



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

**Illinois Division**

March 26, 2019

3250 Executive Park Dr.  
Springfield, IL 62703  
(217) 492-4640  
[www.fhwa.dot.gov/ildiv](http://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 –  
Union and Pulaski Counties, Illinois

Dear Ms. Sisk:

We approve the amendment to the FY 2018-2021 Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) as submitted with your letter dated March 18, 2019 for a state program project in Union and Pulaski Counties, 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

ecc: Mr. Paul Loete, Director of Office of Highways and Project Implementation, IDOT



# Illinois Department of Transportation

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

March 18, 2019

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. Three comments were received. 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 Sick'.

Traci Sick  
Bureau Chief  
Bureau of Programming

Enclosure

District 9

Route/Street	County	Location	Improvements	Est. Cost	STIP #
FAS 2936	UNION PULASKI	DONGOLA TO 0.5 MI N OF ULLIN Miles = 3.83	RESURFACING	\$1,603,000 DELTA REGION PGM RESTRICT STATE MATCH	199002990400

### **Comment 1**

Per published add, I would like to express my concerns about proposed highway planned project in Union/Pulaski counties. I feel that the southern end of 51, between Pulaski and Mounds is much worse and should be put ahead of proposed, between Dongola and Ullin. It is very hard and expensive on grain trucks, semis, and equipment. I believe the northern section has been repaired since the southern section. I strongly urge you to start between Pulaski and Mounds.

### **Response 1**

Thank you for your comments. The segment of Old US 51 from Dongola to 0.5 mile south of Ullin that is funded in FY 2019 for \$1.8 million is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer. At this time, due to funding constraints, there are no plans to resurface the portion of Old US 51 from Pulaski southerly to Mounds. The traffic counts, including the heavy commercial vehicle percentages, are higher on the funded portion from Dongola to Ullin compared to the segment from Pulaski to Mounds. IDOT's District 9 office, which is responsible for administering this area, will continue to monitor the condition of this southerly portion of Old US 51 and as funding and priorities allow, it will be added to the multi-year program. In the meantime, the Department's local maintenance forces will monitor and maintain this section of roadway as needed.

IDOT's existing transportation needs far exceed the available funding resources. As a result, IDOT is transitioning to a Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) which is a new federally-mandated approach to operating, maintaining and improving the state's network of highways and bridges. This strategy will transition from the "worst-first" approach to one that is focused on preservation and long term strategies for proper maintenance to ensure a longer life for pavements and bridges. As part of the TAMP, the focus is on preserving routes designated as part of the National Highway System (NHS) which typically have larger traffic volumes.

## **Comment 2**

I saw a recent post on Facebook about Union Co. / Pulaski Co. highway 51 project.

I agree that area does need some major repairs, but highway 51 south of Ullin is also in bad need of repair. Also, the I-57 overpass at exit 18 has been patched, but I think I could have done a better job with a bucket of play dough, it needs to be resurfaced not patched. State highway 37 south of Olmsted has speed bumps across it that will jar your teeth out. Somewhere ground down last summer but are still jarring, and others where never toughed.

I hope that you can at some time inspect and address these issues

## **Response 2**

Thank you for your inquiry. The segment of Old US 51 from Dongola to 0.5 mile south of Ullin is funded in FY 2019 for \$1.8 million and is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer. At this time, there are no plans to resurface the portion of Old US 51 from Ullin southerly to Mounds. IDOT's District 9 office, which is responsible for administering this area, will continue to monitor the condition of this road and as funding and priorities allow, it will be added to the multi-year highway program. In the meantime, the Department's local maintenance forces will monitor and maintain this section of roadway as needed.

The Interstate 57 patching project on the overpass at exit 18 was done as an emergency project. There are no plans at this time to resurface this roadway. In addition, there are no plans to resurface Illinois 37 south of Olmsted. Again, as funding and priorities would allow, then these projects would be considered for inclusion in the multi-year program.

