



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



Public Hearing Summary

**I-55 Lorenzo Road + IL 129
Public Hearing
Summary**

A Public Hearing for I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 was held on Thursday, August 15, 2024. The event was held at the William E. Dugan Training Center – Local 150 in Wilmington, IL. From 3:00 – 6:00 PM. (See *Attachment A* for photographs of the event.) The Hearing was advertised twice in the Sun Times and the Joliet Herald on July 30th and August 8th (*Attachment B*), through an eblast (*Attachment C*) sent to the stakeholder list, and a mailed postcard (*Attachment D*). Outreach took place to third party organizations with a request to post Hearing information and to share on their social sites (*Attachment E*). A press release was distributed on August 13th (*Attachment F*).

A virtual event took place at I55LorenzoIL129outreach.org through September 16th that included all materials from the in-person event. Just over half, 55%, of the visitors came directly to the site, while 42% joined from a link on the IDOT website. Visitors to the virtual event on average spent 5 minutes and 15 seconds viewing materials with the most time spent on the presentation and displays.

The on-line event had 403 visitors of those 25 people signed in. The in-person event was well attended with 124 people signing in at registration for a total of 527 participants (*Attachment G*) throughout the Hearing. Additionally, three reporters attended the event representing The Free Press, WJOL, and Farmers Weekly Review.

Officials in attendance included:

Office of State Senator Rachel Ventura
Office of State Representative Jason Bunting
Office of State Representative Larry Walsh Jr.
City of Wilmington Mayor Ben Dietz
City of Wilmington Alderman Thomas Smith
City of Braidwood Mayor Chris Earley

Attendees included representatives from City of Wilmington, City of Braidwood, Will County DOT, Grundy County, Reed Township, Wesley Township, Wilmington Township, Wilmington Fire, Wilmington Police, Channahon Fire, Liuna Local 75, Teamsters 179, Ironworkers Local 444, Joliet Junior College, Openlands, Deer Ridge Park HOA, Shadow Lakes II Association, Braidwood Area Historical Society, Midewin Alliance, BNSF, Tameling RV Park, Prairie Creek Grain, T&R Mini Storage, D Construction, Triumph DB, Elion 55, Wight & Company, Benesch, C.O.W.

After signing in, participants were given a newsletter (*Attachment H*) and a FAQ sheet (*Attachment I*) and directed to an auditorium with a ten-minute presentation on a continuous loop that provided an overview of the project and details on the preferred alternative (*Attachment J*). After watching the video, participants entered the exhibit room where they could review a series of displays that

provided overall project information (*Attachment K*). This included four stations with rollout maps, two with maps of the entire corridor, one for the Lorenzo Road interchange and one for the IL 129 interchange (*Attachment L*). Several tables were set up to allow participants the opportunity to sit and complete a comment form (*Attachment M*). IDOT and consultant staff were present to answer questions.

A court reporter was present at the Hearing and accepted verbal comments from five participants (*Attachment N*). Sixteen comment forms were submitted at the meeting and an additional Sixteen comments were submitted through the virtual event (*Attachment O*). A total of 37 comments were received during the Public Hearing comment period.

Comments included:

- Need for improved signage
- Maintenance needed for grass and trees at both interchanges
- Support for project
- SE Frontage Road dips in road over pipeline near Murphy Road
- Reduce truck traffic cutting through Braidwood and Wilmington
- Improvements are allowing expansion of trucking business – bad for communities
- Change the proposed roundabout to a “normal corner”
- Opposed to improvements unless private industry pays for upkeep and maintenance
- Concerns regarding safety during construction
- Consider low impact lighting
- Remove IL 102 and IL 53 as truck routes
- Concerns regarding local traffic during construction
- Changes will devalue homes
- Drainage is a problem since building of intermodal facilities
- Shoulders need to be added to Frontage Road
- Concerns about runoff and contamination to the river and private wells
- Noise is an issue, desire for sound walls
- Concerns regarding environmental impacts

The event received follow-up media coverage from the Free Press and Farmers Weekly Review (*Attachment P*).

INDEX OF ATTACHEMENTS

Attachment A – Photographs

Attachment B –Advertisements

Attachment C – Eblast

Attachment D – Postcard

Attachment E – Third Party Advertisements

Attachment F – Press Release

Attachment G – Sign-in Sheets

Attachment H – Newsletter

Attachment I – FAQ Sheet

Attachment J – Presentation

Attachment K – Displays

Attachment L – Map

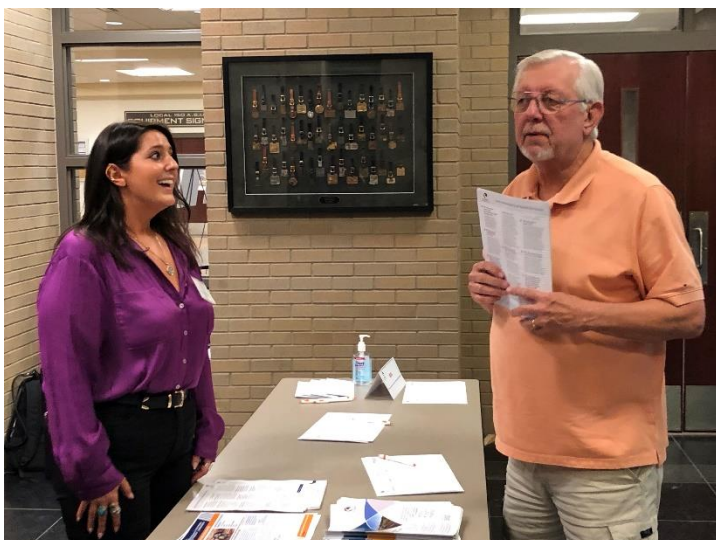
Attachment M – Comment Form

Attachment N – Court Reporter Transcript

Attachment O – Comments

Attachment P – Media Coverage

ATTACHMENT A
Photographs













ATTACHMENT B
Advertisements

PUBLIC NOTICES

mation for the Plaintiff: Canly Novy Berikau Gordon, LLC, 65 E. Wacker Pl. Suite 1220, Chicago, IL 60601 Telephone: 847-625-8200 email: service@cnbalaw.com

To respond to this lawsuit, you must file an Appearance and Answer with the Circuit Court of Will County within 30 days of publication of this notice by e-filing or at: 100 W Jefferson St Joliet IL 60432. Failure to do so may result in the entry of a default judgment.

(Published in Herald-News July 23, 30, 2024 August 6, 13, 2024) 2180017

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (Adult Name Change) IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT WILL COUNTY

Kathleen Marie Groebli

Case Number
2024MR000256

My current name is:
Kathleen Marie Groebli

I wish my name to be changed to:
Kitty Eileen Mullen

The court date for the Request is scheduled on: Sept 30th 2024 at 9 a.m. in Courtroom Number 905

Attend court any of the ways checked:

☒ In person at:
100 W Jefferson St.
Joliet, IL 60432
Courtroom Number 905

Andrea Lynn Chasteen
Will County Circuit Clerk
Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Electronically Filed
2024MR000256
Filed Date: 7/10/2024
2:51 PM
Envelope: 28451624
Clerk: JE

(Published in Herald-News July 23, 30, 2024 August 6, 2024) 2179912

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (Adult Name Change) IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, CIRCUIT COURT WILL COUNTY

Jill Ann Cooke

Case Number
2024MR000295

My current name is:
Jill Ann Cooke

I wish my name to be changed to:
Jillian Rose Levy

The court date for the Request is scheduled on: 09/27/2024 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom Number 905

Attend court any of the ways checked:

☒ In person at:
100 W Jefferson St.
Joliet, IL 60432
Courtroom Number 905
By video conference
Zoom.US
865 4627 3704 861779
312-626-6799

PUBLIC NOTICES

Andrea Lynn Chasteen
Will County Circuit Clerk
Twelfth Judicial Circuit Court
Electronically Filed
2024MR000295
Filed Date: 7/26/2024
10:21 AM
Envelope: 28678669
Clerk: TEB

(Published in Herald-News July 30, 2024 August 6, 13, 2024) 2182133

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, 100 WEST JEFFERSON STREET, JOLIET ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF Ronald Siembak, DECEASED.

24 PR 223

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Linda Villa, 1707 Vinewood Avenue, The Villages, Florida 32162, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Richard A. Kuenster, Richard A. Kuenster & Associates, 2721 Modaff Road, Naperville, Illinois 60565.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before January 23, 2025, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.
Richard A. Kuenster
Richard A. Kuenster & Associates (031230177)
2721 Modaff Road
Naperville, Illinois 60565
(630)922-2800
13248400

(Published in Herald-News July 23, 30, 2024 August 6, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, 100 WEST JEFFERSON STREET, JOLIET ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF Deborah L. Alexander, DECEASED.

24 PR 339

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Norma Harris-Hellis, 1419 Cambria Drive, Joliet, Illinois 60431, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Thomas L. Murphy, Thomas

PUBLIC NOTICES

L. Murphy, PC, 9500 Bormet Drive, Suite 103, Mokena, Illinois 60448.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before January 16, 2025, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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Thomas L. Murphy, PC
Thomas L. Murphy, PC (1998277)
9500 Bormet Drive, Suite 103
Mokena, Illinois 60448
(708)403-5500
13247971

(Published in Herald-News July 16, 23, 30, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, 100 WEST JEFFERSON STREET, JOLIET ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF Brian G. Hite, DECEASED.

24 PR 360

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Adam B. Hite, 359 North Ferrel Street, Olathe, KS 66061, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Raymond W. Prather, Prather Ebner Wilson, LLP, 53 West Jackson Blvd., #1025, Chicago, Illinois 60604.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before January 23, 2025, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions.

PUBLIC NOTICES

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Raymond W. Prather
Prather Ebner Wilson, LLP (6290498)
53 West Jackson Blvd., #1025
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312)235-8300
13248401

(Published in Herald-News July 23, 30, 2024 August 6, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, 100 WEST JEFFERSON STREET, JOLIET ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF David D. Bechtold, deceased

24 PR 369

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Jane Bechtold, 27056 South Woodlawn Avenue, Crete, Illinois 60417, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Heather Voom, Voom, Jaworski & Preston, PLLC, 1938 East Lincoln Highway, Suite 219, New Lenox, Illinois 60451.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before January 16, 2025, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.
Heather Voom
Voom, Jaworski & Preston, PLLC (6290981)
1938 East Lincoln Highway, Suite 219
New Lenox, Illinois 60451
(815) 215-8777
13247975

(Published in Herald-News July 16, 23, 30, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Court of Will County, Illinois - Probate Case No. 2024 PR 396 IN RE THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: DENNIS MCGILL, 26103 S. Ruby Street Monee, Illinois 60449. Date of Death: April 30, 2023. PUBLICATION

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION TO UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES, CREDITORS AND CLAIMANTS: : Letters of Office were issued on July 15, 2024, to KELLY MCGILL, 504 N. 4th Street, Wolcott, Indiana 47995, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Adam C. Gynac, of Granholm & Gynac, LLC, 63 N. Chicago Street, Joliet, IL 60432 (815) 582-3600. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Will County, Will County Courthouse, 1st floor, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432. Claims against the estate must be filed on or before January 30, 2025. Any claim not filed on or before that date are barred. Copies of any claim filed with the Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and their attorney within ten (10) days after filing. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To learn more about e-filing and select a service provider, visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>. The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent supervision administration by filing a petition to terminate under Article XXVIII 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-

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4). /s/ Adam C. Gynac, Attorney.

(Published in Herald-News July 30, August 6, 13, 2024) 2182044

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE.

In the Matter of the Application for Letters of Administration upon the estate of SHELLIE WILLIAMS JR., Deceased,

No. 2024 PR 463.

Public notice is hereby given that a petition has been filed by Gitsit Solutions, LLC, in the Circuit Court of Will County, Illinois, Probate Division, showing that the above-named decedent, who resided in Will County, Illinois, died on January 29, 2022, and that the said decedent left surviving FRANCIS M. KIRKPATRICK and UNKNOWN HEIRS as the only Heirs at Law.

Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN HEIRS OF SHELLIE WILLIAMS JR. that the said above named petitioner prays that Letters of Administration be granted to David S. Dordek as Independent Administrator, and that said application has been set for hearing, and proof of heirship of said petition will be offered to the Circuit Court of Will County, Illinois, Probate Division, in Courtroom R002 of the Will County Courthouse, 3208 West McDonough Street, Joliet, Illinois 60431, via Zoom video conference

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platform, on August 30, 2024, at 9:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as counsel or the matter can be heard, at which time and place you may attend, if you see fit.

Instructions to attend the hearing via Zoom are available by visiting <https://zoom.us/join> or <https://zoom.us/join/ZoomRoomsLive.html>. If you do not have access to the Internet, you may call (815) 727-8592 for information. Katherine M. Lackinger, Anderson Law Offices, P.C., 5711 N. Lincoln Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659, (773) 728-3388. 13248884

(Published in Herald-News July 30, 2024 August 6, 13, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE BID NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to Contractors that the Homer Township Fire Protection District will be receiving sealed bids for FIRE STATION'S 31 AND 32 OVERHEAD DOOR REPLACEMENT.

General: The Homer Township Fire Protection District ("Fire District") is requesting bids from General Contractors to perform overhead door services. The proposed work (the "Work") is officially known as "Homer Township Fire Station Overhead Garage Door Replacement" and further described as the replacement of existing overhead doors at Station 32 (16131 S. Bell Road, Homer Glen, IL 60491) and Station 31 (16050 S. Cedar Rd., Lockport, IL 60441). Includ-

PUBLIC NOTICES

ing removal of nine existing doors, installation of eight new doors, and the relocation of one existing door. The work will be conducted during the Fall of 2024 with a completion date of November 1, 2024. The project will be issued for bid on Monday, August 5, 2024 and the Fire District will receive bids until 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2024. Any late bids may be rejected. A pre-bid meeting will be held on Friday, August 16, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Fire District's Station 31, 16050 S. Cedar Road, Lockport, IL 60491. Bids will be opened on Wednesday August 21, 2024 at the District's regular Board of Trustees meeting at Station 31 located at 16050 S. Cedar Road, Lockport, IL 60491. The Fire District will execute a lump sum contract for construction with the lowest responsible and qualified bidder. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Electronic copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained beginning Monday, August 5, 2024, via email to cwojck@homerfire.org, or kdoyle@homerfire.org. You may also request via phone at 1-815-838-5006.

(Published in Herald-News July 30, 2024) 2182343

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TheHerald-News.com/classified

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Illinois Department of Transportation PUBLIC HEARING

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) cordially invites you to attend an open house public hearing concerning the preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase 1) for the improvement of I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 in Will County. The proposed improvement consists of reconstruction of the I-55 at Lorenzo Road and I-55 at IL 129 interchanges. The details of the hearing are as follows:

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Location: William E. Dugan Training Center - Local 150
19800 West South Arsenal Road
Wilmington, IL, 60481

Purpose of the hearing:

- Describe the project development process
- Present the proposed improvements
- Present road closure of West Frontage Road from Lorenzo Road to 0.75 miles north of Kavanaugh Road
- Obtain public input

Interested persons may attend anytime between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Exhibits will be on display and an audio-visual presentation will be shown continuously during the hearing. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. A court reporter will be available for those wishing to make a verbal statement at the hearing. Written comments can also be submitted at the hearing or after via email or mail. Comments received by September 16, 2024, will become part of the official public hearing record.

All correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Attn: Bureau of Programming
Anna Kutryn
201 W. Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Or via email: Lorenzoll129study@gmail.com

This hearing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact Anna Kutryn at (847) 705-4569. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.



Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump. AP PHOTOS

Trump says he 'probably' will debate Harris but could 'make a case' against it

BY MICHELLE L. PRICE
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Donald Trump on Monday seemed to back away from his earlier commitment to debate Vice President Kamala Harris, questioning the value of a meetup and saying he "probably" will debate but he "can also make a case for not doing it."

