

## US Route 50 Four-Lane Coalition

Meeting 12/9/14 & 12/10/14

Supporters from the eastern corridor of the US Route 50 Four-Lane Coalition hosted meetings on Tuesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> in Olney. On Tuesday, the Eastern Corridor Coalition took advantage of an opportunity to sit down and speak with Bart Ellefritz, Deputy Downstate Director for Senator Durbin's Springfield office and Kappy Scates, Staff Assistant for Senator Durbin's Carbondale office. On Wednesday, the Eastern Corridor Coalition was pleased to welcome State Representative David Reis and J.C. Kowa, Legislative Assistant for Representative Reis.

Recently, the Coalition has been in discussion with local IDOT District 7 & 8. These meetings were held to inform Senator Durbin's office and our local State Representative on our recent workings. Kappy Scates expressed that Senator Durbin has been very supportive of the four-lane project in the past and looks forward to bipartisan cooperation in the future. Scates went on to say that Senator Durbin understands the need for improvements to our transportation infrastructure and wants to continue working with the Coalition. Charlie Gillespie, representing Lawrence County, spoke to the fact that in a rural area, we have long stretches of road. The cost per mile for the four-lane project is considerably less versus a transportation project in a more congested area.

The Coalition is looking forward to the New Year. We are currently planning a visit to Springfield to meet with the Secretary of IDOT and other members of the general assembly.

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