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### **Comment 3**

I live in Pulaski County and Drive for a transportation Company using 24 passenger buses taking people to and from Cairo to Carbondale on a daily basis for medical appointments, work, and just everyday shopping needs. Highway 51 from mounds to Dongola is horrible the whole length of it needs to be resurfaced and widened. It is very unsafe to drive on when the edge of the road has dips and holes in it that pull you off of the roadway.

Even in a personal vehicle it is very dangerous.

We would greatly appreciate if it could be repaired for safety reasons.

### **Response 3**

Thank you for your inquiry. The segment of Old US 51 from Dongola to 0.5 mile south of Ullin is funded in FY 2019 for \$1.8 million and is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer. At this time, there are no plans to resurface the portion of Old US 51 from Ullin southerly to Mounds. IDOT's District 9 office, which is responsible for administering this area, will continue to monitor the condition of this road and as funding and priorities allow, it will be added to the multi-year program. In the meantime, the Department's local maintenance forces will monitor and maintain this section of roadway as needed.

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### OBITUARIES

#### Jeffrey Lawrence Bell

Jeffrey Lawrence Bell, 69, suddenly went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, January 15, 2019 in Memorial Hospital of Carbondale.

He was born in Olmsted on November 24, 1959 to Robert L. Bell Sr. and Seresta-Higgins Bell. Both preceded him in death.

He accepted Christ as Savior at an early age and possessed a keen awareness of right and wrong and justice and injustice. He received his formal education in the Pulaski County Illinois Public School System and is a 1976 graduate of Meridian High School, Mounds.

After completing high school, Jeff enrolled in a vocational school in St. Louis, where he studied auto mechanics. Upon completion of this program, he relocated to Chicago, where he met and married Deborah Dean in 1980. She survives and resides in Murphysboro.

Jeff lived and worked in Chicago for many years before moving his family to Madison, Wis., and finally to the Carbondale-Murphysboro area where he became greatly involved in the care of his aging father, and later participated in the "Feed My Sheep" ministry at Bethel AME Church in Carbondale. He understood the "golden rule" and the concept of Matthew 22:39 and tried to govern himself accordingly. He seldom met a stranger; almost never forgot a face, had a forgiving spirit, was friendly, slow to judge, compassionate, fun-loving, kind-hearted, unpretentious, and empathetic. He could be found reading and studying his Bible often as he always kept it open on a nightstand, table or dresser.

In the spirit of a true patriarch, he tended to the affairs of siblings; checking, advising, fixing, problem-solving and taking care of whatever needed to be done - all the while being careful and deliberate to put his immediate family first. In the formative years, he and Deborah made it a point to lead their children in regular prayer sessions and Bible study in the home.

In addition to his wife, Deborah, Jeff is survived by one son, Jeffrey James Bell of Murphysboro; two daughters, Jennifer Bell of Murphysboro and Starr Caldwell (Hivas, Sr.) of Bollingbrook; eight grandchildren: Joshua, Starz and Sydney Souder, Travis Jr. and Ronald Caldwell, Kaelin Atkins all of Bollingbrook, Jence' Bell and Anthony Bell of Carbondale, and Elijah Bell of Murphysboro, one great granddaughter, Mistari, also of Bollingbrook. Other survivors also include one brother, Robert L. (Kathy) Bell, Jr. of Mayfield, Mo.; five sisters: Barbara Bell-Quinn, Toledo, Ohio, Ruth Bell-Williams, Olmsted, Vivian Ladd-Hatcher, Bellevue, Neb., Linda Ladd-Mathis, Olmsted, and Leola Ladd-Harley, Indianapolis, Ind.; one sister-in-law, Vida Hayes, Madison, Wis.; one uncle, several aunts, a host of nephews, nieces, cousins and many friends.

Funeral services were Friday, January 25, 2019 at Walker Funeral Home in Carbondale. Elder Robert L. Bell, Sr., Pastor of Monument of Deliverance Church, Hayti, Mo., delivered the eulogy.

