



I-94 MODERNIZATION PROJECT

JULY 2015 OPEN HOUSE SUMMARIES

- *Tuesday, July 14, 2015*
- *Thursday, July 16, 2015*



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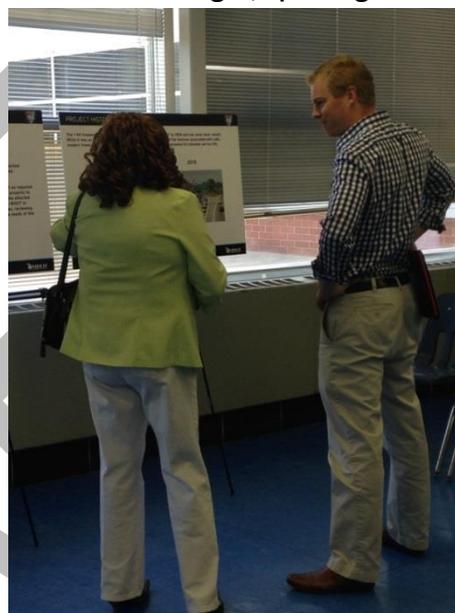
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Introduction

The I-94 Modernization Project will reconstruct this nearly 60 year old freeway to improve safety and condition in and along the corridor. The Project involves rebuilding 6.7 miles of the freeway from the I-94/I-96 interchange to east of Conner Avenue in Detroit. The Project will improve public safety, bolster the economy and bring the freeway up to current design standards. As part of the project, the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is reconstructing the I-75 and M-10 interchanges, updating 67 bridges and six railroad overpasses, and improving local access through continuous east and west service drives.

Beginning in the 1990's, MDOT conducted an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) which included a public engagement program aimed at building community consensus on how to modernize I-94. In 2005 the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) issued a Record of Decision (ROD) that approved environmental study. Although MDOT engaged the public in 2010-2011 during the development of the I-94 Project Corridor Design Guidelines, no advanced action (e.g., design, right-of-way or construction) had occurred within a 3-year period.



Therefore, FHWA required a written reevaluation before further approvals were given to ensure the 2005 FEIS/ROD was still valid prior to proceeding with major project approvals or authorizations. The reevaluation assessed changes which may have occurred in the project concept or the affected environment and determined what effects these changes might have on the validity of the 2005 FEIS.

This report summarizes the July 2015 Public Open Houses as well as stakeholder engagement September 2014 - July 2015.

Meeting Logistics

In 2015, a total of four public open houses were held from July 14 – 16, 2015. Cathedral Church of St. Paul and Wayne County Community College were identified for the Open Houses (*see Figure A: Meeting*

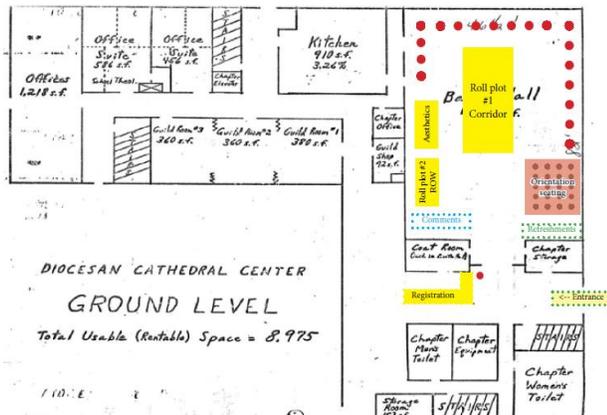
Room Diagrams). The facilities were located at the west and east end of the I-94 Project corridor. A total of 184 stakeholders signed in and attended the open houses. Identical information was presented at each meeting. See Table 1 for Public Open House logistics.

Table 1: Times, Dates and Locations

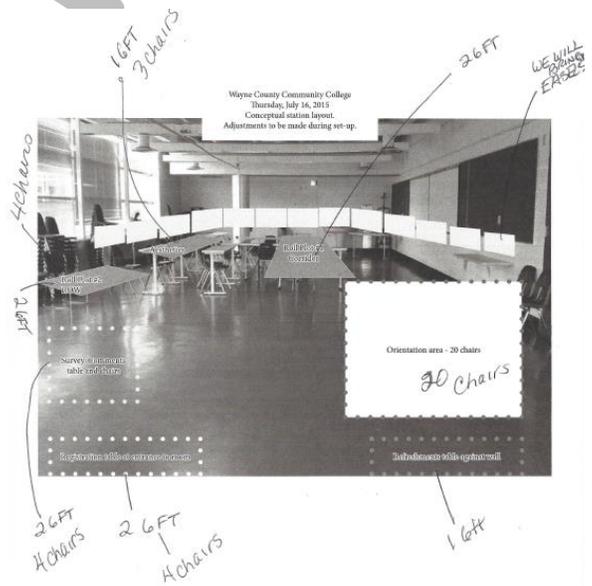
Date/Location	Time	Attendance	Day Total
Tuesday, July 14, 2015 Cathedral Church of St. Paul Barth Hall 4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201	9:00-11:00 a.m.	49	109
	5:30-7:30 p.m.	60	
Thursday, July 16, 2015 Wayne County Community College Eastern Campus 5901 Conner Ave., Detroit, MI 48213	2:00-4:00 p.m.	36	75
	6:00-8:00 p.m.	39	

