



**South Side Christian Church Community Room
2600 South MacArthur Boulevard
Thursday, January 9, 2019**

January Meeting Minutes

1. **Welcome** – Katie Davison
 - a. Meeting convened at 7:35am

2. **MBA Business**
 - a. Secretary's Report – Jess Weitzel
 - i. Motion presented via meeting notice email
 - ii. Seconded by Doug Dougherty
 - iii. All approved
 - b. Treasurer's Report – Katie Davison in lieu of Justin Creasey
 - i. Balance sheet update is \$19,351.79
 - ii. Formal approval will be in February

3. **Speaker(s):** IDOT District 6 Engineers Jeff Myers and Sal Madonia, discussing the upcoming improvement process to the Boulevard
 - a. Jeff Myers is the Region 4 District Engineer
 - b. Sal Madonia is the District 6 Program Engineer
 - c. Previously no money for Phase 1 Study, Phase 2 Design, Phase 3 Construction
 - i. Feasibility study previously completed in October 2017
 1. Feasibility study will serve as a starting point
 - ii. Funding now available due to 2019 Rebuild Illinois Program from Governor
 - iii. Improvements to the Boulevard in the 2020-2025 5-year plan
 - d. January 29, 2020: a consultant will be selected to work on project (Phase 1 Study)
 - i. Will use a context-sensitive solutions (CSS) design process to balance improving the roadway, increasing/improving pedestrian and bicycle access with lessening impacts to businesses along the Boulevard
 1. There will be a community advisory group (20-25 individuals) involved in this project
 - e. Questions

- i. Will MBA be part of solicitation process for input?
 1. Yes; there will also be a kickoff hearing as well as direct outreach to stakeholders.
- ii. Will Laurel/MacArthur Boulevard intersection be included in the Boulevard redesign? Was previously on the 5-year plan.
 1. All improvements will be rolled into this project, including that intersection and also others.
- iii. What are some of the basic improvements that will be included, based on the common denominators in the 2017 Feasibility Study?
 1. Pedestrian and bike paths were some of the
- iv. We've heard a lot about drainage issues along the Boulevard from business owners. Will addressing drainage be included?
 1. Yes; even in 2017 Feasibility Study, IDOT worked with the City to get data on the sewer system so those will be included in the planning process.
- v. Will there be coordination with City on moving power poles out of sidewalks?
 1. That was one of the top comments received during the Feasibility Study. This will depend on the City, but any widening of the road would require utility relocation as well.
- vi. How long does this process last?
 1. Phase 1: 18-36 months
 2. Phase 2: depends on ROW needing to be acquired, usually approximately 24 months
 3. Phase 3: construction likely to begin in Year 5 or 6 of this process (2025 or 2026)
- vii. Given that this is a 5-year project, will the Boulevard receive any maintenance during this process?
 1. IDOT will continue to coordinate with the City on maintenance.
 2. Related question: the Boulevard does not appear to be being taken care of at this point. To whom should we reach out about maintenance issues?
 - a. IDOT and IDOT will coordinate with the City. IDOT typically does larger picture improvements and contracts the City to do mowing, stone removal, and pot hole filling.
- viii. From a macro perspective, how does MacArthur Boulevard fit into the overall traffic flow of Springfield?
 1. The jurisdiction of the Boulevard is under the State but a majority of the rest of the city is under the jurisdiction of the City itself. IDOT recognizes that this area is a gateway to the city and is important for this area of the community.
 2. Phase 1 Study will include all the federal requirements for traffic signaling in terms of how it relates to other connected streets.

- ix. North of Laurel is the most narrow portion of MacArthur Boulevard, which is primarily formerly residential properties that continue to have one curb cut per property. Will the property acquisition portion of this process include purchasing curb cuts from property owners?
 - 1. It could as the more curb cuts on a given road, the more traffic conflicts can occur along such a busy roadway.
- x. Related to curb cuts, eliminating curb cuts could necessitate zoning changes that could force a common parking requirement. How will this be addressed in the process?
 - 1. IDOT will work very closely with the City on any directly related or ancillary zoning issues as a result of the updated improvements plan.
- xi. Is there anything we (MBA) can do as an organization to keep the timeline moving forward?
 - 1. The squeaky wheel gets the grease. The Project 29 group, which advocated for the improvements of IL-29, kept on top of being involved and coordinated with State-level elected officials. This project is now funded based on legislation in 2019 and is on the five year plan, so there should not be any big issues with keeping it moving forward. With the 2017 Feasibility Study, the project was unfunded at the time and so was really a process to get a starting point.
 - 2. The CSS process and the communication effort with the community advisory group will be critical. Staying in contact with State-elected officials will also be important.
 - 3. Helping IDOT get the word out about the project and soliciting input is important to make sure there is
- xii. Do you see impact on the businesses being more than encroachment on properties?
 - 1. It depends on the ultimate plan selected. In some cases, eliminating parking along the Boulevard itself will require acquiring the entire property and relocating the business because it would not make the property as-is viable from a parking requirement perspective.
- xiii. When will the community advisory group be selected?
 - 1. The consultant will be chosen by the end of this month (January) and a public meeting will likely occur this summer (2020) where there will be a questionnaire about individuals interested in participating in the group. If more than approx. 25 people volunteer then IDOT will work to short list that group to identify participants.

4. Local Government Update

- a. Alderwoman, Ward 6: Kristin DiCenso

- i. Budget season has begun. First presentation was last night (January 8) and will continue over the next several weeks.
 1. Effort to work to limit the budget where possible given some of the unknowns coming up, like potential closures at CWLP.
 2. Partnering with local organizations like Springfield Green would help eliminate a proposed \$200,000 for tree replacement; removing downtown parking meters would also eliminate several expenses.
- b. Alderman, Ward 7: Joe McMenamin
 - i. Update on former McDonalds: the property was sold in 2019. The owner of All Star Kutz is interested in entering into a multi-year lease with the new owner to start up a Philly cheesesteak restaurant.
 - ii. Anticipated revenues for the next year are anticipated to be down and the proposed budget included cutting into our reserves.
- c. Mayor, Village of Jerome: Michael Lopez
 - i. New restaurant, The Barn, anticipated to open on February 1
 - ii. No update on the Shop N' Save property
- d. Board Member, Sangamon County: Lisa Hills – yielded time in favor of continued Q&A of the IDOT representatives presenting
- e. Mayor, City of Leland Grove: Mary Jo Bangert - yielded time in favor of continued Q&A of the IDOT representatives presenting
- f. Springfield Neighborhood Police Officer: Mike Badger – absent
 - i. On behalf of Officer Badger, please continue to lock your cars.

5. Announcements

- a. Future meetings this winter will revolve around how MBA will advocate for specific infrastructure improvements along the Boulevard; please help us by joining MBA and participating!
- b. Don't forget to renew membership! This can be done at meetings or online at <https://squareup.com/store/macarthur-boulevard-association>
- c. The former Ayerco still has some code issues. Per Alderman McMenamin, the complaints have been turned into Administrative Court for additional follow up.

6. Adjourned at 8:22am

Respectfully submitted,

Jess Weitzel, MBA Board Secretary