The repast was at the American Legion, 1703 Caronde St., Murphysboro, IL 62966.



Hughes in New Madrid, MO. He entered the United States Army on March 26, 1953 and later received his honorable discharge from the Military on March 25, 1955.

He met his loving wife Joyce in 1958 and they were united in holy matrimony on September 5, 1962. The union enjoyed 56 years of marital happiness. Preston at the time was employed by E.L. Bruce Lumber Mill in Urbandale, Ill. He later had part ownership of a Gas Station which was located on Main Street in Mound City. His next adventure was ownership of Hughes Trucking for over 30 years. In 1971 he established the well known gathering place known as "Joe's Place". After 10 years in business he sold out.

In 1980 he began attending First Missionary Baptist Church in Mound City. Preston was later ordained as a Deacon and served as Sunday School Superintendent and remained serving these positions until health began to fail.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Garfield and Roberta Hughes, one sister Marlene Hughes, one daughter, Maggie "Red" Dobbs and one son Karl Wright.

He leaves to treasure his memories his wife of 56 years Joyce Hughes, four daughters: Venus (Leann) and Johnson, Dillitha "Joanne" Bright, Shirley Jean Hughes and Lisa Dobbs Cowan. Two sons Preston Hughes, Jr. and Cornelius Henry and one special daughter-in-law Judy Hughes. He also leaves to cherish his loving memories one brother, John "Toody" (Constance) Hughes, three sisters: Minnie Womack, Dillie Hughes and Betty (Cleo) King, 15 grandchildren, 40 great grand children and a host of nieces, nephews, many friends and neighbors, church family and other acquaintances.

Services for Preston Hughes were held on Saturday December 8, 2018 at the First Missionary Baptist Church in Mound City with Pastor James R. Dowell officiating. Interment was held Monday December 10, 2018 in the Mound City National Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Maxie Funeral Home. Online condolences may be left at [maxiefuneralhome.com](http://maxiefuneralhome.com)

#### Betty Louise Betts

Betty Louise Betts, age 87 of Tammis, passed away at 9:23 p.m. Wednesday, February 13, 2019 at the St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.



Betty was born September 4, 1931 in Elva, Illinois to the late William Lloyd "Cody" and Edna Mae (Brackon) Bridges.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Tammis, and was a Certified Nurse's Aide working at Southeast Missouri Hospital in Cape Girardeau and later for area nursing homes in Union County, Illinois following her retirement.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by a son, Thomas Ray Betts in 1979; her husband, Lark Jackson Betts, Jr. on July 4, 2013, two brothers, two sisters, and two infant brothers.

Survivors include three daughters, Catherine "Cathy" Sarginson of Murphysboro and Joyce Kim Butler and Beverly Rose Betts both of Tammis, a son, William Matthew Betts of Murphysboro, a brother, Rev. Tom Bridges of Bertrond, Missouri; seven grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were Monday at Jones Funeral Home in Tammis with Rev. Lacey Betts officiating. Interment was to follow in the St. John's Cemetery near Donoga, Illinois.

Per the family's request, expressions of sympathy may take the form of memorials to the Jones Funeral Home P.O. Box 147 Villa Ridge, Illinois 62966 to help assist the family with expenses.

To leave online condolences visit: <http://www.jones-funeral.com>.

Jones Funeral Home Tammis is in charge of the arrangements.

#### Preston Hughes

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure. Preston Hughes affectionately known as "Joe" departed this life on Sunday December 2, 2018 at the St. Francis Medical Center in Cape Girardeau, Mo. with his wife Joyce at his side.



Preston was born August 16, 1931 to the late Garfield and Roberta (Sowers)

### POLICE BLOTTER

#### Alexander County Sheriff

Traffic and Arrest Reports for February 10-16, 2019: Speeding - 14, Speeding in a Construction Zone - 4, No Valid Driver's License - 1, Revoked/Suspended/Expired Driver's License - 1, Other - 1.

