



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Highway
Administration**

Illinois Division

January 29, 2020

3250 Executive Park Dr.
Springfield, IL 62703
(217) 492-4640
www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv

In Reply Refer To:
HPL-IL

Ms. Tracinda Sisk
Bureau of Programming
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

Subject: Statewide Transportation Improvement Program Amendment
Wabash County, Illinois

Dear Ms. Sisk:

We approve the amendment to the FY 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as submitted with your letter dated January 29, 2020 for a state program project in Wabash County, Illinois.

Based on the Federal Highway Administration, Illinois Division's ongoing Federal oversight of the planning activities in Illinois, we find that the transportation planning process substantially meets the planning requirements described in 23 CFR 450. We can now consider project authorization requests related to this STIP amendment.

Sincerely,

J.D. Stevenson
Planning, Environment
and ROW Team Leader

Enclosure



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Planning and Programming
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

January 29, 2020

Ms. Arlene Kocher
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration
3250 Executive Park Drive
Springfield, Illinois 62703

Dear Ms. Kocher:

Enclosed for your approval and use in accordance with paragraph 23 CFR 450.220 is a copy of an amendment to the Amended FY 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Illinois. The Department of Transportation (IDOT) is authorizing this amendment to the STIP.

The project listed in this amendment is for a state program project that is not in a Metropolitan Planning Organization area. This project was placed in a local newspaper for a 15-day comment period and received no comments. Therefore, the public involvement requirements are met.

IDOT considers the estimate of costs included in the STIP to be realistic. IDOT concurs with the fiscal consistency analysis included in the STIP. The total cost of the STIP remains consistent with the amount of funds expected to be available to this area during the STIP time period. IDOT, on behalf of the Governor of Illinois, concurs with the project listed in this STIP.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Traci Sisk', written over a circular stamp.

Traci Sisk
Bureau Chief
Bureau of Programming

Enclosure

No STIP public comments received.

District 7

Route/Street	County	Location	Improvements	Est. Cost	STIP #
ILL 15	WABASH	WABASH RIVER AT MT. CARMEL	BRIDGE CLEANING BRIDGE DECK SEALING	\$84,000 NHPP - STATE NHPP - STATE MATCH ADJ STATE TO ILL	200012907002

Letters Home

By Ann Abbott

I woke up early this morning, before sunrise and before my alarm rang. I rolled over in bed and reached toward my nightstand for my phone. I touched the screen, saw the time 1:44 and a text message I had received during the night: "2557." "Game on!" I said to myself.

Every day, my friend Patrick and I play a game called Spelling Bee. It's from the New York Times, and I confess that most days I scroll past the headlines and straight to the Spelling Bee, nestled at the very bottom of the newspaper's app.

The game is shaped like a honeycomb. Seven letters sit within seven hexagons, six of them forming an outer ring around a yellow hexagon in the center. The objective is to make as many words with those seven letters as you can, and each word must contain the letter in the yellow center.

I love words. Growing up in Clay City, my family had a two-volume dictionary — thick books with blue covers — that we

bought from a traveling salesman. If don't think my kids even know that people used to knock on your door, unannounced, and sell you encyclopedias, vacuum cleaners and other items. I read a lot of books as a child, but I also read those dictionaries. Beyond the list of words, they told how to write a proper letter and explained tricky grammar. I loved words and knowing about words.

Today, "word" was the first word I found in the Spelling Bee. One point, 56 more points to go. Words with four letters, the minimum, are worth one point. Longer words are worth however many letters they have. For example, I found "rotor" today, and it was worth five points because it has five letters. Each day's Spelling Bee has at least one panagram, a word that includes all seven letters. The panagram earns seven bonus points.

Sometimes I see words just by glancing at the letters. That's how I found today's panagram: driftwood. Sixteen points.

Other times I look methodically. Words that rhyme. Words with double vowels or double

consonants. Common suffixes or prefixes. Today, "odier" helped me see "rotor," and "roof" led me to "rotor." It would be easy to quit when I think I have exhausted all the letter combinations. But the game urges you on with rankings. Today for example, eleven points earns you "Solid," 35 points adds up to "Amazing," and with 49 points, you're "Genius." Right now I have 47 points. Why settle for amazing when you could be a genius, right?

But Patrick has 57 points and 25 words. I might be "amazing," but I'm losing to him by five words and ten points.

I have always enjoyed board games. I grew up playing Sorry!, Chinese checkers, Clue and Monopoly. And do you remember a game called Husker Du? Nowadays I play SkipBo and Kummikub with my mom and my daughter. My one else wants to play.

