

Talking Points for Monday's Urbana City Council Meeting

April 19, 2010

1. It is very clear that there are many unanswered questions regarding the Olympian Drive Project. In short, we need a thorough study of the assumptions in the project, especially a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis. We prepared a list of questions and a general scope of work to be conducted by an independent, third party consultant. We presented this "Request For Proposals (RFP)" to the City Council last Monday night as a good faith effort to work with the city staff and City Council to address these questions. This document has been ignored by city staff and council members.

2. So much has changed in the past 13 years since the Hansen Engineering Study was completed on the current alignment of Olympian Drive. Many of the projections in the study were so off base from current conditions, especially the traffic volume. Why were their assumptions so wrong, and what guarantees do we have that the new design study they are about to undertake will have better assumptions and projections?

3. The \$5 million from the state's "Illinois Jobs Now" fund (which will fund the engineer design study and public engagement process) will go to firms in Springfield and St. Louis MO—it will not even create LOCAL jobs!

4. There is a huge disconnect in the timing of the project and the main rationale provide for justifying the project, namely, the need to create jobs and build Urbana's tax base to pay for schools and parks. The financial needs for the school and park districts are immediate and short term, while the purported benefits to be derived from the Olympian Drive project wont' happen until 10-40 years from the present.

5. The language in the resolutions that the Urbana City Council is voting on (an engineering-design study—how to best design the road, NOT whether the road should happen or not) and a public engagement process (discussing how to design the road) along with \$3.2 million for "right of way" (vague terminology for land acquisition) does not match the City Council member's communications during last Monday's council meeting or in correspondence with their constituents. They are saying that the money will be used to conduct cost benefit analyses, and discussions about whether the road is needed or not. This is NOT in the written language of the resolutions. Unless it is in writing, they have NO obligations to actually conduct a cost benefit analysis or do anything except an engineering design study.

Stop Olympian Drive Group

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