Trump, in an interview with Fox News Channel that aired Monday night, was pressed several times about committing to debating Harris before giving a squishier answer than he had in recent days.

The Republican former president had been eager to debate President Joe Biden when he was the Democratic nominee after months of suggesting that Biden was not mentally up for the matchup — or the presidency. But after Biden dropped out of the race and Harris became poised to be the Democratic presidential candidate, Trump has been questioning the terms of the original debate he agreed to with Biden. He has suggested the Sept. 10 debate on ABC News should be moved to a different network, calling ABC "fake news."

Last week, in a phone call with reporters, Trump was asked if he'd commit to debating Harris at least once. He responded: "Oh yes,

absolutely. I'd want to," and said there was an obligation to debate.

In the interview Monday, host Laura Ingraham repeatedly pressed Trump on whether he would commit to a debate.

"I want to do a debate. But I also can say this. Everybody knows who I am. And now people know who she is," Trump said.

Trump eventually said, "The answer is yes, I'll probably end up debating."

He went on for a minute, saying any debates need to be held before early voting starts in states, and then added, "The answer is yes, but I can also make a case for not doing it."

The Republican candidate also sought in the interview Monday to clarify comments he made last week at a conservative event in which he told an audience of Christians that they "won't have to vote anymore" after he's elected.

His campaign and supporters offered various explanations for Trump's comments, and Ingraham prodded him to explain what he meant.

"They don't vote and I'm explaining that to 'em. 'You never vote.' This time, vote. I'll straighten out the country. You won't have to vote anymore. I won't need your vote," Trump said.



Illinois Department of Transportation PUBLIC HEARING

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19800 West South Arsenal Road
Wilmington, IL, 60481

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- Present the proposed improvements
- Present road closure of West Frontage Road from Lorenzo Road to 0.75 miles north of Kavanaugh Road
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All correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Attn: Bureau of Programming
Anna Kutryn
201 W. Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Or via email: LorenzoIL129study@gmail.com

This hearing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact Anna Kutryn at (847) 705-4569. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 12TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, 100 WEST JEFFERSON STREET, JOLIET ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
Duane D. Johnson,
DECEASED.

24 PR 386

Notice is given to creditors of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Leo A. Kreifels, 341 Anthony Lane, Lincoln, Nebraska 68520, as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Todd Wallace, Huck Bouma, PC, 1755 South Naperville Road, Suite 200, Wheaton, Illinois 60189.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (Ill. Compiled Stat. 1992, Ch. 755, par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before February 1, 2025, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

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Todd Wallace
Huck Bouma, P.C.
(6279489)
1755 South Naperville Road,
Suite 200
Wheaton, Illinois 60189
(630)221-1755
13249033

(Published in Herald-News
August 1, 8, 15, 2024)

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF WILL)
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN RE THE ESTATE OF:
PATRICIA DYKHUIZEN,
Deceased.

NO. 24 PR 399

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of PATRICIA DYKHUIZEN. Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on July 22, 2024 to ELLEN RAMIREZ, whose address is 3717 Buck Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60431, whose attorneys are WENGLER LAW FIRM, PC, 181 N. Hammes Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the

PUBLIC NOTICES

representative, or both, on or before, the 2nd day of February, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Ellen Ramirez,
Independent Executor of the
Estate of Patricia Dykhuzen
Colleen Wengler
WENGLER LAW FIRM, PC
181 N. Hammes Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60435
(815) 730-6968
service@wenglerlaw.com

(Published in Herald-News
on August 1, 8, 15, 2024)
2182706

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF WILL)
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN RE THE ESTATE OF:
MARK DORINSON,
Deceased.

Case No. 24 P 404
CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of MARK DORINSON. Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on July 25, 2024 to COLLEEN WENGLER, Public Administrator of Will County, whose address is 181 N. Hammes Avenue, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before, the 2nd day of February, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit

PUBLIC NOTICES

<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.
Colleen Wengler,
Independent Administrator of
the Estate of Mark Dorinson
Colleen Wengler
WENGLER LAW FIRM, PC
181 N. Hammes Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60435
(815) 730-6968
willcountypublicguardian@
wenglerlaw.com

(Published in Herald-News
on August 1, 8, 15, 2024)
2182719

PUBLIC NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
OF ADOPTION OF RULES
AND REGULATIONS OF THE
BOARD OF FIRE
COMMISSIONERS OF THE
HOMER TOWNSHIP FIRE
PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Notice is hereby given by the Board of Fire Commissioners (the "Commission") of the Homer Township Fire Protection District that its amended Rules and Regulations have been approved at its August 1, 2024 meeting, and that said rules become effective ten (10) days after the date of publication. Copies of the Rules and Regulations are available for review at the Homer Township Fire Protection District headquarters fire station, 16050 S Cedar Rd, Lockport, IL 60491, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Chairman Chuck Challans Board of Fire Commissioners Homer Township Fire Protection District

(Published in Herald-News
August 8, 2024) 2184040

PUBLIC NOTICE

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN**
that on 08-20-24 at 2:00 PM, a sale by public auction will be held at 1906 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill Illinois, to sell the following articles to enforce a lien existing under the Self-Service Storage Facility Act, 770 ILCS 95/1 et seq., against such articles, for storage furnished at 1906 Plainfield Road, Crest Hill Illinois.
Unit # Tenant
112 Chastity Santucci
115 Chastity Santucci
118 Jlmothy Mitchell
152 Shawn Cole
158 Kevin Evans

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICES

162 Miguel Torres
165 Benito Delgado
167 Thomas Williams
191 Benito Requena
196 Estrella Hernandez
203 Miguel Hernandez
239 Gina Venice
247 Phyllicia Edmon
256 Stephanie Cockream
263 Briana Williams
286 Stephanie Jenks
311 Jessica Stokes
341 Daniel Fischer
1016 Chastity Santucci
1035 William Tyler
1038 Early Deloach
2005 Cory Shields
2034 Deangelo Hill
3004 Ashley Jones
3020 Joyce Ann Caesar
5002 Linda Nosike
5018 Dewuan Jackson
7020 Shinika Jones
7028 Carmen Moore
5047B Deantae Williams
30013 Shonita Crowder
**Route 30 U-Store-It
1906 Plainfield Road
Crest Hill, IL 60403
815-730-3100**

(Published in Herald-News
on Jul. 31, Aug. 8, 2024)
2181396

ASSUMED NAME

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk

**Assumed Business Name
Certificate of Registration
of Ownership of Business**

Name of Business:
EarthKart

**Certificate No.: 035128
Filed: JUL 10, 2024**

**Address(es) where business
is to be conducted or
transacted in this county:**
2712 Grand Ridge Cir
Aurora IL 60503

**Name(s) as it appears on
your ID and residence
address(es) of the person(s)
owning, conducting or
transacting business:**
Dhara Bhatt
2712 Grand Ridge Cir
Aurora IL 60503

**STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF WILL)
This is to certify that the
undersigned, upon oath**

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
Proposed Flood Hazard Determinations for the Village
of New Lenox, Will County, Illinois, and Case No. 24-
05-0965P.** The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) solicits technical information or comments on proposed flood hazard determinations for the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), and where applicable, the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for your community. These flood hazard determinations may include the addition or modification of Base Flood Elevations, base flood depths, Special Flood Hazard Area boundaries or zone designations, or the regulatory floodway. The FIRM and, if applicable, the FIS report have been revised to reflect these flood hazard determinations through issuance of a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), in accordance with Title 44, Part 65 of the Code of Federal Regulations. These determinations are the basis for the floodplain management measures that your community is required to adopt or show evidence of having in effect to qualify or remain qualified for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program. For more information on the proposed flood hazard determinations and information on the statutory 90-day period provided for appeals, please visit FEMA's website at www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/thm/bfe, or call the FEMA Mapping and Insurance exchange (FMIX) toll free at 1-877-FEMA MAP (1-877-336-2627).
(Published in Herald-News August 1, 8, 2024) 2181610

ASSUMED NAME

deposes and says that the foregoing is a true certificate for the Assumed Business Name and intends to conduct or transacts business from the location(s) indicated and that the true or legal full name(s) of the person(s) owing, conducting or transacting the business is/are correct as shown.

/s/ Dhara Bhatt

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by the person(s) intending to conduct the business this 27th day of June, 2024.

Alaa Fawzy
Notary Public

(Published in Herald-News
July 25, 2024 August 1, 8,
2024) 2181225

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk

**Assumed Business Name
Certificate of Registration
of Ownership of Business
Notice**

Name of Business:
McStar Entertainment
**Certificate No.: 35126
Filed: JUL 8, 2024**

**Address(es) where business
is to be conducted or
transacted in this county:**
24129 Cabernet Ln
Plainfield, IL 60586

PUBLIC NOTICES

ASSUMED NAME

Name(s) as it appears on your ID and residence address(es) of the person(s) owning, conducting or transacting business:
Timothy J Gavin
24129 Cabernet Ln
Plainfield, IL 60586

**STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF WILL)
This is to certify that the
undersigned, upon oath
deposes and says that the
foregoing is a true certificate
for the Assumed Business
Name and intends to
conduct or transacts
business from the location(s)
indicated and that the true or
legal full name(s) of the
person(s) owing, conducting
or transacting the business
is/are correct as shown.**

/s/ Timothy J Gavin

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by the person(s) intending to conduct the business this 8th day of July, 2024.

Lauren Staley Ferry
County Clerk

(Published in Herald-News
July 25, Aug. 1, 8, 2024)
2180142

PUBLIC NOTICE

Lauren Staley Ferry
Will County Clerk

**Assumed Business Name
Certificate of Registration
of Ownership of Business
Notice**

Name of Business:

PUBLIC NOTICES

ASSUMED NAME

Serenity Now
Counseling & Consulting
**Certificate No.: 35143
Filed: JUL 30, 2024**

**Address(es) where business
is to be conducted or
transacted in this county:**
9101 Timberwood Ln.
Tinley Park, IL 60487

**Name(s) as it appears on
your ID and residence
address(es) of the person(s)
owning, conducting or
transacting business:**
Tiffany C. Ruffin
9101 Timberwood Ln.
Tinley Park, IL 604876

**STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF WILL)
This is to certify that the
undersigned, upon oath
deposes and says that the
foregoing is a true certificate
for the Assumed Business
Name and intends to
conduct or transacts
business from the location(s)
indicated and that the true or
legal full name(s) of the
person(s) owing, conducting
or transacting the business
is/are correct as shown.**

/s/ Tiffany C. Ruffin

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me by the person(s) intending to conduct the business this 30th day of July, 2024.

Lauren Staley Ferry
County Clerk

(Published in Herald-News
Aug. 1, 8, 15, 2024)
2182877

PUBLIC NOTICES

Good
Help
is
EASY
to
Find



Hiring?
Advertise your
job openings
with us, and
connect with
the area's
most qualified
applicants. Our
print and online
packages
ensure you
cover all the
bases!

PUBLIC NOTICES

Illinois Department of Transportation
PUBLIC HEARING

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) cordially invites you to attend an open house public hearing concerning the preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase 1) for the improvement of I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 in Will County. The proposed improvement consists of reconstruction of the I-55 at Lorenzo Road and I-55 at IL 129 interchanges. The details of the hearing are as follows:

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Location: William E. Dugan Training Center - Local 150
19800 West South Arsenal Road
Wilmington, IL, 60481

Purpose of the hearing:

- Describe the project development process
- Present the proposed improvements
- Present road closure of West Frontage Road from Lorenzo Road to 0.75 miles north of Kavanaugh Road
- Obtain public input

Interested persons may attend anytime between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Exhibits will be on display and an audio-visual presentation will be shown continuously during the hearing. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. A court reporter will be available for those wishing to make a verbal statement at the hearing. Written comments can also be submitted at the hearing or after via email or mail. Comments received by September 16, 2024, will become part of the official public hearing record.

All correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

**Illinois Department of Transportation
Attn: Bureau of Programming
Anna Kutryn
201 W. Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096**

Or via email: Lorenzoll129study@gmail.com

This hearing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact Anna Kutryn at (847) 705-4569. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.



The 26,000-square-foot Bronzeville Health Center, an extension of Provident Hospital, will offer primary health care for adults and children as well as physical therapy services. PROVIDED

Cook County to open health center in Bronzeville near old Michael Reese Hospital site

BY SOPHIE SHERRY, STAFF REPORTER
ssherry@suntimes.com | @SophiePSherry

Cook County Health plans to open a new outpatient health care center early next year in the Bronzeville neighborhood near the site of the former Michael Reese Hospital, officials announced Wednesday.

The Bronzeville Health Center at 467 E. 31st St. will offer family medicine, mental health care and rehabilitation services.

"This is a particularly poignant moment — we're located here on 31st Street in the shadows of the old Michael Reese Hospital campus to announce a new investment in the health of residents on the South Side of Chicago," Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle said at a news conference Wednesday.

Cook County Health and the Cook County Bureau of Asset Management will invest \$10 million in the new 26,000-square-foot facility, Preckwinkle said. Once completed, the center will have 44 exam rooms and a gym for therapy services.

The county predicts the center will see 85,000 patients in its first year.

Preckwinkle said the new health center will help address "a deeply troubling disparity head-on," citing a 2019 study that found a 30-year life expectancy gap between white residents in Streeterville and Black residents in Englewood.

"The health center holds the promise of not only addressing the immediate health

needs of the community but also fostering long-term improvements in health outcomes on Chicago's South Side," Preckwinkle said.

Michael Reese Hospital closed in 2008, leaving a gap for health services in the South Side community. Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry said the situation was worsened by the closure of six city-run mental health care facilities in 2012.

"Like physical health care, mental and behavioral health care is a right, not a privilege," Lowry said. "We know that such treatment, it breeds violence prevention, it breeds safety and it breeds healthy living."

In addition to mental health care, the Bronzeville Health Center will provide primary care for children and adults, management for chronic conditions, pregnancy care, extended physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy services.

The center is an extension of Provident Hospital, the first hospital in the nation owned and operated by African Americans.

Cook County Health has invested more than \$9 million in Provident Hospital over recent years to expand clinic services and modernize facilities, said Dr. Erik Mikaitis, interim CEO of Cook County Health.

The Bronzeville Health Center will be housed in a former Reese medical office building with a modernist design. Construction on the interior is underway and officials hope to be finished by early 2025.



Illinois Department of Transportation PUBLIC HEARING

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) cordially invites you to attend an open house public hearing concerning the preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase I) for the improvement of I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 in Will County. The proposed improvement consists of reconstruction of the I-55 at Lorenzo Road and I-55 at IL 129 interchanges. The details of the hearing are as follows:

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024
Time: 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Location: William E. Dugan Training Center - Local 150
19800 West South Arsenal Road
Wilmington, IL, 60481

Purpose of the hearing:

- Describe the project development process
- Present the proposed improvements
- Present road closure of West Frontage Road from Lorenzo Road to 0.75 miles north of Kavanaugh Road
- Obtain public input

Interested persons may attend anytime between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Exhibits will be on display and an audio-visual presentation will be shown continuously during the hearing. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. A court reporter will be available for those wishing to make a verbal statement at the hearing. Written comments can also be submitted at the hearing or after via email or mail. Comments received by September 16, 2024, will become part of the official public hearing record.

All correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Attn: Bureau of Programming
Anna Kutryn
201 W. Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Or via email: LorenzoIL129study@gmail.com

This hearing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact Anna Kutryn at (847) 705-4569. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

ATTACHMENT C
Eblast



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Public Hearing Scheduled for I-55 Interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129

The Illinois Department of Transportation invites you to attend an open house public hearing concerning the I-55 interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129. The purpose of the hearing is to present the proposed improvements and to obtain public input.

