

Transportation & Environmental Collaboration Pilot
Interview Questions for Transportation Community Representatives

1. Briefly describe your typical role (or past experience) with transportation planning and highway/roadway project development processes in northeast Illinois, with a view towards the aspects that involve environmental issues?
2. How familiar are you with the Chicago Wilderness consortium and its Green Infrastructure Vision?
3. Do you think there is a need for better understanding of the role, constraints and processes of transportation planners and engineers by environmental stakeholders?
4. Do you think there is a need for better communication between transportation planners and engineers with environmental stakeholders? If so, where do you think the breakdown(s) in communication is (are) occurring and/or where do you see knowledge gaps?
5. Which of the following action steps do you think would help improve communication and collaboration at an earlier stage?
 - a. **Creating a (*frequently updated*) database of environmental contacts** as a resource for identifying the appropriate potential stakeholders on various specific transportation projects and for related uses by governments and organizations (the contacts list is envisioned to provide both geographic jurisdiction and specific natural/cultural resource jurisdiction and interest).
 - b. **Development of guides for environmental stakeholders** to explain and encourage early participation in the transportation planning process and the transportation project development process.
 - c. **Providing education on environmental issues, sensitivities and opportunities** at targeted transportation seminars and workshops and outreach to transportation organizations and audiences.
 - d. **Creating an environmental partner or mentor program** to provide technical expertise to local environmental stakeholders that may need assistance in quantifying the impacts of proposed transportation projects.
 - e. Other ideas?
6. Would you be able to attend a **workshop on July 2nd** to discuss these questions with a broader group of stakeholders? Are there any other stakeholders you would you recommend we invite to this workshop?
7. Would you like to be involved in the next phase of this effort (more detailed study of opportunities and implementation)? If so, would you consider being an advisor? Or provide matching funds or other in-kind contribution?

Please email responses to Chris Slattery at cslattery@delta-institute.org