A couple of months ago, on a whim, I downloaded an app for a game called minesweeper. I used to play that in the 1990s, when it came pre-installed on

laptops. Let's try it on the phone, I thought. "Aha," my husband said a few weeks later, "you're spending hours on that game." I felt defensive. I spend so much time in losing battles with my teenager that it felt good to win some. I thought it was just a game. Still, I knew my husband was right, I had gone overboard.

"Now I understand gaming and gambling addictions," I told Patrick. "When I lose a game of minesweeper, I want to play again to prove I can win. And when I win, I want to win faster the next time."

I decided I would rather spend my time reading, writing or doing some work. I deleted the minesweeper app.

Maybe I'm addicted to Spelling Bee, too. As you rack up points, the game tells you that you are nice, great, amazing then genius, something the omnipresent message that as a parent I'm losing.

For now, though, I'll keep playing Spelling Bee. I need to find five more words today and then start all over again tomorrow.

Dorothy (Fulk) Gumble celebrates 90th birthday

Dorothy (Fulk) Gumble will be 90 years old on January 14th. Her children and grandchildren are hosting a celebration for her this Saturday, January 11th. A cake reception open house will be held for Dorothy on Saturday at 361

East Noble Avenue, in Noble, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Please come and visit with her. No gifts, but cards are welcome and appreciated. If you cannot attend, but want to send her a card, her address is 500 Summerland Court, Evansville, IN 47712.

B-Jay Travelers enjoy the Rose Parade/San Francisco



B-Jay Travelers enjoyed the Rose Parade. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

As the B-Jay Travelers boarded the airplane there was extreme excitement. They were on their way to Los Angeles/Pasadena. On their first day, there were several places they could tour, Getty Museum, Reagan Museum, etc.

The next day folks went to Pasadena where they enjoyed seeing the floats being constructed, so very interesting, and they enjoyed a very nice dinner.

The next day was a wonderful day, a city tour of Los Angeles, Manna's Chinese Theatre, Hollywood Sign, Rodeo Drive, etc.

New Year's Day they arrived at the Rose Parade in plenty of time to get seated for the fabulous "Parade", with fabulous floats (covered with seeds, bark, leaves, gorgeous flowers), bands, dancing, flag waving, acrobatics, etc.

Then they enjoyed time in Pismo Beach & Monterey Beach.

Their visit to the vast,

elaborate, indescribable estate/castle of William Randolph Hearst was awesome.

As they traveled to San Francisco they enjoyed the scenic drive along the famous 17 Mile Drive, home of the Pebble Beach Golf Course. In San Francisco they enjoyed a great city tour, Golden Gate Bridge, Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf, time on Alcatraz Island, the federal penitentiary that Al "Seaface" Capone, & many other criminals were housed, etc.

A final seafood farewell dinner on Pier 39 was enjoyed by Linda Eckleberry, Brenda Patterson, Linda Kessler, Donna Buerster, Kanda Stevens, A.J. Jerge, Carol Shouder, Pat Tusker, Judy & Randy Zehner, Sue Whical, Roberta Menke, Norma Rushing, Deloris Atteberry, Dennis & Janet Brant, Mary Vaughn, Britt & Krista McNeely, & Director Carolyn McDonald.

DAR MEETING

The Ann Crooker St. Clair Chapter of NSDAR will hold its monthly meeting on January 23rd, 2020 at the First Baptist Church, 215 West Fayette, in Effingham. The meeting begins at 1:00 p.m.

Pat Hildebrand, Chapter Vice-Regent, will present a program on the favorite foods of the first ladies of our country. The meeting is open to the public and refreshments will be served.

PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER!

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

The Illinois Department of Transportation is seeking your comments for the following proposed state highway project within Wabash County: Bridge cleaning and deck sealing over Wabash River at Mt. Carmel for an estimated cost of \$84,000. Should you have questions or comments, please mail, phone, or email your comments within 15 days:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Office of Planning and Programming
Room 307
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764
1-217-782-9612
Email: DOT.STIP@illinois.gov

0-01290-7002

LIFE

From Page A1

digested by the people of that region. We do not hate people of other religions. We believe in live and let live."

This reminded me of the statistics on recent terrorist activity in the United States (see previous installments of this story), which indicate that over seventy percent of terrorist acts have been committed by right wing extremists, including white supremacists. This is an example of how extremist can exist within any country or ethnic group. The heinous acts of the few can give a bad name to the whole — if we allow superficial identity and bias to cloud our perception. Let this be proof of the fallacy in judging a book by its cover (how we hate it when it happens to us).

Over the next few days, Jakleen grew very dear to my heart. I met her husband, her in-laws, her children and grandchildren. We ate several homemade meals together, and somehow I gained their trust.

One day, while interviewing the family for an article to be featured on my website, Jakleen said, "I see you, Amanda. When I look into a person's eyes, I can see if they have a good heart."

