

# Interstate 71 Uptown Access Study

## Open House January 27, 2010



### Welcome!

The purpose of this meeting is to introduce you to the I-71 access study for the Uptown area. This handout provides information on the activities you might expect over the next few months. In addition, it includes information on the planning and engineering studies currently underway. Your ideas are greatly appreciated at any time and will help determine the course of this project.

### Background

In 2006, the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments (OKI), in cooperation with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), the City of Cincinnati, and numerous community organizations, completed the Uptown Study, a comprehensive look at transportation needs throughout Uptown. As part of an overall transportation strategy, this study included a recommendation for consideration of improved access to and from I-71 in the vicinity of Martin Luther King Drive and/or McMillan Street and Taft Road. The current Uptown Access Study seeks to build upon the previous study by considering the I-71 access issue in detail.

### Project Purpose and Goals

The major goals of the project, as identified in the previous study, are:

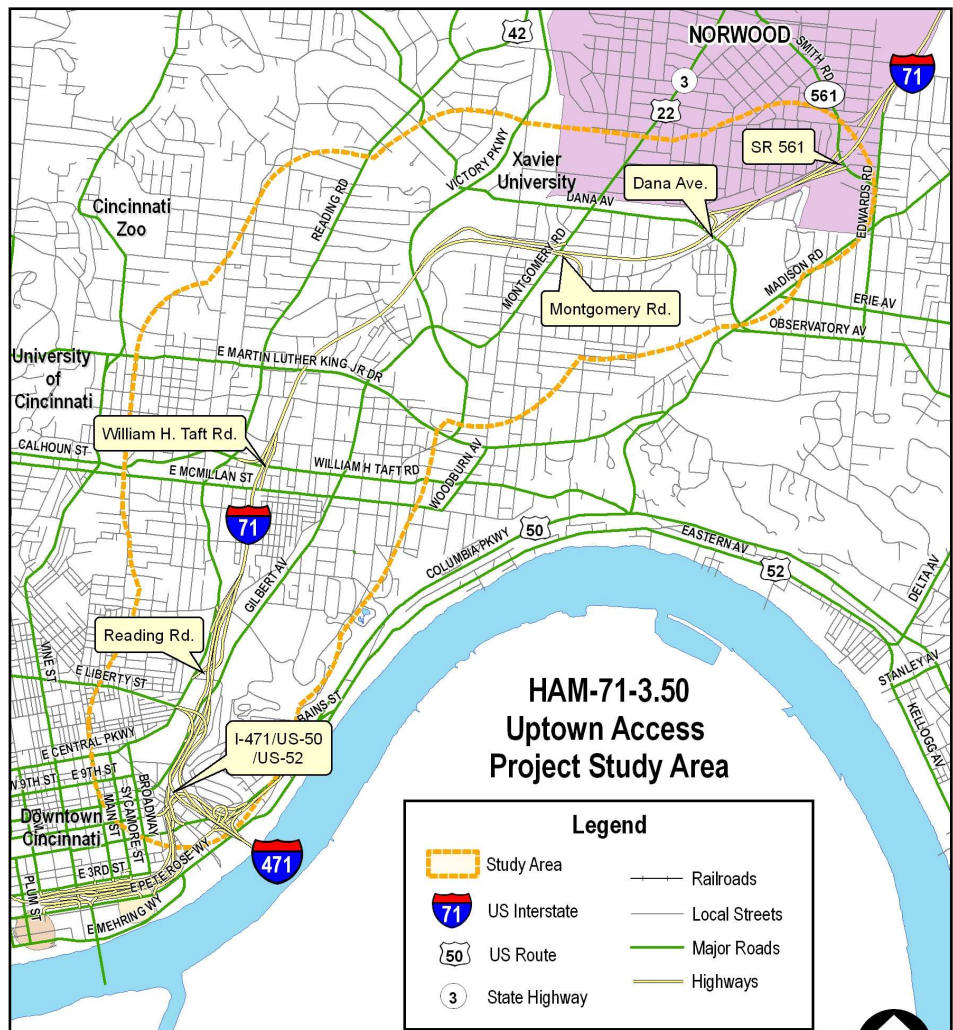
- ✓ reduce travel times;
- ✓ simplify wayfinding; and
- ✓ promote economic vitality within the Uptown area and surrounding neighborhoods.

In addition, the project will improve safety as a result of updating the design to modern standards, reducing conflicting traffic on I-71, and reducing congestion on the adjacent surface streets. The project will coordinate with local plans regarding rail, public transit, community development and environmental restoration.

### Study Area

The study area for the current effort considers I-71 from Liberty Street on the south to the Dana Avenue Interchange on the north. Data is being collected from US-42 (Reading Road) on the west to US-22/SR-3 (Gilbert Avenue) on the east. (The potential physical impact areas of any improvements would be much smaller than this study area.)

The study area includes the Cincinnati neighborhoods of Avondale, Evanston, Mt. Auburn, and Walnut Hills. Adjacent neighborhoods include Clifton, Corryville, East Walnut Hills, and North Avondale.



## Alternatives to Be Considered

The previous study broadly defined three conceptual alternative solutions:

- full interchange at Martin Luther King Drive,
- full interchange at Taft/McMillan, or
- combination interchange with access to I-71 at both locations.

Initially, the TranSystems team is analyzing a range of options within each of the three categories. The team will consider transportation needs, such as design standards, traffic volumes, and travel time studies, along with issues such as property impacts, social, economic, and community impacts and benefits. The goal is to gather as much information as possible in order to determine the feasibility of a range of possible solutions. Your input is needed on what issues should be considered as alternatives are developed and evaluated.

## Implementation Partners

The "Implementation Partners" are a committee established by Cincinnati City Council at the end of the previous study. The partners include the City of Cincinnati, OKI, ODOT, the Federal Highway Administration, the Uptown Consortium, and the involved Community Councils. This core group of community members will be involved in the planning process and will use stakeholder and public input to make decisions about plan recommendations.

## Public Input Process

Public input is needed and will occur in two separate phases. Initially, the project team needs your input on what issues matter most, so that the team may use this information as alternatives are developed and evaluated. In the second phase, the project team will be prepared to show alternatives and obtain your feedback on what you like and don't like about each option. The Implementation Partners will use your feedback, along with the engineering and environmental studies, to determine what options to carry forward for additional study.

Please fill out a paper survey or go on-line to [www.UptownAccessStudy.com](http://www.UptownAccessStudy.com). In addition to the survey, comments may be provided at the open house, by mail, or at [UptownAccessStudy@transystems.com](mailto:UptownAccessStudy@transystems.com). **Comments received by February 15, 2010, will be included in the summary of the first round of public involvement.**

## Questions?

Your comments and input on the I-71 Uptown Access Study are encouraged. The project team will do our best to ensure that public comments are considered throughout the study. Please feel free to contact the study team.

## Public Input Schedule

Round One: Input on Issues (Through February 2010)

- ✓ Visit with community representatives and attend Community Council Meetings
- ✓ Advisory Committee Meeting
- ✓ Public Open House
- ✓ Survey Handout/Website

Round Two: Input on Alternatives (Summer 2010)

- ✓ Community Council Meetings
- ✓ Advisory Committee Meeting
- ✓ Newsletter
- ✓ Website Update
- ✓ Public Open House

## Please send comments or questions to:

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