

Spotlight



News about the Illinois 83/137 Study

This newsletter was developed by the Illinois Department of Transportation to introduce you to the IL 83/IL 137 Study.

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IDOT BEGINS PROJECT STUDY

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has begun studying potential improvements to IL 83 (Milwaukee Avenue/Barron Boulevard) and IL 137 (Buckley Road) in Lake County. This section of IL 83/IL 137 is located in the communities of Lake Villa, Round Lake Beach, Grayslake, and Libertyville.

In this region, IL 83 and IL 137 serve as a main north-south corridor. IDOT has initiated this study because of the importance of these roadways in servicing the local and regional traffic.

During the study, IDOT will:

- Coordinate with stakeholders to better understand community issues and values
- Identify transportation needs along the corridor
- Collect information on area resources
- Develop a broad range of long-term transportation solutions
- Study and document potential effects to the community and environment
- Select a solution that improves transportation and benefits residents, businesses and the traveling public

It is anticipated that the IL 83/IL 137 Study will take approximately three years to complete. Learn more about the process on pages 2-3.

The study limits begin at IL 132 in Lake Villa and extend south along existing IL 83 through Round Lake Beach to the intersection of IL 137 in Grayslake. The study corridor continues southeast along IL 137 to just east of US 45 in Libertyville for a total of 11 miles.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Send comments or questions to:

Mail: Illinois Department of
Transportation, District One
Attn: Patrick Rinosa
201 West Center Ct.
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Email: IL83andIL137@volkert.com

Online: www.IL83andIL137.org



THE PLANNING PROCESS *IDOT develops and implements projects using a three-phase process*

PHASE I

Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Studies

PHASE II

Contract Plan Preparation & Land Acquisition

PHASE III

Construction



The IL 83/IL 137 Study is currently at the beginning of Phase I: Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Studies. During this phase, IDOT will study a broad range of solutions, including a “No-Build” (do nothing) alternative, to improve IL 83/IL 137 in the study area.

IDOT will also conduct an environmental analysis to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). NEPA is a federal law that requires potentially federally funded projects, such as the IL 83/IL 137 Study, to analyze alternatives and identify potential effects of those alternatives on the environment. The term “environment” refers not only to the natural environment (e.g., air, water, ecology), but also to the human environment (e.g., social, cultural and economic issues). These efforts help to ensure that environmental values and other factors are integrated into project decisions. The results of this study will be presented in an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Combined Design Report.

If the project is approved and additional funding is identified, the project will move forward with Phase II: Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition. This phase includes developing detailed construction plans and purchasing land for the project, if needed. Once funding and permits are secured, the project moves into Phase III: Construction.

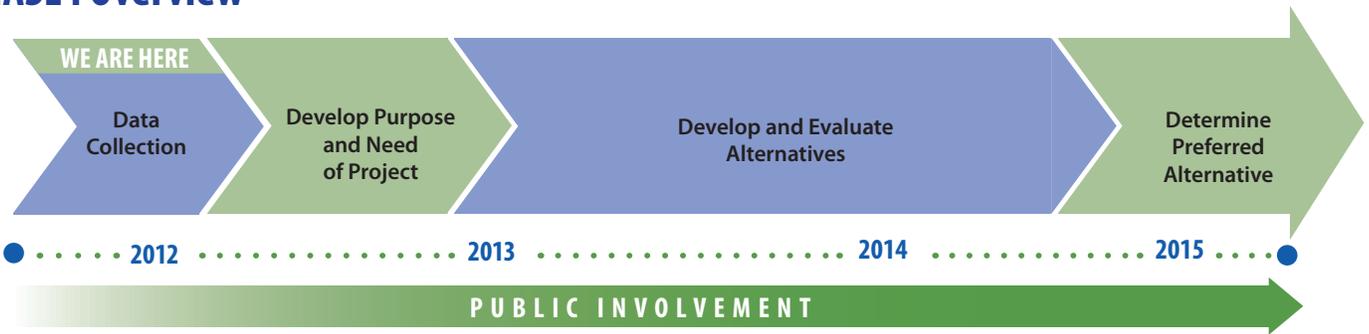


What Topics Will Be Studied?