Figure A: Meeting Room Diagrams

Public Open House
Cathedral Church of St. Paul
Tuesday, July 14, 2015



Public Open House
Wayne County Community College
Thursday, July 16, 2015



Notification Process

Table 2 provides a summary of communication and tools used to notify the public of the open houses. The notification process included a variety of communication forums to invite stakeholder to the open houses as well as solicit feedback from stakeholders on the Project.

Table 2: Notification Process

Medium	Tool(s)
Social Media	MiRoad2Work.org Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
Media	Media Coverage
Media Roundtable	Media Roundtable
Media Advisory	Media Advisory
Newsletters	Hard Hat Newsletter I-94 Project Newsletter
Email Outreach	Invitations were emailed to a total of 79 organizations, stakeholders and individuals who had participated in previous I-94 project meetings or other transportation related meetings or who were identified as potential members for a planned I-94 advisory committee
Project Flyer	One thousand flyers were printed and distributed to churches, libraries, social service agencies and retail outlets along the corridor
MDOT Website	http://www.michigan.gov/mdot/

Limited social media outreach took place during the public meetings including live Tweets and Facebook postings. Meeting notices were posted to the MiRoad2Work.org Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the Hard Hat Newsletter. Table 3 displays social media coverage for the Public Open Houses.

Table 3: Social Media Coverage

Outlet	Followers/Subscribers	Date	Volume
Facebook	604	7/14/2015	Photo reaching 52 people
		7/16/2015	Photo reaching 40 people
		7/16/2015	Photo reaching 61 people

Twitter	67	7/13/2015	1 tweet
		7/14/2015	4 tweets including photo
		7/15/2015	1 tweet
		7/16/2015	3 tweets
		7/17/2015	1 tweet with photo
Instagram	42	7/14/2015	1 photo posted with two likes
Hard Hat Newsletter	419 (87 associated with organizations in downtown Detroit)	7/15/2015	123 people opened the newsletter and 26 clicked on the I-94 link.
		7/22/2015	129 people opened the newsletter and 37 clicked on the I-94 link.

DRAFT

The Open Houses were first announced at the media round table June 8, 2015. A media advisory was also distributed in advance of the Open Houses to increase stakeholder awareness of the event. Significant media coverage was generated from both of these efforts with reporters attending the roundtable, posting stories in advance of the meetings and providing onsite coverage during the open houses. A media release was also sent following the open houses to encourage the public to submit feedback online. Table 4 includes a list of media activity and coverage that occurred to promote the public open houses.

Table 4: Media Coverage

TV	Date of Coverage	Headline
WXYZ - Channel 7	6/8/2015	MDOT unveils major I-94 reconstruction project
WXYZ - Channel 7	7/14/2015	I-94 expansion project sparks strong feelings at informational forum
WDIV - Channel 4	7/14/2015	Hearings on I-94 project
WDIV - Channel 4	7/14/2015	Open House meetings set for big I-94 project
Print		
Crain's	6/8/2015	MDOT: I-94 expansion will cost \$3 billion through 2036
Detroit News	6/8/2015	MDOT targets major I-94 reconstruction in Detroit
Metro Times	6/8/2015	I-94 reconstruction, widening may begin in 2019
Michigan DOT News	6/8/2015	MDOT targets major I-94 reconstruction in Detroit
Detroit Free Press	6/9/2015	I-94 expansion
Detroit Free Press	7/14/2015	MDOT says it wants feedback on I-94 expansion - Detroit
Radio		
CBS - WWJ	6/8/2015	Michigan updates plans for \$2 billion overhaul of I-94
Web-based		
VE00Z	6/8/2015	MDOT unveils major I-94 reconstruction
SNews	6/8/2015	MDOT unveils major I-94 reconstruction
DetroitSuntimes.com	6/9/2015	Michigan plans new I-94 overhaul in Detroit

Open House Materials

To assist stakeholders interested in attending the I-94 Open Houses with finding the meeting locations, Wayfinding Signage was placed at major intersections near the open house locations and meeting signage was placed inside of the facilities to assist attendees with finding the meeting room.

Attendees at the open houses were given a project newsletter, stakeholder survey and were asked to sign-in. Light refreshments were also available for attendees.

