

WELCOME!

Welcome to the second Public Informational Meeting for the I-270 over the Mississippi River Bridge Project connecting Madison County, Illinois with St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose of the project is to replace the existing Chain of Rocks bridge that carries I-270 over the Mississippi River.

The reason for the meeting tonight is to:

- explain what alternatives were considered for the proposed project
- present the preferred bridge replacement alternative and get the public's input
- explain how IDOT addressed the public's concerns received to date on what is needed for the project
- inform the public of the overall project schedule.

The meeting format is informal; no formal presentation will be made. Please browse the available materials at your leisure. Representatives of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), and IDOT's consultant teams, Horner & Shifrin and Parsons Transportation Group, and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), are available to answer any questions.



STUDY AREA OUTLINED IN GREEN

WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

Age and Condition

The existing I-270 bridge over the Mississippi River, locally known as the Chain of Rocks Bridge, was constructed in 1966 making the bridge over 50 years old. This has resulted in rising maintenance costs. As recently as 2011, IDOT spent \$7 million on maintenance repairs on the aging structure.

Safety

The current narrow one foot shoulders do not provide room for disabled vehicles without blocking a lane or maneuvering to avoid crashes. The results of having narrow shoulders and high traffic volumes can be seen in the crashes experienced along the corridor. In the most recent five-year period studied, over 181 crashes occurred on I-270 within the project limits. In addition, IDOT has deemed this portion of roadway as a "5% selected segment," meaning this location ranks in the top 5% in terms of most severe safety needs compared to other similar roadways in Illinois.

Limited Capacity

The structure carries four lanes of traffic, two in each direction. This structure has seen a significant increase in traffic from an average daily traffic (ADT) of 19,800 vehicles per day in 1975, to over 51,000 vehicles per day today, with approximately 17 percent of these trips being truck traffic. The traffic is projected to increase to 56,900 vehicles per day by 2030. With the increasing growth in traffic along the I-270 corridor, the bridge will need the ability to expand the number of lanes to meet future traffic and freight demands. With the narrow shoulders, there is no room left for the addition of future lanes within the footprint of the current bridge.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

IDOT, in coordination with MoDOT, during the alternative development process studied a range of replacement options for the bridge and the potential effect of those alternatives. Many factors were considered during this process that led to the preferred alternative selection. Factors considered included but were not limited to: environmental resources, public comment, surrounding land use, traffic statistics, crash history, engineering feasibility, long term maintenance, maintenance of traffic under construction, and how the alternative fits in with the overall roadway infrastructure.

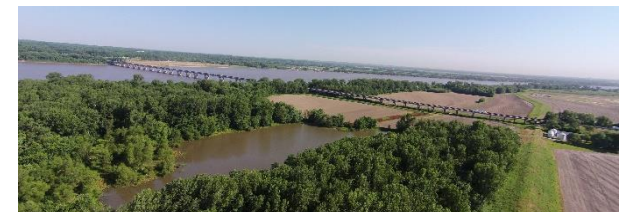
The preferred alternative consists of constructing new twin bridges, one on the same alignment as the existing Chain of Rocks bridge and one directly south of the existing Chain of Rocks bridge. The new bridge will accommodate up to six lanes and include wider shoulders. The new bridge will be striped for four lanes initially but will be constructed to be compatible with six lanes of traffic in the future when the connecting roads are widened to six lanes.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Phase I: Preliminary engineering and identifying right-of-way needs will be wrapping up in early 2018 and "Design Approval" will be achieved.

Phase II: The preparation of the contract plans and right-of-way acquisition will occur in this phase and may take approximately 18-24 months to complete.

Phase III: Construction of the actual project could take between 2-3 construction seasons to complete.



FUNDING

The engineering (Phase I & II) is included in IDOT's Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Construction (Phase III) is currently not funded but is being considered for inclusion in future Programs.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How much will the bridge cost?

Currently, it is estimated construction could cost approximately \$225 million, which includes engineering, land acquisition, utility relocations and construction.

Is this part of MoDOT's I-270 Project?

No. MoDOT has completed an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the widening of I-270 from the I-70 interchange to the Mississippi River. This I-270 bridge replacement project is not part of the MoDOT study. However, the proposed bridge has been preliminarily designed to be compatible with MoDOT's proposed design.

Will There Be Lane Closures During Construction?

The preferred alternative allows for four lanes of traffic to be open to the public during all stages of construction. The southern structure will be constructed first. Traffic will be shifted to the southern structure before removing the existing Chain of Rocks bridge. Once the bridge is demolished, the construction of the northern bridge will begin and be constructed in the same location as the current bridge.

WANTED! YOUR INPUT

Please provide your input on the preferred alternative presented tonight. Your questions, comments, and input are greatly appreciated!

You may fill out the comment form and return it today or mail it to the address on the form by January 31, 2018. All comments received will become part of the permanent record for the project and included in the final project report.



Proposed I-270 Bridge Replacement over the Mississippi River linking Madison County, IL with St. Louis, MO



PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING #2

JANUARY 17, 2018

SWIC-Granite City Campus, IL

CONTACT INFORMATION
We welcome your questions and comments.

Ms. Karen Geldert, P.E.
Senior Project Studies Engineer
1102 Eastport Plaza Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234

Project Website

Visit us for the latest project information:
www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/i-270-over-the-mississippi-river