- Air quality
- Community and social resources
- Ecology and natural resources
- Economics
- Energy
- Farmland
- Floodplains
- Historical and archaeological resources
- Land use
- Noise
- Parks and recreation
- Soils and geology
- Special waste
- Tribal and cultural resources
- Vegetation
- Visual resources
- Water quality
- Wetlands



PHASE I Overview



Data Collection

IDOT is currently identifying stakeholders in the study area. A stakeholder is any person or organization that has a direct stake in the project being considered and its outcomes. IDOT is holding one-on-one meetings with study area Villages, Townships, and Lake County, and coordinating with homeowners associations, businesses and organizations to identify potential stakeholders and better understand community issues.

IDOT will also collect information about the study area, identify existing transportation needs, develop a Stakeholder Involvement Plan, and form the Community Advisory Group.

Develop Purpose and Need of Project

IDOT will work with stakeholders to identify transportation and infrastructure issues in the study area and develop the project's purpose, goals, and objectives. The study team will continue to meet with agencies, community representatives, and other stakeholders to obtain input. The team will develop a study "Problem Statement" and a "Purpose and Need

Statement." The Purpose and Need Statement will be the basis for developing and analyzing potential solutions.

Develop and Evaluate Alternatives

A range of potential solutions will be considered to address the project's Purpose and Need, including a No-Build alternative. There will be multiple opportunities for stakeholders to provide input in the development and evaluation of alternatives.

Determine Preferred Alternative

The final step in the process involves identifying the improvements that best solve the transportation issues along the project corridor and fit within the context of the surrounding communities.

IDOT will select the preferred alternative and hold a public hearing. IDOT will then prepare the Final Environmental Assessment and Combined Design Report and issue the Finding of No Significant Impact.

How is the study being funded?

Funding for preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase I) has been identified in the Department's Fiscal Year 2012-2017 Proposed Highway Improvement Program and is funded by the Illinois Jobs Now Program. Funding beyond this Phase I study is not currently included in the Department's Multiyear Program, but will be considered in future Programs based on fund availability and project readiness.



Stay Informed & Get Involved!

Your participation and input are important to the success of the project. The project includes multiple opportunities to get involved:

- Visit the project website at: www.IL83andIL137.org
- Join our mailing list
- Submit comments
- Attend a public meeting
- Volunteer to be on the Community Advisory Group



Visit the official project website for up to date information about the project, answers to commonly asked questions and information on upcoming public involvement opportunities.

We value your input and look forward to your participation.

CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) is a collaborative approach that seeks effective, multimodal transportation solutions by working with stakeholders to develop, build and maintain cost-effective transportation facilities that fit into and reflect the project's surroundings, its "context." Through early, frequent, and meaningful communication with stakeholders and a flexible, creative approach to design, the resulting project should improve safety and mobility for the traveling public while preserving and enhancing the scenic,

economic, historic, and natural qualities of the settings through which they pass.



COMMUNITY ADVISORY GROUP

As part of the CSS process, IDOT will be forming a Community Advisory Group (CAG). A CAG is a group of community representatives that meet with IDOT at key milestones to review study progress and provide input. The CAG ensures that values and interests of the community are incorporated into project solutions, while balancing community, technical and long-range planning needs. The CAG also assists in keeping the project on the right-track during implementation.

The CAG will be comprised of community leaders, elected officials, representatives from

local municipalities, homeowners, business owners, and stakeholders with expertise or technical interest in the areas being studied, including natural resources, land use, transportation, and economic development. CAG meetings will be designed to encourage timely and meaningful input by members.

If you are interested in participating on the CAG, you may download an application from the project website (www.IL83andIL137.org) or contact Michael Walton at IL83andIL137@volkert.com or (618) 345-8918.

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

There will be many opportunities for stakeholders to provide input during the study. Public participation activities will include public meetings, small group meetings, Community Advisory Group meetings, updates to the project website, and newsletters. IDOT will issue public notices about upcoming events as they are scheduled.

A Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) has been developed to guide the public participation program. The plan describes the stakeholder involvement activities that will be conducted during the study. The SIP has been posted to the project website under "Study Documents" and a copy will be available for viewing at the Public Meeting.

The study team appreciates your input. Please refer to the Contact Information box on page 1 for ways to submit comments and share your ideas.



ABOUT IDOT

Illinois Department of Transportation

IDOT has responsibility for planning, construction and maintenance of Illinois' extensive transportation network, which encompasses highways and bridges, airports, public transit, rail freight and rail passenger systems. It operates with an annual budget of approximately \$5 billion.

