989-348-2281 | db@cranford-wv.com |
| Howard Hirschschmidt | NDA | 231-348-1180 | howardh@ndajournaling.com |
| Thomas Ruder | Tomlyn Advisors, LLC | 989-600-0882 | tom.ruder@gnwinc.com |
| Laura Aylsworth | URS Corp. | 231-932-7592 | laura.aylsworth@urs.com |
| Sherri Hirschschmidt | URS Corp. | 231-932-7592 | sherri.hirschschmidt@urs.com |
| Ginger Lyons | resident of Grayling | 989-344-1097 | |
| Heidi Farmer | City Council Member | 989-348-1077 | |
| Paul Hirschschmidt | Shaw's | 989-344-3225 | shaw's@granfordshaw's.org |
| Jack Hirschschmidt | Grayling Top Signman | 989-348-4361 | thurland@top.signman.com |
| Bob Kautz | Fox Run Co | 989-348-4343 | FoxRun@IZK.com |
| Irene Wilson | Gar. Visitors Bus | 989-348-4945 | visitors@grayling-wv.com |
| Terry Clarke | Carlisle Canoes | 989-348-3301 | carlislecanoes@frontier.com |
| Roger Noshie | Crawford Ausable Schools | 989-390-1609 | |
| Debra Koppa | Crawford Twp. Is | 989-370-5753 | dkoppa@chickadee.com |
| Zac Weaver | City of Grayling | 989-348-2131 | |
| Tracy Hemmery | | 989-348-9165 | |

January 12, 2012 Public Meeting Comment Card

Did tonight's meeting provide you with useful information about the various elements of The Study?

Yes No

Do you feel that you were given an opportunity to share your thoughts, concerns, ideas and recommendations at tonight's meeting?

Yes No

Please share any additional information, ideas, insights or feedback to help us with our work.

I like the idea of Wilson Bridge Rd being paved - concerned w/speed & extra traffic. I would also support the bike trail connection & upgrade. To be able to enter & exit at N. Downfield from both N+S would be great. concerns w/ getting to recycle center - during construction.

Would you like to continue receiving information about the project?

Yes No

Please include your preferred contact information below:

Name: Sheila Dettloff

Address: PO Box 733 Grayling, MI 49738

Phone: 348-8492

Email: Dettloffs @ Michigan.gov

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Please include your preferred contact information below:

Name:

see sign in sheet

Address:

Phone:

Dave Jonson

Email:

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Yes No

Please include your preferred contact information below:

Name: Heidi Farmer

Address: 609 Peninsular Ave Grayling, MI 49738

Phone:

Email:

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We live on Beaver Is Rd. I'm concerned about the increased traffic on North Down and the ability to access North Down from Beaver Is. Also, it is currently difficult to enter North Down (west) from the I-75 exit.

Would you like to continue receiving information about the project?

Yes No

Please include your preferred contact information below:

Name: Tracy Henning

Address: 4075 E Beaver Is Rd

Phone: 989-348-9165

Email: don't use it at home - get enough at work

I see this as a huge problem with more traffic on N Down. Will you be putting in lights?

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This is A wonderful Long needed Project - I will ASSIST Any way Possible - JUST ASK -

Would you like to continue receiving information about the project?

Yes No

Please include your preferred contact information below:

Name: CURT JANSEN

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Phone: 989-348-8818

Email: JANSEN.CURT@gmail.com

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Address:

Phone:

Email:

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Yes No

Please share any additional information, ideas, insights or feedback to help us with our work.

Full Steam ahead.

Would you like to continue receiving information about the project?

Yes No

Please include your preferred contact information below:

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