A brief announcement was given (every 30 minutes or as needed) to welcome attendees to the Open Houses and provide an overview of the materials and board displays around the room. Various stations were set up to display the project



boards, maps and design schematics. Open House attendees were also invited to visit each station, review display boards and engage with staff on questions and answers. Additionally, public comments were solicited through stakeholder surveys and noted at each station.

Public Comments

Public comments and stakeholder discussions were solicited at the Public Open Houses and through online surveys. Open House surveys were converted to online forms and placed on MDOT's website to solicit additional feedback from stakeholders. A media release was issued following the series of open houses to encourage public participation and feedback through the online surveys.



A total of 266 Project Surveys and 111 Design Preference Surveys were collected during the public comment period and 2 surveys were emailed to MDOT.

The Project Survey sought to understand the stakeholder’s relationship to the corridor. Table 5 represents a summary of the stakeholder’s relationship to the I-94 Corridor.

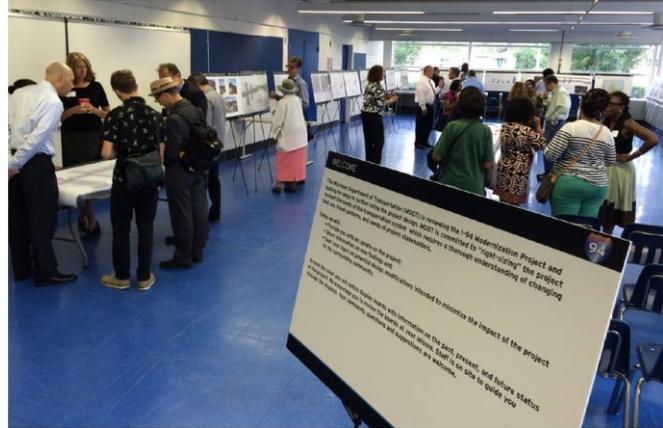


Table 5: Respondents Relationship to I-94 Corridor

Drive through the I-94 corridor	69%
Live in the I-94 corridor	39.1%
Associated with a school within the I-94 Corridor	37.4%

Over 73% of respondents desired improvements to the I-94 Project corridor. Based on those respondents, over 68% stated a need for more walking and bike paths, 38% supported continuous service drives and 30% of the participants supported adding a fourth lane.

The Design Preference Survey requested comments on several elements including designing linkages that would create continuous service drives at I-75 and M-10 over I-94, replacing John R. Bridge, and adding pedestrian and community connector bridges. Based on survey respondent comments, attendees were in favor of connectivity, but were also concerned with the impact of service drives on neighborhoods and historic sites. Table 6 represents stakeholder feedback on Continuous Service Drives for the interchanges at I-75/94 and M-10/I-94.

Table 6: Continuous Service Drives

	Support	Non Support	No Opinion
I-75/ I-94 Interchange	47.4%	40%	12.6%
M-10/I-94 Interchange	45.3%	42.1%	12.6%

John R. Bridge - Stakeholder responses noted supported for replacing the John R. Bridge (and other bridges within the corridor). John R. Bridge was cited as providing a critical north/south connection for community access.

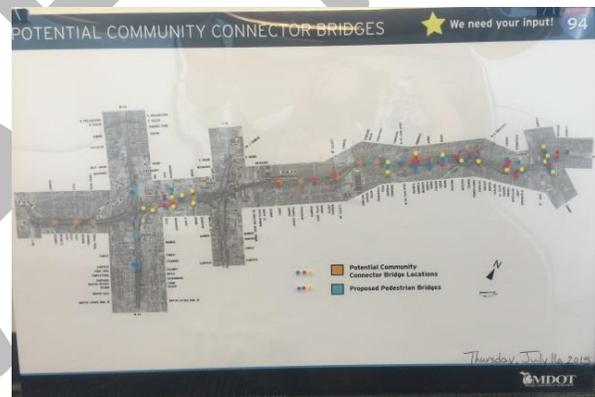
Pedestrian and Community Connector Bridges – Stakeholders provided responses on locations for pedestrian and community connector bridges as well as features for the bridges. The most popular locations for the community connector bridges were Cass, Second Avenue, Conner and John R. Bridge. Participants placed high values on bike lanes, wide sidewalk, landscaping and ornamental fencing.

Figure B: Corridor Roll Plots

Public Open House
Tuesday, July 14, 2015
Cathedral Church of St. Paul
4800 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48201



Public Open House
Thursday, July 16, 2015
Wayne County Community College
5901 Conner Ave., Detroit, MI 48213



Based on their knowledge of the area, stakeholders wrote comments, concerns and provided feedback on the I-94 Project Right-of-Way (ROW) roll plots. Comment topics included bridges, pedestrian bridges, historic sites, service drives, and property acquisitions received by the end of the comment period.