The Hearing will be held:

Thursday, August 15, 2024
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

William E. Dugan Training Center

Local 150

19800 W. South Arsenal Road

Wilmington, IL 60481

Public hearing participants will have the opportunity to visit anytime between 3 PM and 6 PM. Exhibits will be on display and a recorded presentation will be shown continuously during the hearing. IDOT representatives will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. Written comments can be submitted at or after the meeting via email or mail. Additionally, a court reporter will be available at the hearing to transcribe your verbal comments. Comments received by September 16, 2024, will become part of the official public hearing record.

Share your thoughts!

Ways to comment on the Lorenzo Road and IL 129 interchange improvements:



**Submit your comment
on the website at:**

i55lorenzoil129outreach.org



Email your comment to:

lorenzoil129study@gmail.com



Send your thoughts by mail to:

Illinois Department of
Transportation
Bureau of Programming
Attention: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196

This hearing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact Anna Kutryn at (847) 705-4569. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.



Illinois Department
of Transportation

ATTACHMENT D
Postcard

You're
invited!



Illinois Department
of Transportation

201 Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Public Hearing

August 15th

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM

William E. Dugan Training Center
Local 150

*19800 W. South Arsenal Rd
Wilmington, IL 60481*

Public Hearing Scheduled for I-55 Interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) cordially invites you to attend an open house public hearing concerning the preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase I) for the improvement of I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 in Will County. The proposed improvement consists of reconstruction of the I-55 at Lorenzo Road and I-55 at IL 129 interchanges. The purpose of the hearing are as follows:

- ➔ Describe the project development process
- ➔ Present the proposed improvements
- ➔ Present road closure of West Frontage Road from Lorenzo Road to 0.75 miles north of Kavanaugh Road
- ➔ Obtain public input

This hearing will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact Anna Kutryn at (847) 705-4569. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the Department's TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681 at least five (5) days prior to the meeting.

Interested persons may attend anytime between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. Exhibits will be on display and an audio-visual presentation will be shown continuously during the hearing. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. A court reporter will be available for those wishing to make a verbal statement at the hearing. Written comments can also be submitted at the hearing or after via email or mail. Comments received by September 16, 2024, will become part of the official public hearing record.

See below for ways to submit your feedback:

➔ Send your thoughts by mail to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
Bureau of Programming
Attention: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196

➔ Submit your comment on the website at:

i55lorenzoil129outreach.org

➔ Email your comment to:

lorenzoil129study@gmail.com

ATTACHMENT E
Third Party Advertisements

I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL129 Public Hearing 3rd Party Advertising

Social Media Posts


City of Wilmington

Facebook- August 6, 2024



IRTBA

Friday Facts 8/9/2024



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**


IDOT Public Hearing: I-55 Interchanges at Lorenzo Road & IL 129

- **Date:** Thursday, August 15
- **Time:** 3 - 6 PM
- **Location:** William E. Dugan Training Center – Local 150 (19800 West South Arsenal Road, Wilmington, IL 60481)

[More Info](#)

Will County Board



Facebook- August 6, 2024



Will County Board

August 6 at 12:30 PM · 🌐

Public Hearing Scheduled for Thursday, August 15, 2024

Public Hearing Scheduled for I-55 Interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129

The Illinois Department of Transportation invites you to attend an open house public hearing concerning the I-55 interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129. The purpose of the hearing is to present the proposed improvements and to obtain public input.

The Hearing will be held:

Thursday, August 15, 2024
3:00 PM – 6:00 PM
William E. Dugan Training Center
Local 150
19800 W. South Arsenal Road
Wilmington, IL 60481

Public hearing participants will have the opportunity to visit anytime between 3 PM and 6 PM. Exhibits will be on display and a recorded presentation will be shown continuously during the hearing. IDOT representatives will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. Written comments can be submitted at or after the meeting via email or mail. Additionally, a court reporter will be available at the hearing to transcribe your verbal comments. Comments received by September 16, 2024, will become part of the official public hearing record.

Will County Center for Economic Development

Facebook- August 7, 2024



Will County Center for Economic Development

August 7 at 11:38 AM · 🌐

IDOT is completing a Phase 1 Study for I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 in Will County. IDOT will present the Preferred Alternatives to the community at the public hearing below . Please consider attending and sharing this information with anyone you feel should be heard! Details can also be found at I55lorenzoil29outreach.org




Attend a Public Hearing

Attend an open house public hearing concerning the preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase I) for the improvement of I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 in Will County.

- ➡ Learn the project development process
- ➡ View West Frontage Road closure details
- ➡ See proposed improvements
- ➡ Give us your input on proposed improvements

PUBLIC HEARING

August 15th
3-6 PM

William E. Dugan Training Center
Local 150
19800 W. South Arsenal Rd
Wilmington, IL 60481

I55LORENZOIL129OUTREACH.ORG

👍 1

3 shares

👍 Like

💬 Comment

➦ Share

Workforce Investment Board of Will County

LinkedIn – 8/6/2024



Workforce Investment Board of Will County

493 followers

1w • 

+ Follow

...

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is completing a Phase I Study for I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 in Will County. In support of this study, IDOT is hosting a Public Hearing on August 15, 2024, to present the Preferred ...more



I-55 STUDY
LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Attend a Public Hearing

Attend an open house public hearing concerning the preliminary engineering and environmental studies (Phase I) for the improvement of I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 in Will County.

- Learn the project development process
- View West Frontage Road closure details
- See proposed improvements
- Give us your input on proposed improvements

PUBLIC HEARING

August 15th

3-6 PM

William E. Dugan Training Center
Local 150
19800 W. South Arsenal Rd
Wilmington, IL 60481

155LORENZOIL129OUTREACH.ORG

WJOL

8/7/2024

News Coverage

WJOL



<https://www.wjol.com/public-hearing-scheduled-for-i-55-interchanges-at-lorenzo-road-and-at-il-129/>

The **Illinois Department of Transportation** invites you to attend an open house public hearing concerning the I-55 interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129. The purpose of the hearing is to present the proposed improvements and to obtain public input.

The hearing will be held on **Thursday August, 15, 2024** from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the William E. Dugan Train Center Local 150 at 198000 W. South Arsenal Road in **Wilmington**. For more information [click here](#).

The Free Press



<http://freepressnewspapers.com/content/big-plans-improve-i-55-interchanges>

It's been almost 13 years since the Route 129 exit (238) off Interstate 55 was razed, creating an inconvenience for travelers wanting to reach Wilmington and Braidwood.

But the plan to rebuild the interchange and for revamping the Lorenze Road (exit 240) brings renewed hope for commercial growth and will be made public on Thursday, Aug. 15, from 3 to 6 p.m. during an open house.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will host the public hearing concerning the preliminary engineering and environmental study (Phase I) for the I-55 improvements for both locations.

At the meeting, the public can watch a video about the project, explore exhibits including the proposed improvements, leave comments, and make statements to a court reporter.

The meeting materials will also be available on the project.

Written comments may be emailed to LorenzoIL129Study@gmail.com. Comments received by Sept. 16 will become part of the official public outreach record.

IDOT projects have three distinct phases. Phase I (or the project Study) consisting of developing the project scope, environmental studies, and preliminary design of a project.

Phase II (Design) consists of refining the design to develop contract plans and land acquisition.

Phase III (Construction) consists of the actual construction of the project.

The open house will be held at the William E. Dugan Training Center – Local 150, 19800 West South Arsenal Road, Wilmington.

Plainfield Patch

Patch

<https://patch.com/illinois/plainfield/hearing-planned-proposed-i-55-improvement-project-will-county>

WILL COUNTY, IL — The Illinois Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing Aug. 15 to discuss a proposed project to improve a portion of Interstate 55 in Will County.

Work would focus on I-55 at Lorenzo Road and Route 129. The project would include interchange reconstruction, drainage improvements and the addition of auxiliary lanes. West Frontage Road at Lorenzo Road and north of Kavanaugh Road would also permanently close as a result.

The purpose of the hearing is to inform the community about the project's development process, present the proposed design and obtain public input. Exhibits will be on display, and an audio-visual presentation will be shown continuously.

The meeting will take place from 3-6 p.m. at the William E. Dugan Training Center, Local 150, 19800 West South Arsenal Road in Wilmington.

A court reporter will be present to take verbal statements, but for those who can't attend or want to make written statements, comments can be submitted to lorenzol129study@gmail.com. All comments received by Sept. 16 will become part of the official hearing record.

The Herald News

HERALD-NEWS

<https://www.shawlocal.com/the-herald-news/2024/08/12/idot-sets-hearing-in-will-county-for-i-55-project-at-lorenzo-road/>

The Illinois Department of Transportation will hold a public hearing Thursday to present plans for improvements along Interstate 55 at Lorenzo Road and at Route 129 in [Will County](#).

The proposed project consists of interchange reconstruction, the addition of auxiliary lanes and drainage improvements, according to a news release from IDOT.

The project also will involve making a permanent road closure on West Frontage Road at Lorenzo Road and north of Kavanaugh Road, according to IDOT.

The hearing will be an open house format from 3 to 6 p.m. at the William E. Dugan Training Center, Local 150, 19800 W. South Arsenal Road, [Wilmington](#).

Exhibits will be on display, and an audio-visual presentation will be shown continuously during the meeting, according to IDOT. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions.

A court reporter will be available at the hearing for anyone who wants to make a verbal statement. Comments can be submitted at the hearing or emailed to LorenzoiL129study@gmail.com.

Comments also can be mailed to the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Programming, Attn: Anna Kutryn, P.E., 201 W. Center Court, Schaumburg, IL, 60196-1096

All comments received by Sept. 16 will become part of the official public hearing record.

ATTACHMENT F
Press Release



Public hearing Aug. 15 on I-55 at Lorenzo Road and Illinois 129 interchange project in Will County

The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that a public hearing will be held Thursday, Aug. 15, on a proposed project to improve Interstate 55 at Lorenzo Road and at Illinois 129, in Will County.

The purpose of the hearing is to inform the public about the project development process, present the proposed design and obtain public input. The proposed project consists of interchange reconstruction, addition of auxiliary lanes and drainage improvements. It will also consist of a permanent road closure on West Frontage Road at Lorenzo Road and north of Kavanaugh Road.

The public hearing will be in an open-house format. All interested parties are encouraged to attend:

Thursday, Aug. 15

3-6 pm

**William E. Dugan Training Center, Local 150
19800 W. South Arsenal Road, Wilmington**

Exhibits will be on display and an audio-visual presentation will be shown continuously during the meeting. Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions.

A court reporter will be available at the hearing for anyone desiring to make a verbal statement. Comments may be submitted at the hearing or emailed to LorenzoIL129study@gmail.com. They may also be mailed to:

**Illinois Department of Transportation
Bureau of Programming
Attn: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096**

All comments received by Sept. 16 will become part of the official public hearing record.

To request accommodations, including Spanish interpretation and to assist individuals without internet access, please contact, Anna Kutryn at (847) 705-4569. TTY/TTD (866) 273-3681 or Telebraille services at (877) 526-6670.



ATTACHMENT G
Sign-in Sheets



I-55 STUDY

Public Meeting



LORENZO RD + IL 129

Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
STEVE JEBENS			
Joshua McClusky	State Rep Larry Walsh Jr		
Bill Weidling	TOWNSHIP Wilmington		
PAT VANDUYNE	JJC		
L. Rodgers			
Leonard McCubbin	Wesley Township		
Marcus Gorman	Resident		
JONATHAN MIETZNER	CITY OF WILMINGTON		
Nick Briscoe	Prairie Creek Grain		
William + Rosa Luthrell	Resident		
Thomas J Smith	4th Ward Alderman		
Jessica Wimbley	State Senator Rachel Ventura		



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Public Hearing

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM



Illinois Department
of Transportation

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
Jim Boltanski			
Bob Toly	TEAMsters # 179		
Terry Readman	Farmer		
Jake Dyer	Triumph DB		
Michael Stellino	ELM ST		
Gerald Heinrich	Midwin Alliance		
KAREN HAET	BRAIDWOOD CITY		
Jacob Rzewnicki	BNSF		
David Stover	Local 150		
DAVID WENGBARZ	TAMELING AV PARK		
Jack Sadrakula	City of Wilmington		
Kira Ebel	State Rep Jason R. Bunting		
JOE KUBA	46 HOLD IN THE WILMINGTON AREA		



I-55 STUDY

Public Meeting



LORENZO RD + IL 129

Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
Ben Dier	CITY OF WILMINGTON		
Dave Randolph	Teamsters 179		
Ricky Heidler	T & R Mini Storage		
James Gretencord	City of Wilmington		
Andy Moore	D Construction		
George Hoppo			
Jesse Dice	WILMINGTON P.D.		
2 Jesse & Mary Jean Overton	Retiree		
Bradford Johnston	resident		
Diane M. Bergman	BAHS City of Bradward		
2 Linda & John Wysack			
Ed Riggan	—		



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Public Hearing



Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
Ellen Begler			
Pe - 1 Arambasid	IW 444		
Kevin Kavanaugh			
Dawn Kavanaugh			
JOE BYERS			
Tony Altiesy	CITY OF BRADWOOD		
ERIC GIBSON	Grundy County		
GEORGE KOCEK	BRADWOOD AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY		
Jeff Ronaldson	Will County DOT		
CHARLENE M. McDADE	RESIDENT		
Mark Cox			
Alex Rink	Resident		
BEN SPERRY	LAUT C.O. BDE		



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Public Meeting



Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
David Okwinski	Teamsters 179		
Mike Phillip	Teamsters 179		
Glyn REESE-ALLOTT	Resident		
Donna Dwyer	Resident		
Jeff Tardy	Benesch		
PATRICK NUGENT	CITY OF WILMINGTON		
K. GUNAWARDENA	RESIDENT		
TODD FRIDDLE	WILMINGTON FIRE DISTRICT		
Adam Zink	WILMINGTON Police Dept		
Nancy Weibel	Resident		
Andrea Eddy	IDOT CO		
Bill Burmaster			



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Public Meeting



Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
Jeff Toepper	Channahon Fire		
Minnie Lou	Resident		
Robert J. Rink	Farm		
Kevin + Sue Baldwin	Neighbors		
Melanie Messenger	Deer Ridge Park HOA		
MARK MAACH	Resident		
Matthew Evers	Resident		
ERIC LATZ	Resident		
Sherrill Knorr	Reed Township		
DAN Leigh	Resident		
Tom Begler	Resident		
Vincent E. Larson	Resident		



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Public Meeting



Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
SALLY WIRTH	RESIDENT		
MARSE BORDEN	"		
TIM SCALLARD	RESIDENT		
Matthew Rubter	Openlands		
Sheldon Katz	Resident		
Truman Peck	RESIDENT		
Annette Kavanagh	Resident		
Jannine Smith	City of Wilmington		
Tony TARALA	RESIDENT		
FRANK VAN GAMPHRE	RESIDENT		
Gary Van Dusen	RESIDENT		
Steve Flynn	"		

**I-55 STUDY**

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Public MeetingIllinois Department
of Transportation**Location:** William E. Dugan Training Center**Date:** 08/15/24**Time:** 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
WAYNE KRANCLER	SHADOW LAKES II ASSOC.		
Eric Wesel	Will County DOT		
Katrina Reese	Resident		
Jay Reese	Resident		
Tim Zlomec	Wilmington FIRE		
Bob Rink	Land owner		
Terry & Barb McEvilly	Land owner		
MARK SHUL	PRO REALTY		
Kim Gornik	Resident		
KATHY & DAVE McElhorne	Resident		
Dennis Vice	Resident		



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Public Hearing



Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
Jeff Shurt	Resident		
Sean Doyle	Resident		
Jim + Al Cragg	11		
John & Ann Metcove	resident		
Michael K. Mearns	Resident		
Jamie Mack	Resident		
Ruthay Carroll	Resident		
Craig Carroll	Resident		
Tim Beck	Resident		
ROBERT ROSE	RESIDENT		
Jason Shibley	Resident		



