

Role of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) for the US 231 Relocation Study

Definition

A community advisory committee (CAC) is a representative group of stakeholders that meets to discuss issues of common concern.

Basic features of the CAC

- Members represent local interest groups and/or individuals at CAC meetings. Members are responsible for reporting information discussed at CAC meetings to their respective organizations/communities, to increase public knowledge of the project.
- Members' input on community issues are compiled to create the community impact assessment (CIA) report, which is part of the larger environmental document.

Role of the CAC for the US 231 Relocation Study

The CAC will provide feedback on certain aspects of project development and community issues and concerns. Presentations will be given (by the project team) and the CAC will provide reactions to the information before it goes to the general public. Exercises will be arranged at each meeting to help CAC members develop a deeper understanding and empathy for the project development process and enable them to provide structured input. The ideas and information provided by CAC members will be directly used in the development of the community impact assessment (CIA) report. CAC members should take the information discussed at each meeting, and share it with their respective organizations and/or communities they represent, thereby, increasing public knowledge of the project.

Although the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will maintain ultimate authority over decisions regarding the project, the CAC serves an important advisory role.

Why is the CAC useful?

The CAC demonstrates commitment to public participation in the transportation decision-making process. It is a place for finding out stances of participants and communities on certain issues and exploring them in depth. It is a place where

people become educated on technical issues. CAC members serve as resources to the general public, providing project information and clarification on issues of concern.

Selection of Members

The CAC is to be used as a sounding board on a variety of transportation-related issues, therefore, a variety of representatives from the community were asked to participate. Diversity in viewpoints is needed, to ensure full discussion of issues and/or concerns.

A CAC application was posted on the project's website for several weeks to encourage public participation. Only five (5) individuals submitted applications using this medium.

An invitation letter and application was sent to the following individuals (27), inviting them to participate in the CAC:

- Mark A. Albers, P.E. - Exec Dir of Highway Engineering, Tippecanoe County
- Dan Auckley - Traffic Department, City of Lafayette
- Angela Bowen - Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation
- Barbara Brown - Wabash Township Greenway project (driven by the Recreational Development Task Force of Focus on the Future)
- Kathy Dale - Chair, Tippecanoe Soil & Water Conservation District
- Margy Deverall - Redevelopment Planner, City of West Lafayette
- Ron Dye - Director, Tippecanoe County Parks & Recreation Department
- Sandra Dye - Assist Dir for Information Resources, Purdue Affirmative Action Office
- Sallie Fahey - Assist Dir, Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County
- Jane Hardesty - State Conservationist, NRCS
- Dave Heath - Mayor, City of Lafayette
- Jim Knapp - Senior Civil Engineer, Dept of Engineering, Utilities & Construction, Purdue University
- Opal Kuhl - City Engineer, City of Lafayette
- James Lewis - Wabash Township Fire Dept
- Patricia Mason - Trustee, Wabash Township
- Sherry McLachlan - Dir of Development, City of Lafayette
- Sharon Wood - Area IV Agency on Aging
- Jennifer Layton - Latino Coalition of Tippecanoe County
- Scott Rumble - County Extension Dir, Tippecanoe County Extension Office
- Paul Schueler - Tippecanoe County Historian, Tippecanoe County Historical Association

- Scott Snyder - City Engineer, City of West Lafayette
- Betty Stansbury - Airport Director, Purdue Univ Airport
- Renee Thomas - Director, Black Cultural Center, Purdue University
- Tim Wells, P.E. - County Engineer, Tippecanoe County
- James Williams - President, Blackbird Farms Homeowner's Assoc
- Richard Wood - Tippecanoe School Corp
- Paula Woods - President, West Lafayette Board of Parks & Rec

The following individuals (19) submitted applications (via mail, facsimile or website) requesting to participate as a member of the CAC:

- Mark A. Albers, P.E. - Exec Dir of Highway Engineering, Tippecanoe County
- Rosemary Barnett - Sugar Hill Subdivision resident; teacher at Klondike Middle School
- Stella C. Batagiannis - West Lafayette Community School Corp
- Angela Bowen - Wabash Valley Trust for Historic Preservation
- Barbara Brown - Wabash Township Greenway project (driven by the Recreational Development Task Force of Focus on the Future)
- David S. Byers - Tippecanoe County Council; Wabash Township Farm Bureau
- Steve Clevenger - Focus on the Future of Unincorporated Wabash Township
- Kathy Dale - Tippecanoe Soil and Water Conservation District; Vision 2020; Tippecanoe School Corp Board of Trustees
- Margy Deverall - Redevelopment Planner, City of West Lafayette; Indiana Bicycle Coalition
- Sallie Fahey - Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County
- William Fitzgerald - Wabash Township Board
- Allen Hammer - Wabash Township Fire Dept
- Jon Harbor - Sherwood Forest resident; professor at Purdue University
- Jim Knapp - Dept of Engineering, Utilities and Construction, Purdue University
- Opal Kuhl - City Engineer, City of Lafayette
- James Lewis - Wabash Township Fire Dept; Mr. & Mrs. Tire, Inc.
- Patricia Mason - Trustee, Wabash Township
- Furman Smith - Wabash Township Board
- Scott Snyder - City Engineer, City of West Lafayette
- James Williams - President, Blackbird Farms Homeowner's Association

Who leads the CAC?

CAC members will select a spokesperson and an assistant spokesperson, to represent the CAC when communicating with members of the project team (INDOT, FHWA, Baker, etc.) and the public. Time may be allocated at public

meetings and hearings to allow the CAC spokesperson to report information to the public.

CAC Meetings

The project team will support the CAC by arranging meeting dates and locations, taking meeting minutes, providing background information, minutes, and agendas to committee members before meetings, and facilitating meetings. Each meeting is designed by the project team to provide input needed for the community impact assessment, as well as to help CAC members develop insight into the transportation planning process. Members from the project team will be in attendance to provide resources for CAC questions and response preparation.

Other potential opportunities for the CAC

- The CAC may want to sponsor a special meeting on transportation's role in the community, to further educate the general public about the transportation decision-making process.
- The CAC may set up a table or area at public meetings to convey information to the public.