



Design Project
Dane County Stakeholder No. 10 Notes
Verona Road–Contract 1206-07-05/06/09
Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
June 6, 2012, 5:30 P.M.

Project: Verona Road Interchange, I.D. 1206-07-05/06/09

Strand Job No.: 1089.320

Meeting Location: Strand Associates, Inc.[®], 910 West Wingra Drive, Madison, Wisconsin

Meeting Purpose: Dane County Stakeholder Meeting No. 10

Present:

See attached Sign-In Sheet

In attendance by phone/Internet live meeting:

Katrina Feltes

Rosalind Roberson

Alicia Griffen

Christine Gruenberg

Andrey Moore

Meeting Handouts (provided via e-mail before the meeting)

- Sign-in sheet from May 2, 2012 meeting
- Meeting notes and presentations from May 2, 2012 meeting
- Meeting Agenda

Discussion:

Action:

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The group was welcomed by Rochelle and brief introductions were given.

Tom Lynch provided project summaries for the I-39 and Verona Road projects based upon previously provided handouts to the group. Rochelle asked if the construction start was still anticipated for 2013. Tom stated the outlying intersection construction will start in 2013.

Tom noted the Verona Road Public information Meeting (PIM) was held May 17, 2012, from 5 to 8 P.M. at the Fitchburg Public Library. Over 200 people attended.

2. Michele gave a brief update. The group has asked for a matrix on US Dept of Labor and WisDOT statistics. Matrix was completed and given to OFCCP for review and approval. After approved, Michele will provide the matrix to the group.

John Steiner: Noted that a similar stakeholders group will also be established for Rock County. May tap into this group for resources.

Mary Watrud: A good contact is Luis Podie with Plumbers in Rock County.

Kevyn: Has heard conflicting reports. Please clarify if TRANS will be in Rock County too or use Madison TRANS program.

Michele: The TRANS decision has not been fully made. May use Madison TRANS.



Discussion:

Action:

Paul Zimmer: When will Rock County meetings start?

Michelle: August is proposed and ambitious. Most likely September 2012.

Rochelle: Will meetings be held at a WisDOT facility?

Michele: Not sure of site as of yet. The WisDOT site would be travel friendly if used.

Kebyn: Would like to be included in the Rock County project and group meetings. And Rock Road is interested in the Rock County participation.

Tim Alston: Is WisDOT looking at Beloit or Janesville?

Michele: Beloit is mentioned the most.

Michele: WisDOT will keep this group posted on future meetings. The next phase for this group is the business side, DBEs, and goal setting.

3. Presentations-Three presentations are noted below.

Presentation 1: Wisconsin Regional Training Program (WRTP)

Rhandi Berth of WRTP Big Step

Taken directly from WRTP Big Step Web site:

Supported by public, private, and philanthropic investments, WRTP/BIG STEP's mission is to assist economically disadvantaged minorities, women, and youth (primarily from the central-city) develop the skills needed to participate meaningfully in the workforce and share in the area economy while ensuring that member companies have the skilled workers needed to prosper and grow in a competitive global economy.

As a workforce intermediary, WRTP/BIG STEP works with the public sector to develop resources, services, processes and programs for their member companies to expand employment and advancement opportunities by upgrading the skills of current employees; and recruiting, training and placing community residents in family-supporting jobs to meet their need for new workers.

Discussion:

Action:

Overview of WRTP.

Two community organizations that joined together into one. Fiscally, WRTP holds the management role. It is a nonprofit organization that focuses on workforce development. Basically, looking for the good jobs and finding out what they pay and what processes they use. WRTP believes in the career path of its participants. There are four basic levels.

Level 1: Basic overview of the industry for participants.

Level 2: Get participants prepared for one of the trades. From 6th grade reading levels to getting ready to pass the test.

Level 3: Help within the trades. Take participants to get applications into preemployment training.

Level 4: Help overcome barriers and get participants “work ready.”

Question/Answers for WRTP:

Michele: Asked for clarification of funding sources.

Rhandi: Funding sources are public, private, philanthropic. State funding through workforce development and private through deals with employers and employer services.

James Monroe: When and what year was the study completed on the public/private venture?

Rhandi: 2002-2005.

James Monroe: How is the recruiting done?

Rhandi: Variety of sources. Some include job centers, church groups, community networking. Additionally, they are using more community partnerships, referrals, and family and friends–word of mouth.

James Monroe: How is the Madison interaction as he has not heard of the program previously?

Rhandi: The program is more Milwaukee and nationally focused. The program is based in Milwaukee not Madison. Madison uses the START program.

Tim Alston: Asked about the follow-up process after participant has passed; what is the process for follow-up and follow through?

Rhandi: Usually through the TRANS program and through the trades themselves. WRTP gets updates on those placed. Each participant has a mentor in the program to help them adjust. Feedback and updates also are received through unions, employers, and the participants.

Kevyn: In terms of a larger component, is TRANS just one component of the program?

Rhandi: Yes, TRANS is a component.



Discussion:

Action:

Presentation 2: Operation Fresh Start

Brian Mahon, Program Director at Operation Fresh Start (OFS)

See attached PowerPoint overview of Operation Fresh Start.

Question/Answers:

James Monroe: How do the kids get signed up for OFS?

Brian: Variety of ways such as social services, corrections, school districts, walk-ins, and college graduates who want to be Americorps.

Marge Wood: How many openings are available for students?

Brian: 130

Julie: Are the 130 openings just in Madison?

Brian: Yes, 130 in Madison. There are similar locations that serve smaller numbers.

Rochelle: Where are the other similar locations?

Brian: Other counties throughout Wisconsin such as Ashland, La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Eau Claire.

Rochelle: How long are students in the program?

Brian: They can participate up to 3,400 hours, which is four terms of approximately 2 years. All successful participants are OSHA 10 certified.

James Monroe: Is most of the work done in Madison? How many students comprise a crew in Madison?

Brian: Will need to look up the exact numbers. There are full-time staff at OFS who are responsible for student placement and follow-up for 2 years. Up to a third or maybe 25 percent may be introduced to trades.

Tom: How do you use volunteers?

Brian: Not as well as we could. Volunteers are used mostly in the education arm of the program for tutoring. The program will be adding a Vista position to build up the volunteer program.

Tim Alston: Has the program ever worked with Habitat for Humanity?

Brian: Yes, we partner with Habitat for Humanity and with other building and community organizations.

Clay: Fully endorses the program. He has started to recognize some of the OFS graduates and they seem to be more prepared and more successful than off the street applicants.



Discussion:

Action:

Presentation 3: Apprenticeships

Presentation by Karen Morgan

See attached PowerPoint for apprenticeships.

There were no comments or questions following the PowerPoint.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 7 P.M.

If there are any additions or comments on these minutes, please call (608) 251-4843 or e-mail Joe.

Prepared by Joe Bunker and Wyolanda Singleton and respectfully submitted to participants and invitees.

c: All Participants and Invitees