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Public Meeting



Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
Yvonne Longest	C.O.W.		
Tim Kallas	LIUNA Local 75		
MARK PAULIS	LIUNA! Local 75		
Deb Bettenhausen + Gary			
Jamre Bradley	Resident		
Joe Wesel			
Amanda McGray	resident		
Timothy McGray	resident		
JOHN CUNNIN	WIGHT & COMPANY		



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO RD + IL 129

Public Meeting MEDIA



Location: William E. Dugan Training Center

Date: 08/15/24

Time: 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Name (Please Print)	Organization	Address	E-Mail
Rose Panuz	Free Press		
Scott Slocum	WJOL/Alpha		
Stephanie Irine	Farmers Weekly Review		

**Vitrual Public Hearing
Registration**

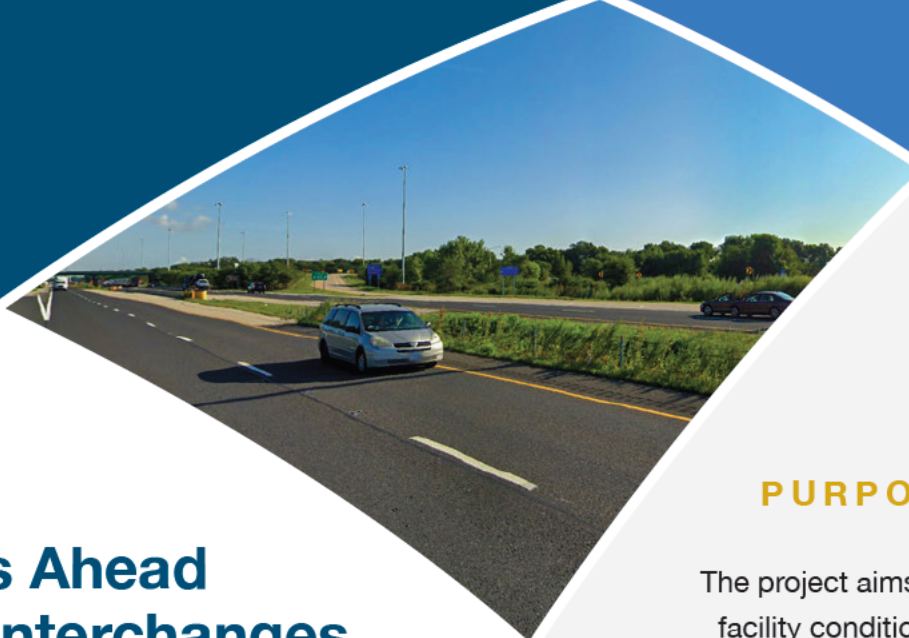
Submission Time	First Name	Last Name	Email
2024-08-16T00:39:21Z	Mike	Compton	[REDACTED]
2024-08-16T00:45:10Z	Steve	Kodat	[REDACTED]
2024-08-16T00:48:05Z	Vijay	Nandikonda	[REDACTED]
2024-08-16T13:35:27Z	Cindy	Guendling	[REDACTED]
2024-08-16T13:41:32Z	Mike	O'Donnell	[REDACTED]
2024-08-16T16:42:00Z	Tom	Begler	[REDACTED]
2024-08-17T00:25:37Z	Joe	Byers	[REDACTED]
2024-08-17T04:45:45Z	Thomas	Borja	[REDACTED]
2024-08-17T20:16:45Z	Norman	Riordan	[REDACTED]
2024-08-17T20:21:21Z	Todd	Friddle	[REDACTED]
2024-08-18T15:27:00Z	Mikr	Mccormick	[REDACTED]
2024-08-18T18:12:03Z	William	Genz	[REDACTED]
2024-08-18T22:53:19Z	Sheena	Brecklin	[REDACTED]
2024-08-20T01:52:58Z	Bob	Rink	[REDACTED]
2024-08-21T17:28:54Z	Dan	Hullett	[REDACTED]
2024-08-22T12:21:39Z	Diane	Proffitt	[REDACTED]
2024-08-22T12:41:00Z	Andy	Galatte	[REDACTED]
2024-08-26T16:56:10Z	Jeffrey	Tardy	[REDACTED]
2024-08-28T21:15:35Z	Julie	Vogrin	[REDACTED]
2024-08-28T21:36:26Z	Mary T	Boyle	[REDACTED]
2024-08-29T02:03:37Z	Paula	Webb	[REDACTED]
2024-08-29T10:19:39Z	Stephanie	Stickel	[REDACTED]
2024-08-29T20:26:43Z	Kristin	Erickson	[REDACTED]
2024-09-01T00:07:12Z	Lonnie	wilkins	[REDACTED]
2024-09-03T14:56:18Z	Mary	Parlich	[REDACTED]

ATTACHMENT H
Newsletter



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



Changes Ahead for I-55 Interchanges

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is enhancing the interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 along I-55 in Will County, near Wilmington, Illinois. This initiative follows several years of evaluation and a virtual public outreach event aimed at gathering community feedback.

In 2018, IDOT initiated preliminary engineering and environmental studies to evaluate and address improvements needed for I-55 from Lorenzo Road to IL 113 (Coal City Road) in Will County. This study, conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), seeks to identify solutions that address the area's transportation needs while minimizing environmental impact.

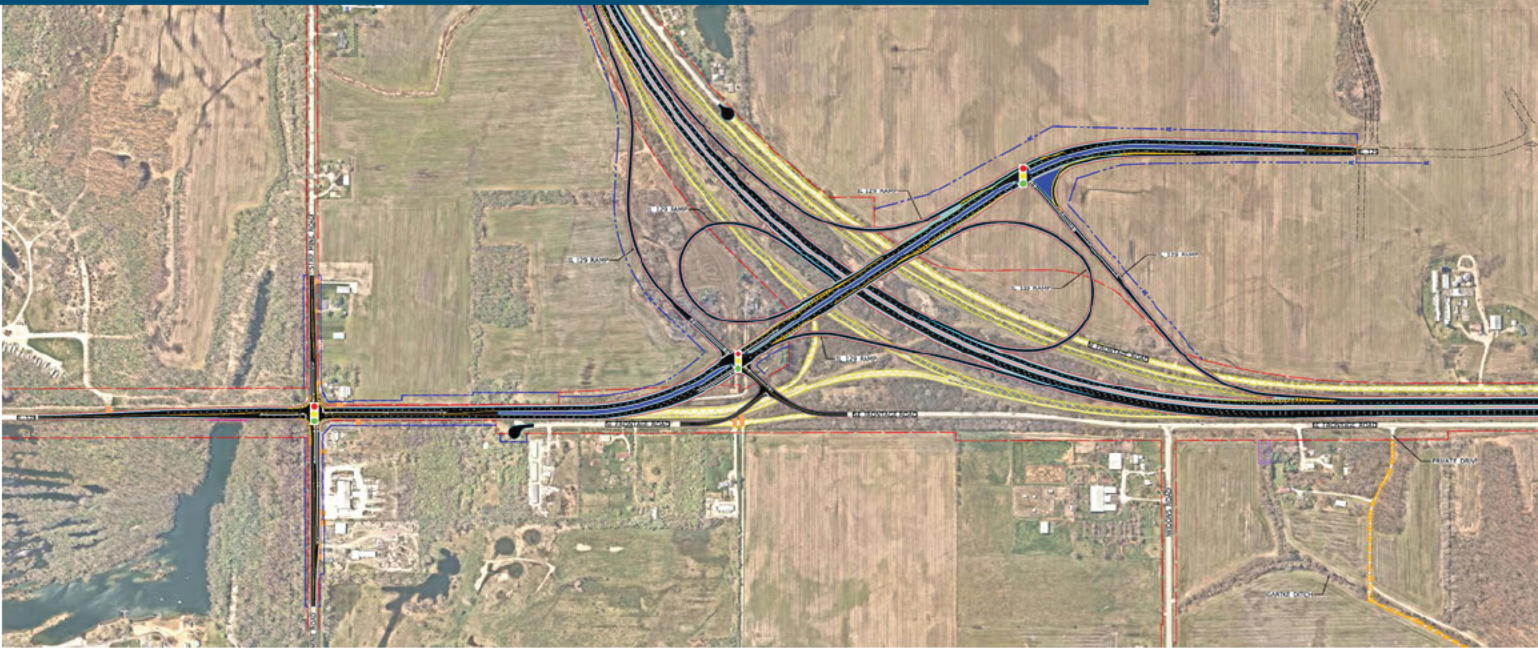
The study area, located in Wilmington Township, stretches approximately 4.8 miles and includes the interchanges at Lorenzo Road and IL 129. Notably, the study area is just south of where I-55 crosses the Kankakee River, with the municipalities of Braidwood, Diamond, and Wilmington nearby.

PURPOSE & NEED

The project aims to improve safety, facility condition, and interchange operations on I-55 between Lorenzo Road and IL 113. The key **needs** to be addressed include **improving**:

- ➔ Safety for all users
- ➔ Facility condition and design
- ➔ Regional & local travel and access

*All public
hearing materials
are available for
viewing on the
study website.*



EXISTING CONDITIONS

Currently, the Lorenzo Road interchange has some design shortcomings. The northbound entrance ramp does not meet current speed design criteria, and the minimum length of ramps without auxiliary lanes is insufficient

for both the northbound entrance and southbound exit ramps.

The IL 129 interchange also has its limitations. It lacks access to the west side of I-55 and does not provide an entrance or exit ramp for southbound I-55. Southbound traffic must exit eastbound at IL 113 to reach IL 129.

Environmental Impacts

We evaluated how the proposed improvement might affect the environment and were mindful of these important resources:

- ➔ Wetlands
- ➔ Floodplains
- ➔ Potential Threatened and Endangered Species
- ➔ Residential & Commercial Displacements
- ➔ Noise





Project Phases



FUNDING

FY 2025-2030 Proposed Highway Improvement Program Includes \$149,500,000 for improvements to I-55 at Lorenzo Road & at IL 129.

Leave a comment!

Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. A court reporter will be available for those wishing to make a verbal statement at the hearing. Written comments can also be submitted at the hearing or after via email or mail. Comments received by September 16, 2024, will become part of the official public hearing record. **See below for ways to submit your feedback:**

➔ **Submit your comment on the website at:**
i55lorenzoil129outreach.org

➔ **Email your comment to:**
lorenzoil129study@gmail.com

➔ **Send your thoughts by mail to:**

Illinois Department of Transportation
Bureau of Programming
Attention: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196

ATTACHMENT I
FAQ Sheet

I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 Frequently Asked Questions



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

➔ What is this project?

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) is developing a plan to improve the interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 along I-55 in Will County.

➔ Why is this project needed?

The interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 are congested today. If no improvements are made, these interchanges would experience extreme congestion by 2050. This would result in slower speeds on I-55 as traffic merges onto the ramps, and could potentially result in an increase of crashes if ramp traffic backs up onto I-55.

➔ What is the schedule for completing this project?

The Department uses a three-phase process to complete projects. This project is currently in Phase I, or Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Studies. This Phase should be complete by the end of 2024. Phase II, or Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition, is anticipated to take 24-36 months to complete. Phase III, Construction, is anticipated to begin in 2027.

➔ Is funding available to complete this project?

Yes, the Department has included \$149,500,000 in the FY 2025 – 2030 Multi-Year Program to complete the current work, and future Phases including construction.

➔ Will the bridge over the Des Plaines River be expanded to allow for a future third traffic lane?

The I-55 bridge over the Des Plaines River is outside the study

limits and is not included in the proposed improvements.

➔ Will I-55 be widened to 3 lanes in each direction?

At this time the Department does not plan to widen I-55 to 3-lanes in each direction within the study limits or immediately beyond. As part of this improvement an auxiliary lane will be constructed between the Lorenzo Road and IL 129 interchange to improve operations and safety at these interchanges.

➔ Why is a roundabout proposed? They are too narrow, hard for trucks to navigate, and slow traffic down.

The Department follows State and Federal Highway Administration standards and guidance in the design of any improvement. In the case of roundabouts, this includes circulatory lanes that are large enough for trucks to navigate. Roundabouts promote the continuous movement of traffic unlike signalized intersections where traffic can back up and cause disruptions at other points downstream. Roundabouts slow the speed of traffic moving through it but keep traffic moving continuously therefore not causing delays greater than a traffic signal. Roundabouts are safer and experience less crashes with less severe injuries than signalized intersections.

➔ Are these improvements going to increase truck traffic and divert trucks to local roads?

The proposed improvements are designed to accommodate future traffic based on data provided by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency

for Planning (CMAP), the regional metropolitan planning organization for the northeast Chicagoland area. Growth in this area of Will County is in large part attributed to development and expansion of logistics centers, which result in increased truck traffic. The proposed improvements provide trucks with a more direct route to the interstate which should ease truck congestion on the local system.

➔ Will parking be prohibited on the ramps to reduce truck noise and trash disposal near our home?

Parking will not be allowed along any ramps within the project area.

➔ How will construction address existing pipeline and power lines?

Potential conflicts with known utilities have been evaluated. Utilities requiring relocation and those able to remain in place and protected during the construction have been identified. During contract plan preparation (Phase II), the Department will work with the owners of these utilities on necessary steps to address these conflicts and relocations.

➔ What is being done to improve truck merging and exiting conditions at Lorenzo Road?

The ramp merge and diverge areas north of Lorenzo Road and south of IL 129 have been designed to current standards and auxiliary lanes will be provided on I-55 between the two interchanges. These improvements will facilitate the safe entrance and exit of vehicles along I-55.

More **FAQs** on reverse ➔



➔ **Will improvements consider and accommodate anticipated increased traffic?**

The proposed improvements accommodate future growth in population and traffic (including trucks). The design is based on future traffic projected to the design year of 2050 and was coordinated with CMAP.

➔ **Will local access be maintained during construction?**

The Traffic Management Plan will be determined by the end of this Phase of the project. All efforts will be made to limit disruptions to traffic during construction. There may be times when a ramp is closed, and detours would be put in place. Proper signage will be provided to direct vehicles through and around the construction zones.

➔ **Once constructed will improvements to the interchanges result in road closures and force local traffic to reroute with added travel times?**

The proposed interchange designs will provide local traffic access to and from I-55 in all directions, restoring the previously removed access to IL 129 from southbound I-55. However, the proposed design does close the west frontage road between Lorenzo Road and south of Murphy Road.

➔ **How will the interchange improvements help traffic once it gets to the two-lane bridge to cross**

the Kankakee River?

This improvement is specific to I-55 and its interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 and addressing access to and from the interstate. The bridge carrying I-55 over the Kankakee River (which currently accommodates two lanes in each direction) is not part of this improvement and may be addressed by the Department as part of future multi-year highway improvement programs. However, the reconfiguration of the southbound exit and the northbound entrance ramps at Lorenzo Road will eliminate the back-ups on I-55 that happen today.

➔ **Will this improvement require land acquisition?**

The improvements have been designed to minimize the amount of property acquisition to the extent possible.

However, fee simple acquisition will be required from farmland and open land areas and will also include complete takes of one business and one residential property. Fee simple is the acquisition of all rights and interests of real property.

Additionally, these improvements will require temporary or permanent easements. With easements, ownership is retained by the property owner. Permanent easements allow the Department permanent access to the property during and after construction for maintenance. Temporary easements allow temporary access during construction. The Department will work with each property owner individually during the subsequent contract plan preparation and land acquisition phase of the project

where easements are needed.

➔ **Will noise walls be constructed?**

A noise study was performed for the study area which evaluated possible increases in noise levels caused by the proposed improvement and to determine if noise abatement walls were needed. The proposed improvements will result in a moderate increase in traffic noise, however, noise abatement walls were evaluated and found not to be feasible and/or reasonable within the study area and therefore will not be constructed as part of the project.

➔ **How will you protect the environment and wildlife?**

Detailed environmental analysis has been completed as part of this study. Coordination with the US Fish and Wildlife Service has taken place with respect to threatened and endangered species present in the project area and improvements have been designed to minimize environmental impacts.