Stakeholder Meetings

Prior to the Open House meetings, additional stakeholder meetings were held with community groups, as well as representatives from both public and private sector organizations to share information and receive feedback. Table 7 represents Stakeholder Meetings prior to the Public Open Houses.

Table 7: Stakeholder Meetings

Date	Stakeholder Meetings	Attendees
9/19/2014	I-94 Midtown Detroit Stakeholder Engagement Meeting	Detroit DPW, Adnan Charara Studio, Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), New Center Commons Homeowners Assoc., Henry Ford Health System, Detroit Medical Center, TechTown, HNTB, MDOT, Wayne State University, Traffic Jam & Snug, Midtown Detroit, Inc., SEMCOG
10/2/2014	Wayne State Stakeholder Discussion	MDOT, HNTB, Michigan Environmental Council, Great Lakes Environmental Law Council, Motor City Freedom Riders, Transit Riders United, East Michigan Environmental Action Council, Preservation Detroit
10/29/2014	Midtown Stakeholder Subcommittee Meeting	MDOT, HNTB, WSU, City of Detroit, Midtown
10/31/2014	Recovery Park Meeting	MDOT, DWSD, OHM, SEMCOG, Mannik & Smith, HNTB, Recovery Park, SWW, MSG
12/17/2014	I-94 Midtown Detroit Stakeholder Engagement Meeting	Detroit DPW, Adnan Charara Studio, DDOT, Detroit Mayor's Office: Jobs & Economy Team, New Center Commons Homeowners Assoc., Henry Ford Health System, Detroit Medical Center, TechTown, MDOT, Traffic Jam & Snug, Midtown Detroit, Inc., HNTB, Wayne State University, Lorna Thomas, MD, PC
1/26/2015	Non-Motorized Discussion	MDOT, HNTB, SEMCOG, WSU, City of Detroit, Detroit Greenway Coalition
3/5/2015	Industry Meeting	HNTB; MDOT; Tucker, Young, Jackson; Hart and Associates LLC; VMX International LLC; GeoTran; R.S Scott Associates; SOMAT Engineering; Hannah & Associates Inc., Outside Partnership; Accutrak Services; Abonmarche; Applied Power and Controls; Sigma Associates; IBEW; RS Engineering; Marshall Sales Inc.; ABE Association, Inc.; C&A Engineers; Jacobs Gate; Value Engineering
3/20/2015	DTE, PLD, PLA Initial Coordination Meeting	MDOT, PLD, DTE, Bergmann Associates, HTNB
3/30/2015	MDOT and SEMCOG Growth Rate	TRU, PIRGIM, MDOT, HNTB
4/1/2015	DWSD Coordination Meeting Trumbull Impacts and Overall Corridor Coordination	DWSD, MDOT, Bergmann, OHM, HNTB
4/14/2015	Great Lakes Environmental Law Center (GLELC) Meeting	MDOT, HNTB, Michigan Environmental Council, Great Lakes Environmental Law Council, Henry Ford Health System, Motor City Freedom Riders, E. Austell Associates
4/21/2015	Midtown Stakeholder Subcommittee Meeting	Detroit DPW, Adnan Charara Studio, DDOT, New Center Commons Homeowners Assoc., Detroit Development Office, Regional Transit Authority (RTA), Henry Ford Health System, Detroit Medical Center, Detroit Mayor's Office: jobs & Economy Team, TechTown MDOT, Wayne State University, Traffic Jam & Snug, Midtown Detroit, Inc., SEMCOG

4/23/2015	DDOT Project Coordination Meeting	DDOT, HNTB
4/29/2015	Advanced Bridges RFP FHWA Comment Review Meeting	FHWA, MDOT, HNTB
5/7/2015	General Motors Hamtramck Plant Project Coordination	GM, MDOT, HNTB, FirstROW
5/20/2015	SMART	HNTB, SMART
6/23/2015	General Motors Hamtramck Plant Project Coordination	GM, HNTB, Cassens, Ryder, Turner, MDOT
6/29/2015	I-94 and Bus Rapid Transit in Midtown Meeting	City of Detroit, MDOT, HNTB

Next Steps

Feedback received from stakeholder meetings as well as the public open houses will be considered during the design phase of the I-94 Modernization Project. Additionally, meetings with stakeholder groups will continue. For example, the development of an Advisory Committee and Kick-off of quarterly meetings is slated for May 2016. MDOT is also planning a special workshop to further explore the implementation of the I-94 Corridor Design Guidelines (2010) on pedestrian and community connector bridges.

The next series of Public Open Houses are anticipated for fall 2016 to provide additional updates on the I-94 Modernization Project which will include proposed design modifications.