The purpose of the proposed action is to provide an improved transportation system for IL 131 from Russell Road to Sunset Avenue.

THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE WILL:

- Improve mobility
- Improve safety
- Upgrade roadway features to meet current design standards

Planning process nearing completion

The IL 131 planning process included a thorough examination of transportation problems, potential solutions, and extensive technical analysis and stakeholder input. This study is following the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process and involves the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA). The NEPA process requires analyzing the social and environmental effects of the proposed improvements. The goal is to avoid impacting environmental resources. If impacts were unavoidable, they were minimized and mitigated. The EA describes these impacts and mitigation measures along with the purpose and need, alternatives, the preferred alternative, and benefits. The EA can be viewed on the project website IL131Project.com, study area municipalities, libraries, and at the IDOT District One Office. Comments will be accepted through December 16, 2017.

Environmental Effects

- Noise - Four noise walls were found to be feasible and reasonable
- Wetlands - 2.84 acres of wetland impacts
- Cultural/Historic - No historic properties, archaeological or architectural sites will be affected
- Air - Air Quality not impacted
- Recreational - 0.10 acres of temporary easement is required from Shepford's Creek Golf Course. 1.08 acres of permanent land acquisition and 0.145 acres of temporary easement are required from Waukegan Sports Park

DEVELOPING & EVALUATING ALTERNATIVES for the People by the People

IDOT realizes that the success of a project is contingent upon the participation and input from stakeholders. To provide a forum for discussion and input, IDOT established a Corridor Planning Group and Technical Advisory Groups. These groups consist of members representing various agencies, business owners, and residents from the project area. These members invested a great deal of time by meeting with the project team throughout the study by providing input on the alternatives development and evaluation process. Beginning with several alternatives, and four rounds of evaluation, a preferred alternative was developed by combining elements to minimize impacts throughout the project area.
**Waukegan National Airport Coordination Continues**

The Waukegan Port District is currently planning to expand facilities at the Waukegan National Airport, including a new runway and taxiway that cross IL 131. A separate Environmental Assessment is currently being prepared by the airport.

To accommodate the runway and taxiway expansion, IL 131 shifts approximately 90 feet west and lowers the roadway 25 to 30 feet.

### Key Features and Benefits

#### Preferred Alternative

- **Sunset Avenue to Yorkhouse Road**
  - 4-Lane with Two-Way Left Turn Lane, Curb and Gutter, Sidewalk* and Shared Use Path*

- **Yorkhouse Road to Stone Bridge Drive and 9th Street to Shepherd’s Crook Golf Course**
  - 4-Lane with Raised Curb Median, Curb and Gutter, Sidewalk* and Shared Use Path*

- **Stone Bridge Drive to 9th Street and Shepherd’s Crook Golf Course to Russell Road**
  - 4-Lane with Raised Curb Median, Shoulder, Sidewalk* and Shared Use Path*

#### Stakeholder Involvement Offers INSIGHT

Throughout the study, frequent meetings were held in order to gain insight on stakeholder concerns and work to minimize effects on the communities. The project team has worked with agencies, municipalities, and other stakeholders, resulting in the development of the preferred alternative.

#### Future CONNECTIVITY Coming Your Way

The Lake County Forest Preserve District partnered with the City of Waukegan, Waukegan Port District and the Village of Beach Park in planning the shared-use path between Yorkhouse Road and the ComEd property (just north of Warner Avenue) and it is a planned connection between the Robert McClory Trail, the Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve and the Des Plaines River Trail.

#### Travel Improvements Beyond the Road

A new shared-use path* will provide:

- Mobility
- Safety for bicycles and pedestrians
- Bicycle and pedestrian accessibility

The shared-use path alternates between the east and west sides of the roadway and will provide better connections to the Waukegan Savanna Forest Preserve, Waukegan Sports Park, schools, churches, residential developments and commercial areas.

*Subject to Local Participation

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### On-going

- Local Community
- Lake and Kenosha County
- Wisconsin DOT Meetings

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#### On-going

- Public Hearing
- Public Meetings
- CPG/TAG Meetings
- State & Federal Meetings
- FAA and Waukegan National Airport Meetings

*Subject to Local Participation*