➔ **How will changes at Lorenzo Road prevent oil/fuel drainage into the river? Will there be accommodations for storm runoff?**

Water quality was a major concern during this study and best management practices have been incorporated into the proposed design. Stormwater runoff from the area roadways will be conveyed through detention ponds, stilling basins, and vegetated ditches to filter out pollutants before the stormwater enters the Kankakee River.

ATTACHMENT J
Presentation



Welcome to the Illinois Department of Transportation's public hearing for the study of I-55 interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at Illinois 129. This presentation will explain the project development process and the proposed improvements. The purpose of this hearing is to gather your feedback on these improvements.

Hearing Process



I-55 STUDY
LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

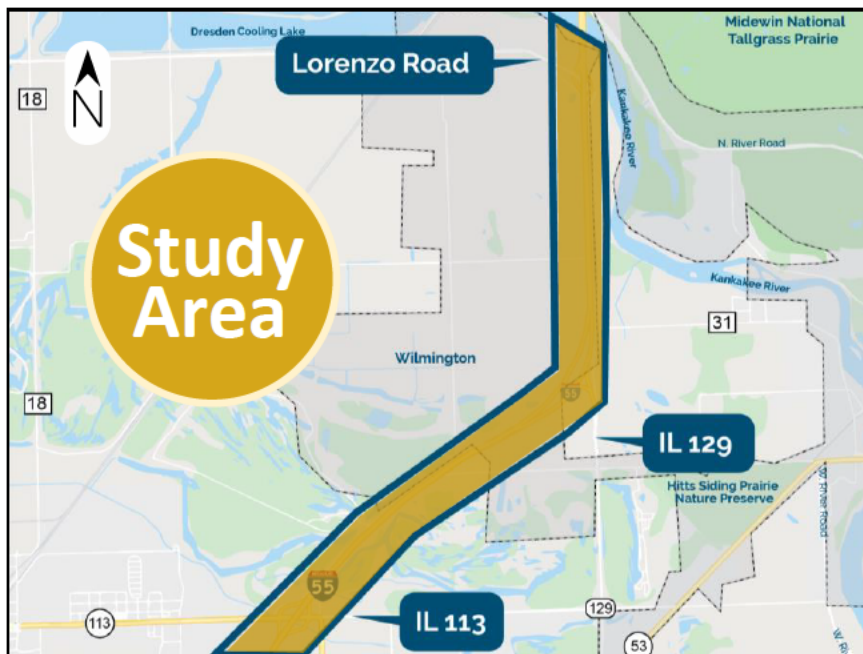
- ✓ WATCH PRESENTATION
- ✓ VIEW EXHIBITS
- ✓ SPEAK WITH IDOT AND PROJECT TEAM
- ✓ PROVIDE COMMENTS





Illinois Department
of Transportation

This presentation will provide you with information about this study and the proposed improvements. Once the presentation concludes, exit to the exhibit room to view the displays and speak with staff from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the project consultant team. Then please take time to provide us with your comments. You can complete a comment form, speak with the court reporter, or submit them through the project website.



This study was initiated by the Illinois Department of Transportation or IDOT to evaluate travel patterns and accessibility to and from I-55 between Lorenzo Road and Illinois 113 near the City of Wilmington in Will County. This study began in 2018 and built upon previous studies in the corridor.



IDOT projects are processed in three distinct phases.

In Phase one, or preliminary engineering and environmental studies, proposed geometry, environmental concerns, as well as Right-of-Way requirements are defined. During Phase two, contract plans are prepared, and necessary land acquisition occurs, while phase three is the actual construction of the improvement.

At this time, this I-55 study is nearing the end of Phase one which is anticipated to conclude at the end of 2024.

Purpose & Need

I-55 STUDY
LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

The **purpose** of the project is to **improve safety, facility condition, and interchange operations** of I-55 between Lorenzo Road and IL 113 (Coal City Road).

The **needs** to be addressed include:

- ✓ **IMPROVE SAFETY FOR ALL USERS**
- ✓ **IMPROVE FACILITY CONDITION AND DESIGN**
- ✓ **IMPROVE REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRAVEL AND ACCESS**



Illinois Department
of Transportation

The purpose of the study is to propose an alternative that will improve safety, facility condition, and interchange operations of I-55 between Lorenzo Road and Illinois 113. The needs to be addressed include improving safety for all users, facility condition & design, and regional & local travel & access.



Before discussing the proposed improvements, let's review existing conditions in the study area.



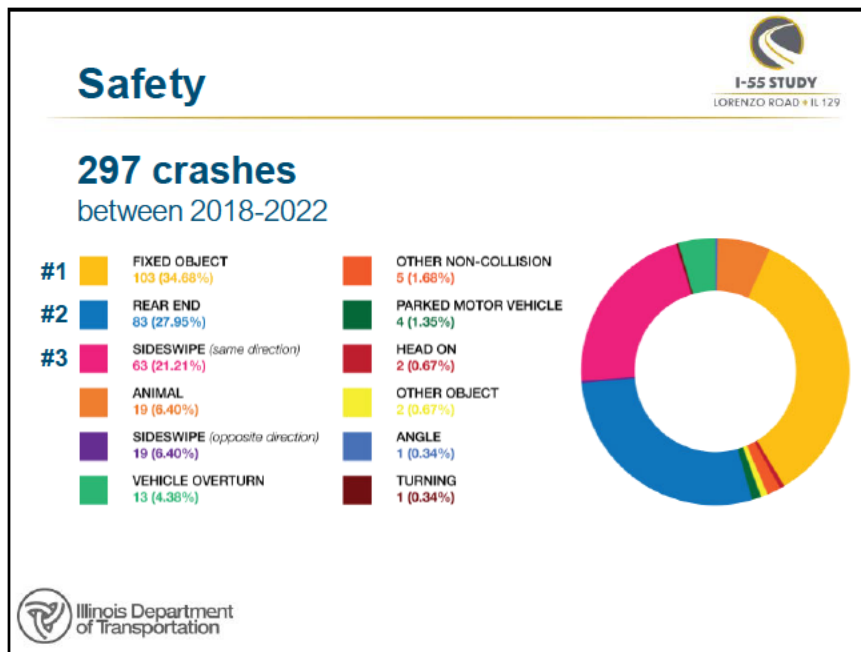
The study area which lies adjacent to the City of Wilmington, the Elion Logistics Park 55 and the proposed BNSF Intermodal Facility continues to experience growth. The Elion Logistics Park 55, located southwest of the Lorenzo Road interchange, consists of 2,500 acres and will include 30 million square feet of industrial space when fully built out. The adjacent 700-acre property is owned by the BNSF railway and will continue to be developed adding traffic to the I-55 at Lorenzo Road interchange necessitating capacity improvements.



As it exists today, the Lorenzo Road interchange is a full-access interchange but the northbound entrance ramp at Lorenzo Road does not meet current speed design criteria. The required minimum length of ramps without auxiliary lanes is also not met for the northbound entrance or southbound exit ramps.




At Illinois 129, the existing interchange does not provide access to the west side of I-55 and does not have an entrance or exit ramp for southbound I-55, therefore, southbound traffic must exit eastbound at Illinois 113 to access Illinois 129.




Safety of the traveling public is one of IDOT's top concerns. During the 2018 through 2022 period, 297 vehicular crashes occurred within the study area. Of those crashes, the majority at 35% were fixed object crashes, followed by rear-end at 28%, and then sideswipe same-direction at 21%. There were 46 crashes that resulted in an injury, with 29 of those resulting in 41 incapacitating injuries. There were also five fatalities, one from a head-on collision and four from front to rear crashes.

Level of Service (LOS)



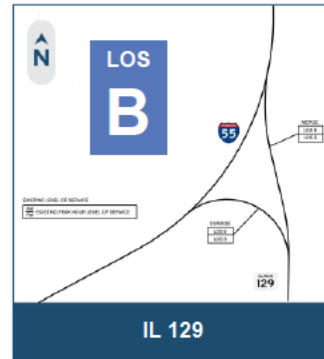
- LOS A
- LOS B
- LOS C
- LOS D
- LOS E
- LOS F



As we begin to discuss existing traffic levels within the study area, it is important to note how the level of traffic is rated and defined. The amount of traffic on a facility or Level of Service is rated on a scale of A to F. Level of Service A to C represents at or near free flow traffic. At a Level of Service D to E, traffic flow begins to break down and becomes congested. While Level of Service F indicates traffic is at a standstill.

Existing Traffic Levels

Existing Level of Service (LOS)

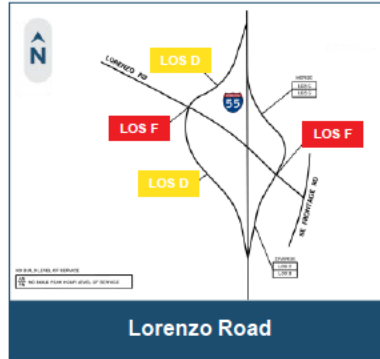


The current levels of traffic in the study area are mostly B which is free flow. One segment south of Illinois 129 is operating at level C where traffic is **NEAR** free flow.

Future Traffic Levels – No Improvements



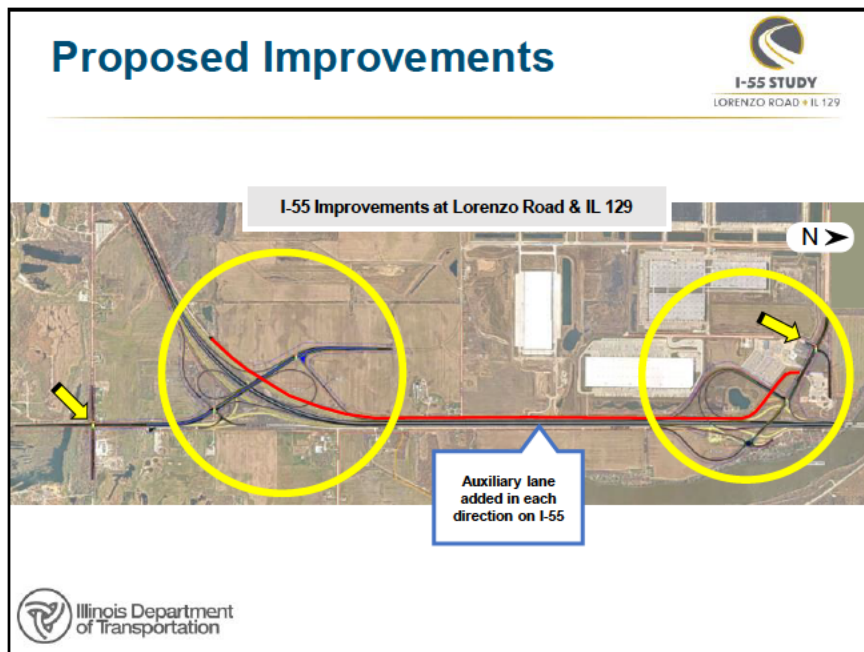
2050 No Build Level of Service (LOS)



To ensure today's construction meets future traffic needs, future traffic volumes must be estimated. Planners evaluate local development and regional growth and combine this with the existing traffic volumes to establish projected traffic in the year 2050, known as the design year. If no improvements are made, the existing interchanges would be congested and would experience level of service D, E, and F under future traffic conditions. Aside from poor interchange operations, this would also result in an increased potential for crashes. The increased crash potential would be the result of differences in speeds along I-55 from traffic merging onto I-55, potential queuing of ramp traffic onto mainline I-55 when exiting, and conflicts at the intersections with the ramp junctions. As noted earlier, safety is one of the top priorities and will be addressed with this study.



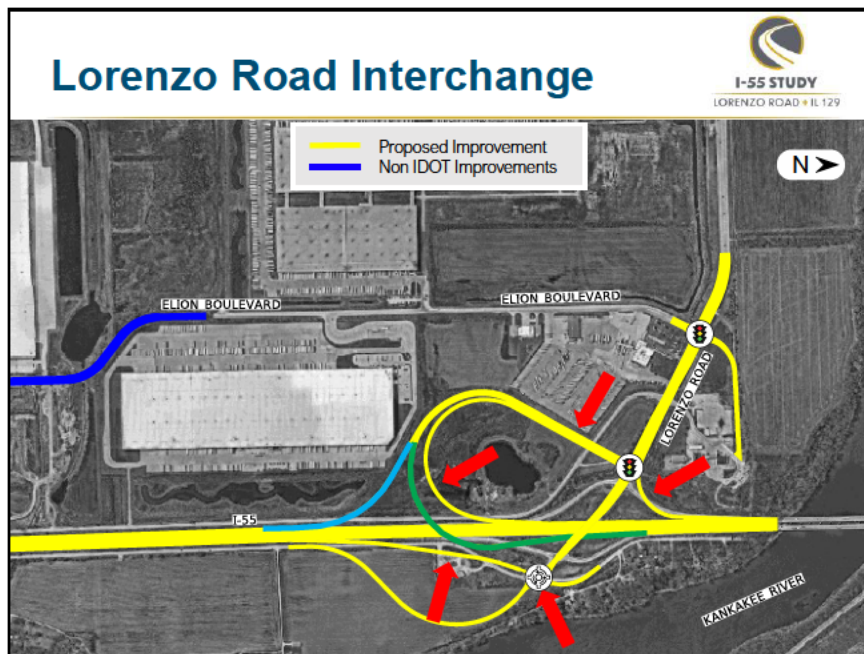
Now it's time to discuss the improvements proposed as part of this study.



The proposed improvements include redesign of the Lorenzo Road and Illinois 129 interchanges as well as modifications to adjacent intersections and frontage roads. This includes closure of West Frontage Road between Lorenzo Road and approximately .75 miles north of Kavanaugh Road. Additionally, an auxiliary lane will be added in each direction on I-55 between Illinois 129 and Lorenzo Road.

NOTE FOR ANIMATION

frontage road closure should be depicted on the exhibit used during discussion - maybe highlight/bold the section that will be closed



The interchange at Lorenzo Road will be a Modified Trumpet. Its features include southbound exit ramps that will free flow to merge with eastbound or westbound traffic and a Northbound exit ramp that will terminate at a roundabout with the east frontage road. A roundabout at this location will reduce the amount of traffic stopping on the ramp versus a signalized intersection.

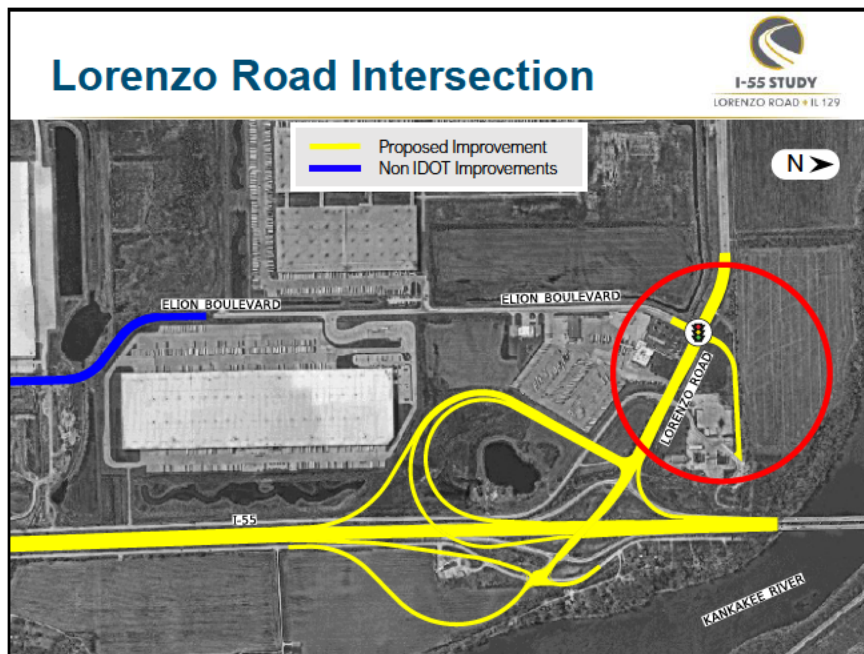
The entrance ramp west of I-55 will accept vehicles from both directions on Lorenzo Road. A north-south split occurs further down the ramp. Traffic heading Northbound on I-55 would proceed on a bridge over I-55 and under Lorenzo Road to merge just north of Lorenzo Road. Traffic heading Southbound on I-55 would merge using an auxiliary lane that extends to the Illinois 129 exit ramp.