Illinois contains over 138,000 miles of highways, streets and roads – the third largest system in the nation. This includes 17,000 miles in the highway system and 2,050 miles of interstate roads.

Some of IDOT's major responsibilities include:

- Overseeing construction, operation and maintenance of 17,000 miles of highways
- Development and implementation of a comprehensive public transportation program
- Development and administration of airport improvement programs
- Administration of state assistance for rail lines and new facilities
- Advancement of transportation safety

The mission of IDOT is to provide safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois in ways that enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity, and demonstrate respect for our environment. We will accomplish our mission while making the following principles the hallmark of all our work: Safety, Integrity, Responsiveness, Quality, and Innovation.

District One

There are nine geographical districts within the Division of Highways. District One encompasses six counties in northeastern Illinois, including the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry, and Will.

The state highway system in District One consists of 3,006 miles of highways and 1,769 bridges, supporting more than 100 million miles of travel daily.

Visit District One's Project Information page at www.dot.state.il.us/projects.html.



Glossary *Understanding the terminology*

Alternative: One of a number of specific transportation improvements developed during a study to fulfill the project's purpose and need. Following detailed analysis, one alternative is recommended for implementation. This alternative is known as the "preferred" alternative.

Community Context Audit: A process of identifying the various community characteristics that make each transportation project unique to its residents, businesses and the general public. The audit takes into account topics such as the community's history and heritage, present and anticipated conditions, mobility, safety, economics, aesthetics, and overall quality of life.

Environmental Assessment (EA): An environmental document that is required by federal law. An EA is prepared to

assist in determining whether a proposed transportation project would have significant impacts on a community. If significant impacts are identified, a more detailed environmental document (Environmental Impact Statement) may be required.

Impacts: Positive, negative or neutral consequences that result from a transportation project.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA): A federal law that requires agencies to assess environmental effects of their proposed actions prior to making decisions. The potential impacts are disclosed in an environmental document and made available for public review. Two major purposes of the environmental review process are better informed decisions and citizen involvement.

Problem Statement: A statement that identifies the transportation problems in the study area and issues to be solved. The Problem Statement helps to shape the project's Purpose and Need Statement.

Purpose and Need Statement: A statement that defines and outlines the transportation problems in the study area and discusses why potential improvements are necessary. The statement drives the process for alternatives development, analysis and the selection of a recommended alternative.

Study Area: The geographic area addressed by the analysis in the study. A study area boundary is defined early in the planning process.

You are invited to help shape the future of transportation in your area!

IDOT SCHEDULES FIRST PUBLIC MEETING FOR IL 83/IL 137 STUDY

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is seeking your input on transportation needs along IL 83 and IL 137 from IL 132 to just east of US 45 in Lake County.

Please join us for an Open House to learn more about the study. Meeting attendees will have an opportunity to:

- Learn about the planning process, schedule and public participation opportunities
- Review study exhibits and materials
- Talk with IDOT and the study team
- Share ideas, ask questions and provide comments

For more information or in the case of inclement weather, contact the study team at (618) 345-8918 or check the project website at www.IL83andIL137.org to confirm meeting details.



Illinois 83/137 Study

PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, March 6 • 4:00 – 7:00 pm

**Round Lake Beach Cultural & Civic Center
2007 Civic Center Way, Round Lake Beach**

**You may stop by the Open House anytime
between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m.**

**The meeting facility is accessible using
the Metra line and parking is available onsite.**

This meeting will be accessible to handicapped individuals. Anyone needing special assistance should contact Michael Walton at (618) 345-8918. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TTD number (800) 525-0844/or 711; TTY uses (Spanish) (800) 501-0864 or 711; and for Telebraille dial (877) 526-6670, at least five days prior to the meeting.



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

**Illinois 83/137 Study
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WHAT'S INSIDE

- ▶ **Study Overview**
- ▶ **Study Area Map**
- ▶ **Planning Process & Schedule**
- ▶ **Public Participation Opportunities**

Thank you for participating in the IL 83/IL 137 Study. Updated project information will be provided in future newsletters. To be removed from the project mailing list, please e-mail IL83andIL137@volkert.com.

Project newsletters are posted to the project website under "Study Documents."



The newsletter is printed on paper using post consumer waste.