For two whole weeks, I had been roaming the streets of the West Bank alone — a petite blonde American woman in the "swarming" Middle East. I had encountered so much local appreciation for being open to experiencing this land for myself.

Most of the Palestinians with whom I interacted were well aware of how the media has portrayed people of their skin color and ethnicity. Yet they did not project any resentment onto me. I could, however, feel their sadness — a sadness with which I can relate: the sadness which arises when you clearly see how so much of the information fed to the public does not honestly represent who and what we are as common folk.



Jakleen and her daughter Diana opened Amanda's eyes to life as a Palestinian woman. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

As one Palestinian man said to me, "The government is not the people. The governments can be at war with each other, when the people are not." The silence of the next several moments was accompanied by a palpable feeling of connection and coherence that I can never forget. He and I were kindred hearts beneath the contrast of our superficial identities.

By the end of two weeks, I had been surrounded by so much warmth in Palestine that I wondered about all the chaos, violence, and rage that I had heard about in the media.

Then, Jakleen's family shared the disturbing details of enduring the extreme conditions of the Second Intifada between 2000-2005. According to Israeli media (and other international media), the conflict was to crack down on Palestinian terrorism. The youth of Palestine remember it differently.

Jakleen's daughter, Diana, shared the following:

"I still remember I was only four years old. We played in the street ... and then the Jewish Military called curfew on a loud

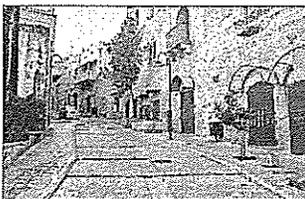
speaker and everyone is running, scared. The fear was they would maybe shoot you. My father was holding my baby brother, running to go inside for curfew. He slipped and fell, and the military was pointing the gun at him and told him he had two minutes to go in the house ... He pointed the gun and was five meters away. He was pointing it at us. I peed myself."

Living in a state of fear would become the norm for Diana. At around eight years old, she witnessed the murder of her neighbor, who was like a member of her own family.

She said, "They had a big tank. They called curfew, and our neighbor tried to open the door for another man to get inside for curfew. They shot him right in front of us. They killed him. He was my classmate's dad."

Diana remembers how her mother, Jakleen, used to sequester the children in secluded areas of the family home to muffle the noise of the guns being shot outside their windows. On some occasions, the windows were shattered by gunfire.

Jakleen said, "Day



A clean and quiet neighborhood in West Bank, Palestine (PHOTO PROVIDED)

after day, I got used to it. It's going to happen, we should just get used to living like that. Being terrified and scared was not a big thing because you were always crying from fear. I made up stories, jokes, and made fun playing with the kids to keep them distracted."

Diana interjected at this time to explain that her mother used to create stories about what was happening outside the confines of their home during military patrols — stories which would help calm the children's nerves, and shield them from the perilous reality.

Diana said, "I grew up and everyone is talking at school you learn the stories are not true. Like the neighbor who was killed. The family told his son that his father was traveling. The child was always crying for his dad."

Years later the child was informed that his father had been killed during the Intifada.

When asked how Jakleen and her husband were able to survive such horrifying times to become the smiling, cohesive family they are today, Jakleen said, "We do exercise, dance, and laugh when we feel stress. I was in a situation that I had to be strong. It wasn't a decision to make. I had to raise my children with strength."

"We believe in God. He give us something. He give us our children. So I have to give Him some faith back."

"I believe that one day this will be over ... God owns us. If he takes us, he takes us. It is destiny."

After the interview, we shared some laughter, enjoyed some tea, and revealed in the gift of life in the present moment.

Jakleen then prepared herself for a business engagement. Like the American doctor known as "Patch Adams," Jakleen volunteers as "Doctor Clown" to bring smiles to sick children and lonely elderly.

Her days of meeting the realities of life with courage, cheer, and an exuberant smile are not over yet.

LOG

From Page A2

Tapia, Alyssa V. is being held on a charge of Possession of meth. Bond: \$2,600.00 Cash. Tate, Joshua J. is being held

on a charge of Criminal Sexual Abuse. Bond: \$2,000.00 Cash. Thompson, Amanda N. is being held on charges of: Failure to appear; Possession of meth. Bond: \$2,075.00 Cash. Tolbert, Austin J. is being held on a charge of Resisting a peace officer. Bond: \$100.00

Cash. Vandyke, Terry is being held on charges of Aggravated Fleeting/Elding Peace Officer. Aggravated driving while Revoked. Bond: \$3,000.00 Cash. Williams, Miranda J. is being held on a charge of Possession of meth with

intent to deflor. Bond: \$15,000.00 Cash. Wood, Joe L. is being held on charges of: Failure to appear; Possession of meth. Bond: \$375.00 Cash. All people are innocent until proven guilty in court. Arrests do not necessarily lead to convictions.