I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD • IL 129

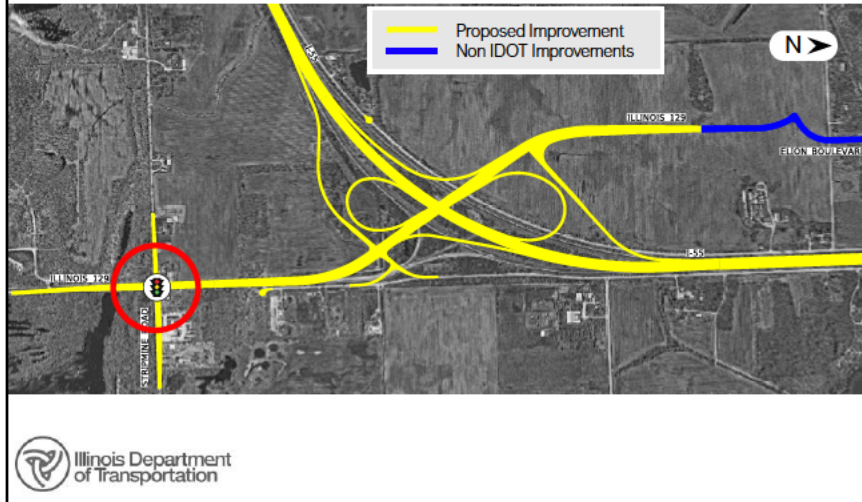


17



At Lorenzo Road and Elion Boulevard, a new connector roadway will be constructed as the new point of access to the truck stop and hotel in the northwest quadrant of the Lorenzo Road interchange.

IL 129 Intersection

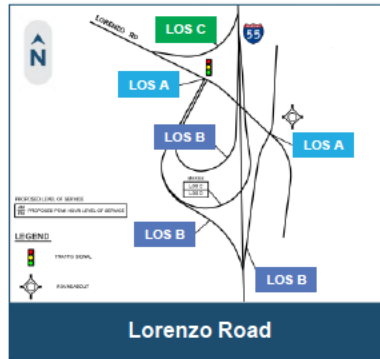


At Illinois 129 and Strip Mine Road the intersection will be improved including an additional through lane along Illinois 129 and dedicated turn lanes on all four approaches, as well as installing a new traffic signal to replace the existing four-way stop.

Future Traffic Levels – Proposed Improvements



2050 Build Level of Service (LOS)



The improvements being presented today provide for traffic flow at or near free flow thru 2050.



Environmental considerations were a part of this study.

Environmental Resources



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



Areas of potential environmental impact that were evaluated as part of this study:

- ✓ Residential and Commercial Relocations
- ✓ Wetlands
- ✓ Floodplain/Floodway
- ✓ Prairies
- ✓ Farmland
- ✓ Traffic Noise
- ✓ Trees
- ✓ Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species
- ✓ Historic Resources




Illinois Department
of Transportation

Many potential environmental impacts were evaluated including residential & commercial relocations, wetlands, floodplains, prairie lands, farmland, noise, trees, threatened & endangered species, and historic resources.

Environmental Impacts



Resource	Impacts
Wetlands	11.65 Acres
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species	May Affect, not likely to Adversely Affect
Historic Resources	No Adverse Affect
Displacements: Residential/Commercial	1/1
Flood Hazard Zones	4.3 Acres
In stream work in Kankakee River	None
Agricultural	63.6 Acres
Prairies	6.4 Acres
Noise	10 impacted receptors, 0 barriers meet IDOT's feasibility and reasonableness criteria


 Illinois Department of Transportation

Impacts evaluated based on improvements to both interchanges

Through the environmental evaluation, several impacts were identified including over 11 acres of wetlands, displacement of one residential and one commercial property, 4.3 acres of flood zone, 63.6 acres of agricultural impacts, and 6.4 acres of prairies. A noise analysis was performed that resulted in no sound walls being proposed.



What are the next steps to project completion?



Upon conclusion of Phase one, the project will proceed to Phase two - contract plan preparation and land acquisition which is anticipated to take 24-36 months.

Funding



FY 2025-2030 Proposed Highway
Improvement Program Includes

**\$149,500,000
for improvements**

to I-55 at Lorenzo
Road & at IL 129



IDOT's Fiscal year 2025 to 2030 Proposed Highway Improvement Program includes 149.5 million dollars for the improvement of I-55 at Lorenzo Road and at Illinois 129. This amount includes costs associated with design, land acquisition and construction of the proposed improvement.



We want to hear from you!

Submit Comments

I-55 STUDY
LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Use any of these methods to submit a comment:

- IN PERSON Today**
 - ✓ Fill out a comment form
 - ✓ Submit your comment to the court reporter
- SUBMIT A COMMENT Online**
 - ✓ www.i55lorenzoil129outreach.org
- SEND IT VIA Email**
 - ✓ lorenzoil129study@gmail.com
- SEND IT VIA Mail**

Illinois Department of Transportation
Bureau of Programming
Attention: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Comments on
this project will be
accepted through
Sept 16th

Tell us your thoughts on the proposed improvements by completing a comment form here today or speaking with the court reporter. You can also submit a comment through the project website or by emailing us. If you prefer, you can mail your comments by sending a letter to the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Programming.

Comments received through September 16th will become part of the public hearing record.



Thank you for joining the I-55 Study at Lorenzo Road and at Illinois 129 Public Hearing! Please exit to the next room to view the displays and to speak with team members.

This presentation will begin again momentarily.

ATTACHMENT K

Displays



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Welcome PUBLIC HEARING

AUGUST 15, 2024



Illinois Department
of Transportation



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



Lorenzo Road

Wilmington

IL 129

IL 113

Hitts Siding Prairie
Nature Preserve

Midwin National
Tallgrass Prairie

Purpose & Need



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

The **purpose** of the project is to **improve safety, facility condition, and interchange operations** of I-55 between Lorenzo Road and IL 113 (Coal City Road).

The **needs** to be addressed include:

- ✓ IMPROVE SAFETY FOR ALL USERS
- ✓ IMPROVE FACILITY CONDITION AND DESIGN
- ✓ IMPROVE REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRAVEL AND ACCESS



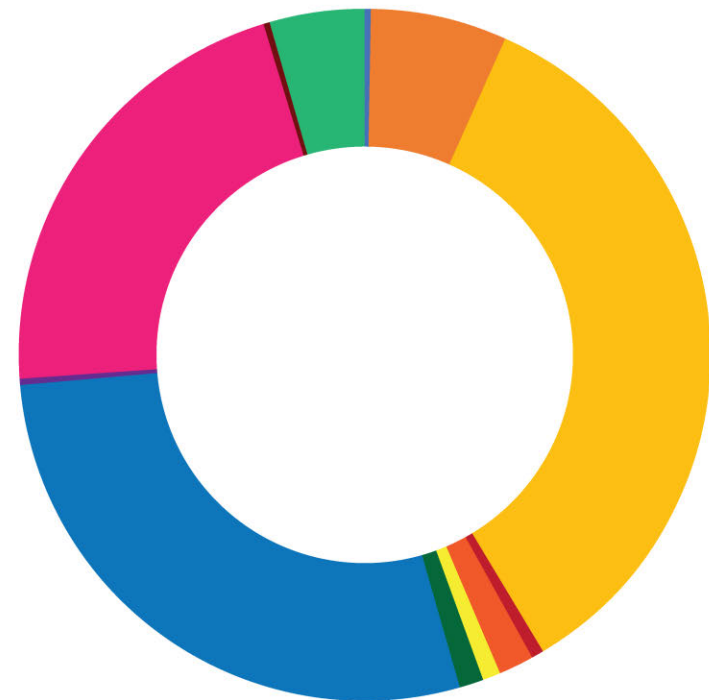
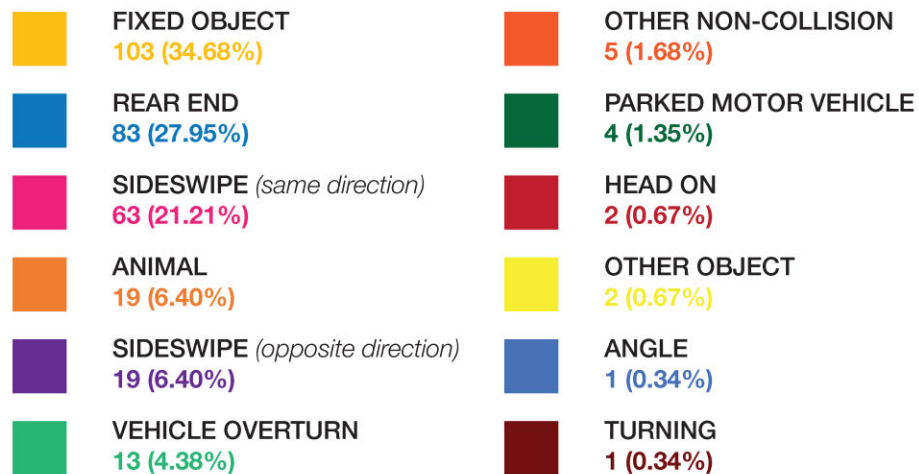
Crash Analysis



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

297 crashes
between 2018-2022



2020 Safety Tier Locations



I-55 STUDY
LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Safety Tiers categorize roadway segments and intersections based on their level of safety performance and opportunity for improvement, providing a rating for relative comparison. The Safety Tiers include a Critical High, Medium, Low or Minimal designation. Safety Tiers allow transportation officials to understand relative performance of a location compared to similar types of roadways or intersections. For example, a rural 2-lane roadway segment would be compared to other similar types of rural 2-lane roadways statewide and would not be compared to an urban multi-lane facility. The Safety Tiers allow more locations to be identified and analyzed for similar roadway features and potential crash trends.

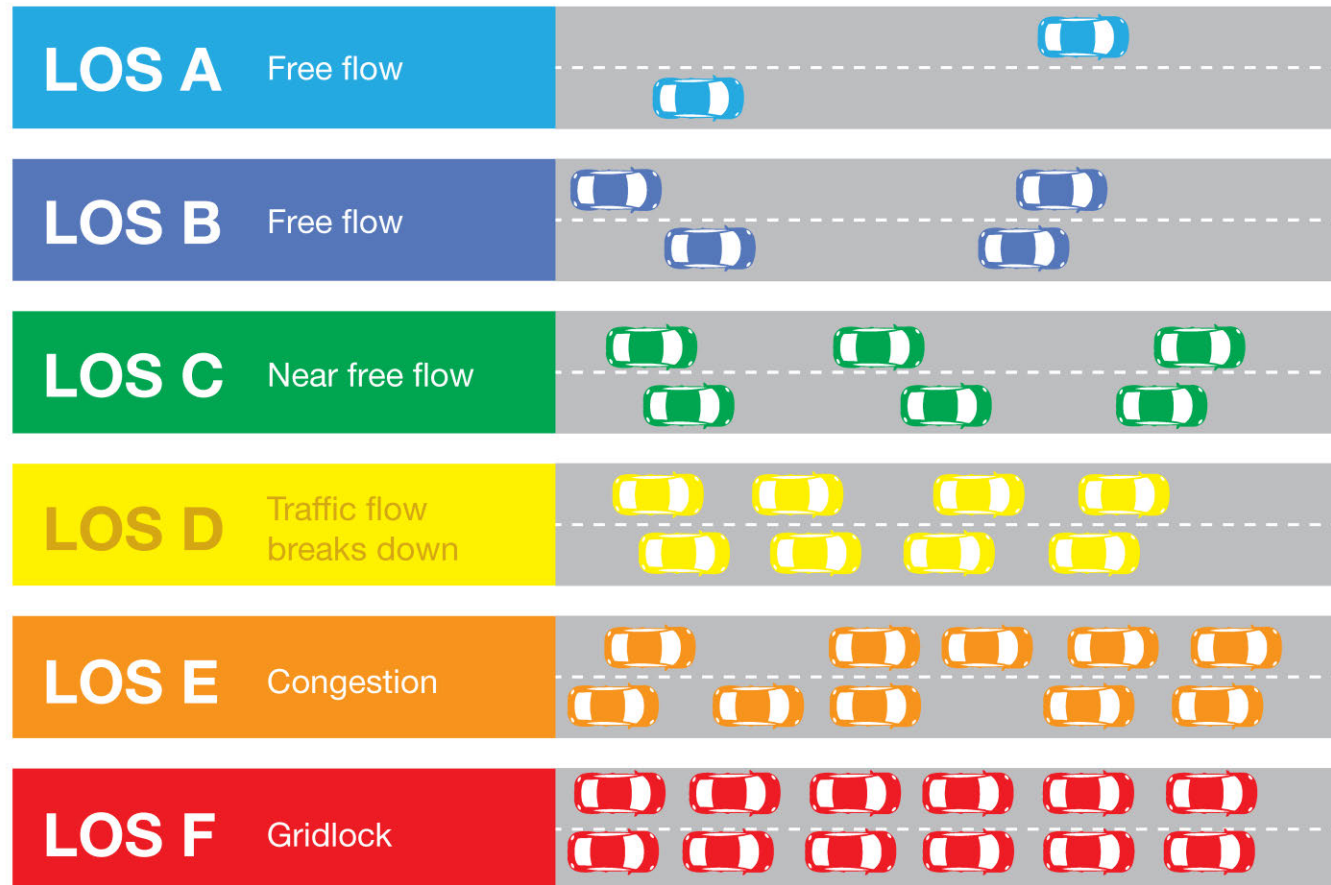


Level of Service (LOS)



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



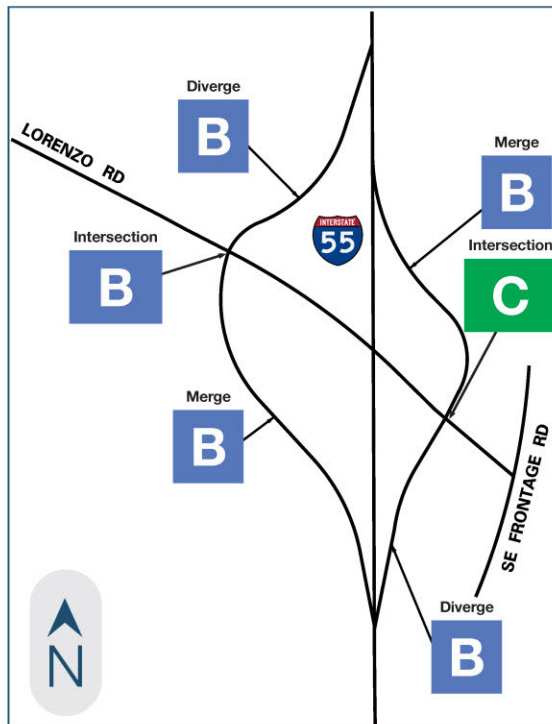


I-55 STUDY

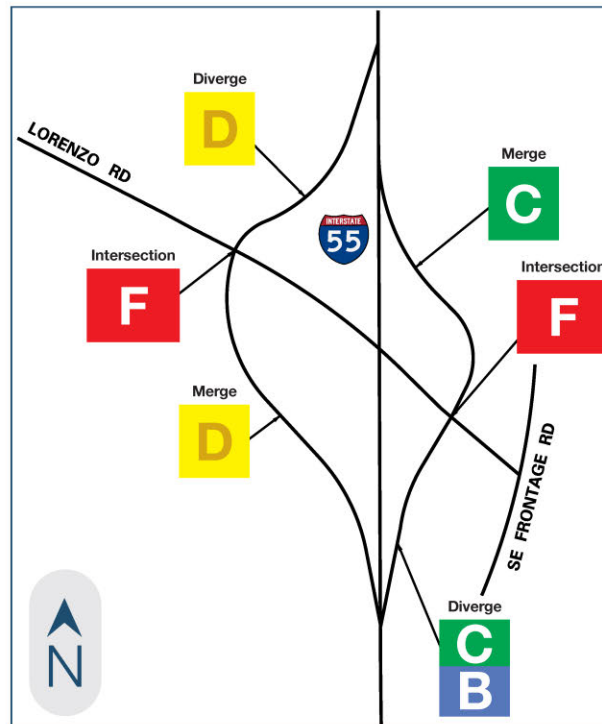
LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Traffic Levels Lorenzo Road

