ABSTRACT

The Illinois Department of Transportation is planning significant highway and interchange improvements to communities west of Elgin-O’Hare Airport, with the purpose of improving accessibility to existing highways, and improving access along the western side of the airport. The initial build project is estimated to cost on the order of $2.6 billion. The project is complex, requiring support from numerous key stakeholders in addition to IDOT, including 26 communities west of the airport, City of Chicago, Illinois Toll Authority, FHWA, and FAA.

Real challenges to the successful delivery of major projects such as the Elgin-O’Hare West Bypass (EOWB) pertain more to political, financial, and governance risks rather than the technical issues related to design. Thus, IDOT supported the approach of a combined Value Planning (VP) and Preliminary Risk Assessment (RA) Study. The VP study focused on opportunities for cost savings without compromise to functionality. The Preliminary RA study focused on development of a preliminary risk register, a review of the baseline cost estimate for the project, and the development of a preliminary risk-adjusted cost estimate.

This presentation will discuss the approach of combining the VP and RA studies at the optimal time in the project planning, utilizing the same set of multi-disciplinary team members and agency stakeholders. The presentation will outline the categories of risk and the specific risks for a project of this magnitude, and will outline a process to manage those risks through development of the preliminary risk register.