

Harlem Avenue between 63rd and 65th

CAG Meeting #5 Summary | December 10, 2020



Preferred Alternative: Elevated 65th Street with Elevated Intersection

The fifth Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting for IL 43 (Harlem Avenue) between 63rd Street and 65th Street was held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 virtually via Zoom from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

To announce the fifth CAG meeting, an email invitation with registration form was sent and phone calls were made. A total of 37 CAG members, homeowners and businesses along the north and south legs of Old Harlem Avenue attended the meeting. Alderman Silvana Tabares and staff from Congressman Dan Lipinski’s office were also in attendance.

The purpose of this meeting was to provide a project update, discuss the alternatives that have been eliminated from further study, present the preferred alternative, and have an open discussion on the potential alternatives for Old Harlem Avenue.

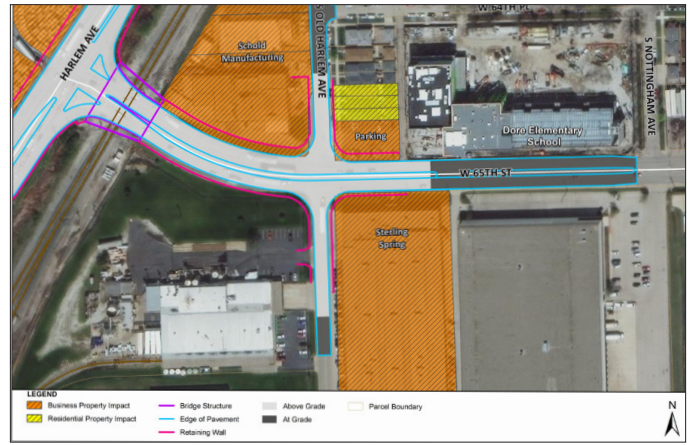
Facilitated Discussion and CAG Feedback

The meeting facilitator guided the CAG through a PowerPoint presentation which provided updates to the project schedule, a recap of recent public involvement activities, and an overview of the alternative analysis.

The goal of the meeting was to discuss and receive input on the design considerations for the preferred alternative, Elevated 65th Street with Elevated Intersection, and minor improvements at 63rd Street. With the preferred alternative, there are access constraints at the intersection of 65th Street and Old Harlem Avenue. The meeting facilitator presented the alternatives for the north and south legs of Old Harlem Avenue to mitigate the access impacts. The proposed minor improvements at 63rd Street and the land acquisition process were also presented and discussed.



Old Harlem Avenue: Cul-de-sac (North)



Old Harlem Avenue: Maintain Access (North and South)

Throughout the meeting CAG members were able to participate in polls, type in questions via the Zoom chat box and discuss the information presented with other CAG members during a breakout session.

Based on the feedback received, there was consensus by the CAG members regarding the preferred alternative and proposed improvements at 63rd Street.

Some CAG members expressed concerns with:



Noise impacts



Drainage



Ingress & Egress



Property impacts

Overall, the CAG was interested in the project timeline and when the final design would be approved.

Next Steps

The study team will review and consider all input received and complete technical analysis on the alternatives carried forward: Elevated 65th Street with Elevated Intersection. Additional stakeholder coordination will occur to evaluate and minimize project impacts.

The preferred alternative will be determined early 2021 with design approval anticipated by mid-2021. The project will then move into the design stage, contract plan preparation and land acquisition, followed by the constructed stage. **Funding for the design and construction stages has been identified and is included in the Department's FY 2021-2026 Proposed Highway Improvement Program.**