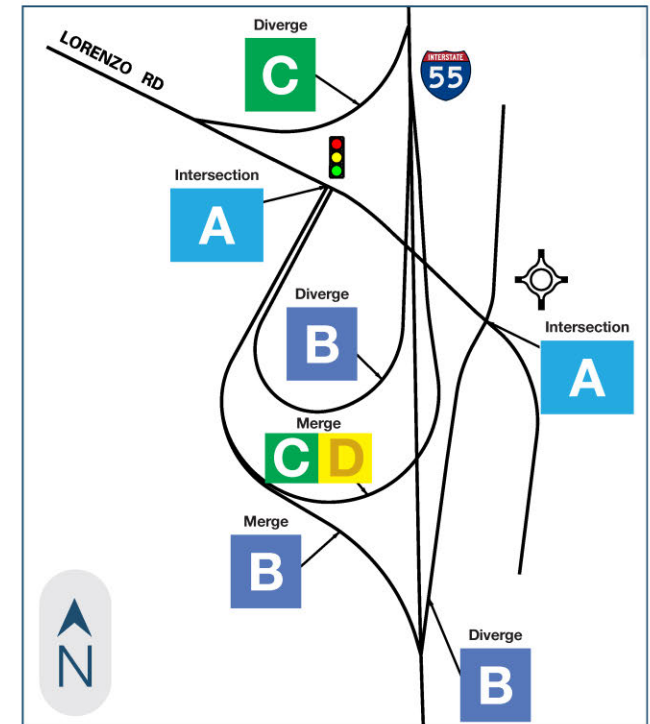
Existing Level
of Service (LOS)



2050 No-Build Level
of Service (LOS)



2050 Build Level
of Service (LOS)



NOTE: A split box indicates LOS for AM hours (top/left) and PM hours (bottom/right).

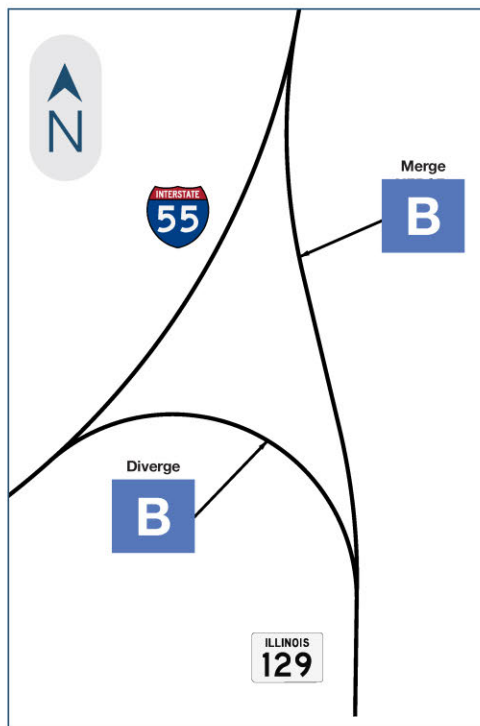
Traffic Levels IL 129



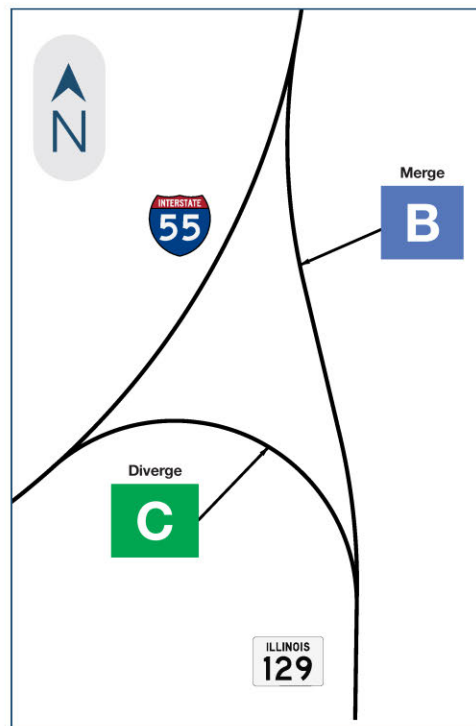
I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

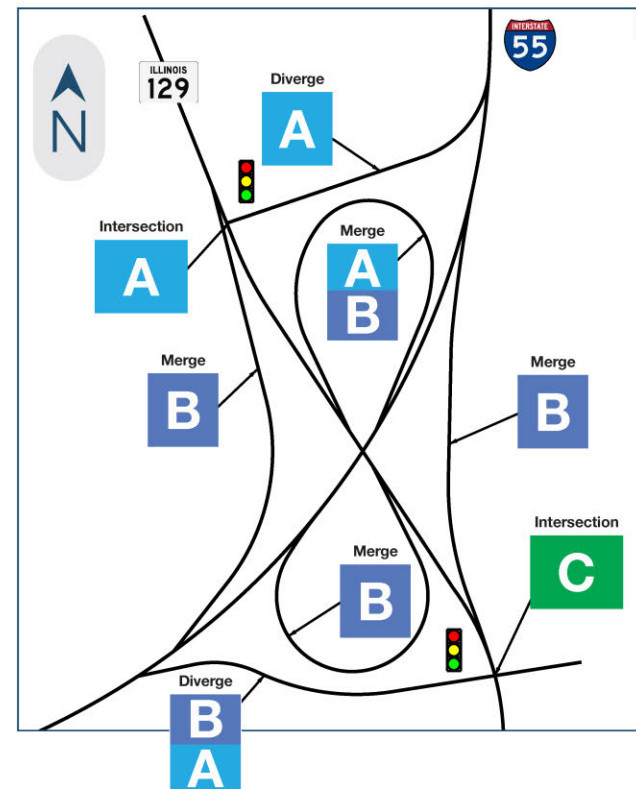
**Existing Level
of Service (LOS)**



**2050 No-Build Level
of Service (LOS)**



**2050 Build Level
of Service (LOS)**



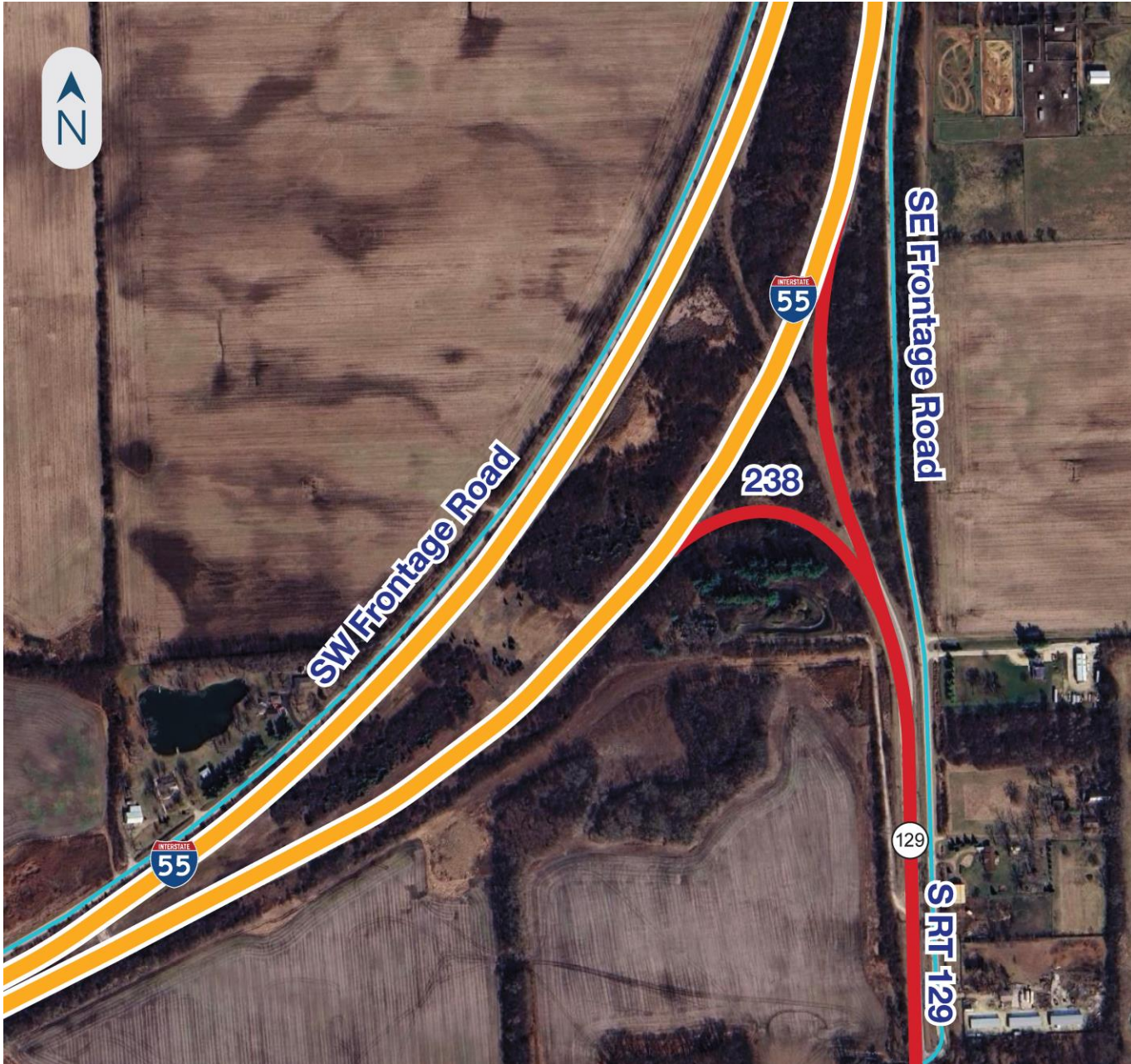
NOTE: A split box indicates LOS for AM hours (top/left) and PM hours (bottom/right).



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Lorenzo Road **Existing Conditions**



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

IL 129 Existing Conditions



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Proposed Improvements

I-55 Improvements: Lorenzo Road to IL 129



Lorenzo Road Interchange



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

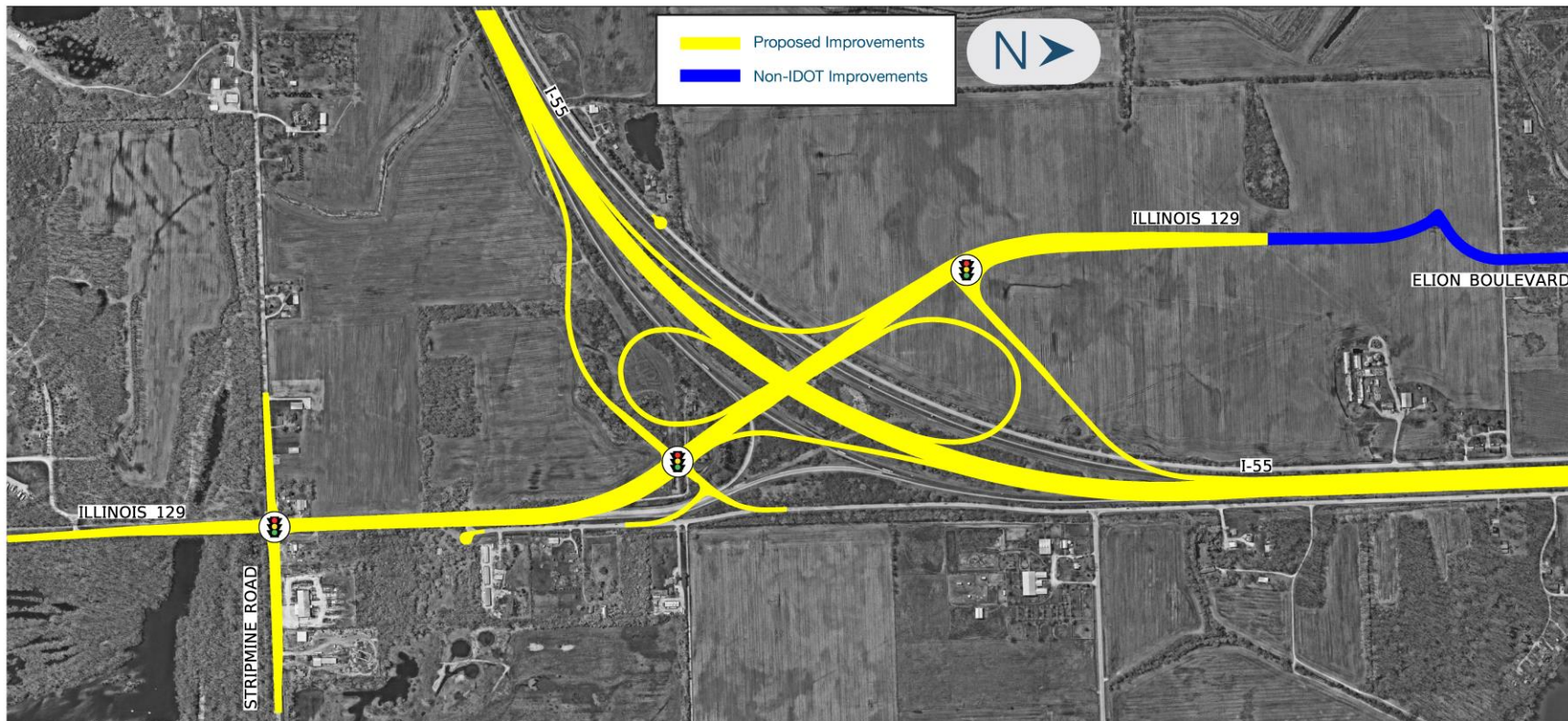


IL 129 Interchange



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



Land Acquisition



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

There are three different types of acquisitions that may be made as part of this project.

Types of Land Acquisition

Fee Simple Acquisition or the acquisition of all rights and interest of real property.

Permanent Easements where underlying ownership is retained by the property owner, but access is permanently allowed during and after construction for maintenance of facilities such as drainage structures.

Temporary Easements where underlying ownership is retained by the property owner but access is temporarily allowed only during construction for items such as grading work, driveway construction, and landscaping restoration.

Land Acquisition Process

OWNERSHIP

Determine ownership of property and ROW
Prepare property survey

APPRAISAL

Develop independent appraisals

NEGOTIATION

Perform negotiations with property owners

CONDEMNATION

Court proceedings if necessary

RELOCATION

Relocation assistance for occupants when property is acquired
Advisory/referral services and replacement housing payments
Reimbursement for moving expenses

Environmental Impacts

Impacts evaluated based on improvements to both interchanges.