#### Arrests/Wanted on Warrants:

David Parkey, 30 of Millersville, Mo., arrested Feb. 12. WOV-Alexander Co./Failure to Appear on charges of Driving While License Suspended and Speeding.

#### DOC Sentencing:

Kevin Banks, 39 of Cairo, sentenced Feb. 14 to 25 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for conviction of Aggravated Battery with a Firearm.

#### Pulaski County Sheriff

Traffic and Arrest Reports for Feb. 11-17, 2019: Speeding - 25, Suspended/Revoked - 1, Other - 7.

#### Arrests/Wanted on Warrants:

Cameron Wade Mitchell, 30 of Villa Ridge, arrested Feb. 11. WOV-Pulaski Co. s2/Residential Burglary.

Kent Mack, 34 of Pulaski, arrested Feb. 11. WOV-Pulaski Co./Petition to Revoke on Original Charge of Arson.

Rhonye D. Lincoln, 31 of Mound City, arrested Feb. 12. WOV-Pulaski Co./Unlawful Possession of Cannabis and Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.

Deloyd Davis, 28 of Karmak, arrested Feb. 14. Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon.

Eric L. Lewis, 45 of Cairo, arrested Feb. 15. WOV-Pulaski Co./Failure to Appear on charge of Aggravated DUI.

Arrests do not imply guilt; all suspects are innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

#### Evelyn Roberts

10/01/1932 - 02/22/2019

We miss you when something really, really wonderful happens, because you are the one we want to share it with. We miss you when someone troubles us, because you were so kind. We miss you when we think of something funny, but you are not here, so our laughter turns to tears. We miss you all the time. Most of all we miss you when we lay awake, remembering all the things you taught us. Our love will never be the same until you come. God took our brother, Ronald home to rest, too. We will always love you, and all our loved ones who have gone on. But will never be forgotten. Love The Roberts Family

#### ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITY

The Illinois Department of Transportation is seeking your comments for the following proposed state highway project within Union and Pulaski counties.

SE From St. 104 U.S. 51 from Donoga to 0.5 mile north of Ulin. The proposed improvement is a standard overlay for an estimated cost of \$1,002,000. Should you have questions or comments, please mail, phone or email your comments within 15 days.

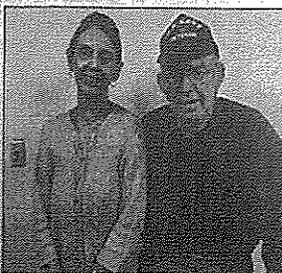
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Office of Planning and Programming  
Room 307  
2300 South Dirksen Parkway  
Springfield, IL 62769  
417-782-2417  
Email: DOT-STIP@idot.gov

#### Fletchers elected King and Queen

Alex and Susan Fletcher (pictured at left) were elected King and Queen of the senior citizens at the Cairo Nutrition Center on Valentine's Day. These two happen to be married, but the elections are held regardless so that doesn't have to be. These two are just friendly people and quite active within the group.

Seniors who eat at the popular Cairo Nutrition Center, always have a Valentine's Day party. And this party is "high class". Beginning with a big table full of appetizers, from chips & dips to soups & salads to many top-notch sweets and delicacies are offered with a glass of punch. Then a regular sit-down meal follows that.

The Fletchers say they plan on eating there every week. Susan, who is a retired teacher, says she enjoys the fellowship at the nutrition center. "It is just pleasant here, and the food is good," she said. Alex, who worked in construction, says he gave up his car when he no longer could drive safely and it is so easy to catch the free bus to the Nutrition Center. He also stated, "You really cook a great meal for a party."



#### ONLINE ONLY LAND AUCTION

Online Bidding: [live.legacyrealtors.com](http://live.legacyrealtors.com)

Bidding Ends Sunday, Feb. 24 - 1pm

Two tracts to be auctioned at 0404 Oak Grove, Spring, Ill. Tracts to be located on St. Louis and back to Arlington Drive Golf Course

View 3 photos online at [www.legacyrealtors.com](http://www.legacyrealtors.com)  
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