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

Resource	Impacts
Wetlands	16.04 Acres
Threatened and Endangered (T&E) Species	May Affect, not likely to Adversely Affect
Historic Resources	No Adverse Effect
Displacements: Residential/Commercial	1/1
Flood Hazard Zones	4.3 Acres
In stream work in Kankakee River	None
Agricultural	63.6 Acres
Prairies	6.4 Acres
Noise	10 impacted receptors 0 barriers meet IDOT's feasibility and reasonableness criteria

Funding



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

FY 2025-2030 Proposed Highway
Improvement Program includes

\$149,500,000

for improvements to I-55 at
Lorenzo Road & at IL 129



Project Development Process



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



Submit Comments



I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



IN PERSON *Today*

- ✓ Fill out a comment form
- ✓ Submit your comment to the court reporter



SUBMIT A COMMENT *Online*

- ✓ www.i55lorenzoil129outreach.org



SEND IT VIA *Email*

- ✓ lorenzoil129study@gmail.com



SEND IT VIA *Mail*

- ✓ **Illinois Department of Transportation
Bureau of Programming**
Attention: Anna Kutryn, P.E.
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Use any of
these methods
to **submit a
comment!**



Comments
on this project will
be accepted through

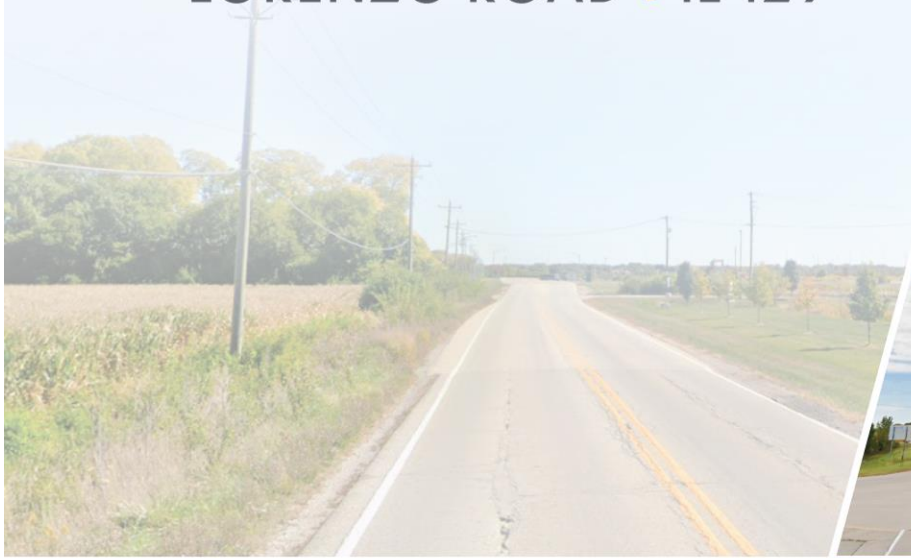
Sept 16th



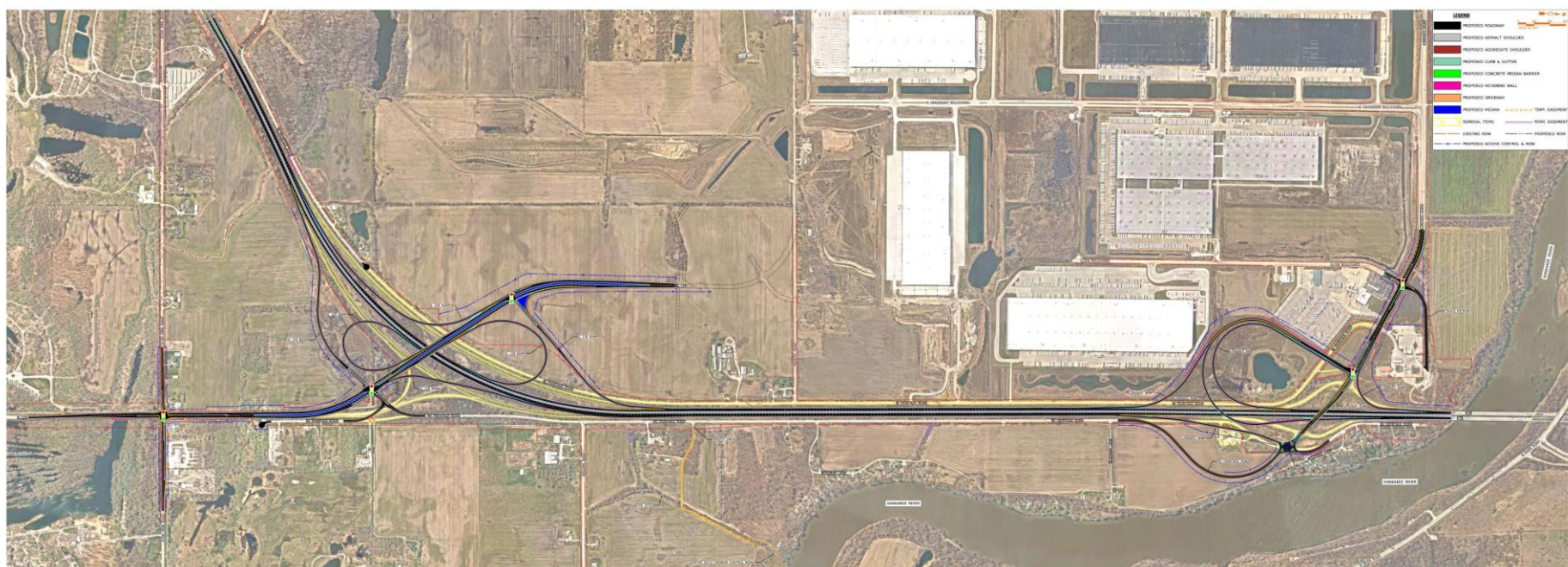
I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129

*Thank
you*



ATTACHMENT L
Map



ATTACHMENT M
Comment Form

Comment Form

place
stamp
here

**Illinois Department of Transportation
201 Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096
Attn: Valentina De Fex, P.E.**

Affix tape here

ATTACHMENT N
Court Reporter Transcript

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WILL COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING

IN RE:

1-55 AT LORENZO ROAD and
at ILLINOIS 129 INTERCHANGE
PROJECT.

AUDIO-VISUAL PRESENTATION, PUBLIC
COMMENTS taken at the Public Hearing of the
above-entitled matter, at William E. Dugan
Training Center, Local 150, 19800 West South
Arsenal Road, Wilmington, Illinois, reported by
Kathleen W. Bono, CSR, on August 15, 2024,
commencing at the hour of 3:00 p.m.

MR. BYERS: Joe Byers, B-y-e-r-s,

[REDACTED]

And what I was just talking to the project manager about was the last construction on 55 that was north of the river, if there's an accident of any type, it shuts down 55, it closes down, the traffic would flow onto Strip Mine Road or Coal City Road to Illinois Route 53 and that runs to Wilmington and there's only one direction of each lane north and south. So this project, any accidents, you can't get through Wilmington, the fire department, police department, ambulances, traffic is so tied up that it's a danger to the public.

So he just told me that there's going to be two lanes during construction but if you look last time, last construction, which was four deaths because the truck trailer rear ended a car and I think killed five.

So with this construction, I'm worried about what's going to happen to the traffic in Wilmington because it was overloaded

03:50PM

03:50PM

last time they were doing construction and that was only for a couple of years.

Now this one is going to be, I think the board said, four, five years, so Wilmington is going to be overloaded with traffic any time there's an accident so he said they should be able to solve that but until it happens and they don't know they have never been down here when there's been an accident.

I'm just trying to bring it to their attention that they have to come up with a different plan when there's an accident because you actually shut down Wilmington from traffic.

I don't know how many people drive down 55 but when that happened, there's an accident, it sends them all through Wilmington being two lane and there's three stoplights and it's like a parking lot. He says they might be able to keep two lanes open but I just came home today on 55 and that was shut down, 80 was shut down over 55 so if it happens in Wilmington, a big accident, you are going to have traffic

03:51PM

03:52PM

backed up in all directions not just on 55 but on the side roads. I'm hoping that they do a study plan to figure out if there's an emergency like that what they are going to do with traffic.

MS. REESE-ALLOTT: My name is Lyn, L-y-n, Reese-Allott, R-e-e-s-e-A-l-l-o-t-t.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

My biggest concern as a resident in Wilmington with the proposal of Interstate 55 is anything that is affected on Interstate 55, whether it be a traffic accident, road construction, whatever, Wilmington is the town that is impacted mostly by traffic because people divert through Wilmington to get to their points of destination.

As a resident, I work in a neighboring town which only takes me 10 to 15 minutes to get to work. My concern with the impact on 55 is sometimes it has taken me two and a half hours to get home. Traffic is a huge

03:56PM

03:57PM

concern for our emergency response, fire safety, whatever. Residents who live there just getting to a grocery store could take two hours if we are wanting to be in town where it should only take five minutes to go there and back. If the traffic issue could be addressed, I think that would ease the minds of a lot of residents.

MR. HEIDLER: Rick Heidler, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] business is T & R Mini Storage. So my property is at the very end of Southeast Frontage Road and they will be putting a cul-de-sac in there.

The last meeting that they had how many years ago the folks from IDOT assured me that I was going to have direct access to 129 whether a stoplight or stop sign. Well, now that whole thing has changed to a cul-de-sac and the configuration is going to impact my business for accessibility and the property value is going to go down and my income I'm sure is going to go down because with not having the access like they originally promised. So I'm not

04:10PM

04:11PM

pleased and there's no smile on my face.

MR. JEBENS: Steve Jebens, J-e-b-e-n-s,

[REDACTED]

I think you need to take into consideration making it a four-lane road to Gardner Road, all the way at least to that because you are going to have all this extra semi traffic coming down here. It makes more sense to make it four lanes now. Plan forward not chasing it is what I'm trying to get at. It's just aggravating that they do this. They are notorious for doing it here. That's what I'm saying is it would be nice if they would plan it ahead.

I don't have a problem with the design of what they want to do. I just wish that they would think forward a little bit farther and realize the situation that's coming down here with all the expansion and all these semis. We just had another accident today.

MS. MACK: My name is Jamie Mack,

M-a-c-k. [REDACTED]

04:25PM

04:26PM

[REDACTED].

So my comment about the study, I would like to see the 113 exit addressed. The 129 exit is not the problem, it's not going to be alleviated by a project at 129. The problem is at 113 where all the trucks are getting off the highway for services.

There are two truck stops there now and a third is to be built so that's where the trucks are getting off the highway. That's where the project should have been.

All three interchanges were studied and for some reason they chose the 129 interchange for a large-scale project. That large-scale project basically benefits one business that is out there, it does not benefit the residents. The residents would be benefited by a project at 113.

Also, I would like to comment on the lack of noise control. The kind of traffic that they are proposing should have noise control barriers.

05:30PM

05:31PM

There should also be some attention to light pollution. As the highway is right now, they have changed out all of the fixtures and they are now lower and brighter than they used to be and that is noise pollution for those of us who live near it.

Those two factors should be considered during this project and the project should not even be considered without considering the residents who live in this area. That's all.

(WHICH were all of the comments made by residents attending the Public Hearing.)

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF DU PAGE) ss:

I, KATHLEEN W. BONO, Certified
Shorthand Reporter, Notary Public in and for the
County DuPage, State of Illinois, do hereby
certify that the statements given by said
residents was reduced to writing by means of
shorthand and thereafter transcribed into
typewritten form; and that the foregoing is a
true, correct and complete transcript of my
shorthand notes so taken aforesaid.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have
hereunto set my hand and affixed my electronic
signature this 19th day of August, A.D. 2024.

/s/ Kathleen W. Bono
KATHLEEN W. BONO
C.S.R. No. 84-1423
Notary Public, DuPage County

1	accidents ^[1] - 2:11 address ^[2] - 4:9, 7:4 addressed ^[2] - 5:7, 7:7 affected ^[1] - 4:13 affixed ^[1] - 9:13 aforesaid ^[1] - 9:11 aggravating ^[1] - 6:14 ago ^[1] - 5:16 ahead ^[1] - 6:17 alleviated ^[1] - 7:9 ALLOTT ^[1] - 4:7 Allott ^[1] - 4:8 ambulances ^[1] - 2:13 area ^[1] - 8:14 Arsenal ^[1] - 1:12 assured ^[1] - 5:16 AT ^[1] - 1:5 attending ^[1] - 8:17 attention ^[2] - 3:11, 8:5 AUDIO ^[1] - 1:8 AUDIO-VISUAL ^[1] - 1:8 August ^[2] - 1:13, 9:14	changed ^[2] - 5:19, 8:7 chasing ^[1] - 6:13 chose ^[1] - 7:17 City ^[1] - 2:8 closes ^[1] - 2:7 Coal ^[1] - 2:8 coming ^[2] - 6:11, 6:21 commencing ^[1] - 1:14 comment ^[2] - 7:6, 8:1 COMMENTS ^[1] - 1:9 comments ^[1] - 8:16 complete ^[1] - 9:10 concern ^[3] - 4:11, 4:21, 5:2 configuration ^[1] - 5:20 consideration ^[1] - 6:8 considered ^[2] - 8:12, 8:13 considering ^[1] - 8:14 construction ^[6] - 2:4, 2:16, 2:17, 2:20, 3:1, 4:15 control ^[2] - 8:2, 8:4 correct ^[1] - 9:10 COUNTY ^[2] - 1:1, 9:2 County ^[2] - 9:5, 9:17 couple ^[1] - 3:2 CSR ^[1] - 1:13 cul ^[2] - 5:14, 5:19 cul-de-sac ^[2] - 5:14, 5:19	3:9, 3:13, 3:15, 3:20, 3:21, 5:22, 6:1, 6:11, 6:22 drive ^[1] - 3:14 DU ^[1] - 9:2 Dugan ^[1] - 1:10 DuPage ^[2] - 9:5, 9:17 during ^[2] - 2:16, 8:12	8:18 HEIDLER ^[1] - 5:10 Heidler ^[1] - 5:10 hereby ^[1] - 9:5 hereunto ^[1] - 9:13 highway ^[3] - 7:11, 7:14, 8:6 home ^[2] - 3:19, 5:1 hoping ^[1] - 4:2 hour ^[1] - 1:14 hours ^[2] - 5:1, 5:4 huge ^[1] - 5:1
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2024 ^[2] - 1:13, 9:14			ease ^[1] - 5:8 electronic ^[1] - 9:13 emergency ^[2] - 4:3, 5:2 end ^[1] - 5:12 ended ^[1] - 2:18 entitled ^[1] - 1:10 exit ^[2] - 7:7, 7:8 expansion ^[1] - 6:22 extra ^[1] - 6:10	IDOT ^[1] - 5:16 ILLINOIS ^[3] - 1:1, 1:5, 9:1 Illinois ^[7] - 1:12, 2:2, 2:8, 4:10, 6:6, 7:5, 9:5 impact ^[2] - 4:22, 5:20 impacted ^[1] - 4:16 IN ^[2] - 1:3, 9:12 income ^[1] - 5:22 INTERCHANGE ^[1] - 1:5 interchange ^[1] - 7:18 interchanges ^[1] - 7:16 Interstate ^[2] - 4:12, 4:13 issue ^[1] - 5:7
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31715 ^[1] - 5:10 32610 ^[1] - 7:4 3:00 ^[1] - 1:14			face ^[1] - 6:3 factors ^[1] - 8:11 figure ^[1] - 4:3 fire ^[2] - 2:12, 5:2 five ^[3] - 2:19, 3:4, 5:6 fixtures ^[1] - 8:7 flow ^[1] - 2:7 folks ^[1] - 5:16 foregoing ^[1] - 9:9 form ^[1] - 9:9 forward ^[2] - 6:12, 6:20 four ^[4] - 2:18, 3:4, 6:8, 6:12 four-lane ^[1] - 6:8 Frontage ^[3] - 5:11, 5:13, 7:4	Jamie ^[1] - 7:3 JEBENS ^[2] - 6:5 Jebens ^[1] - 6:5 Joe ^[1] - 2:1
5			G	K
53 ^[1] - 2:8 55 ^[9] - 2:5, 2:6, 3:15, 3:20, 3:21, 4:1, 4:12, 4:13, 4:22	B	D	Gardner ^[1] - 6:9 given ^[1] - 9:6 grocery ^[1] - 5:4	Kankakee ^[1] - 4:10 KATHLEEN ^[2] - 9:3, 9:16 Kathleen ^[1] - 1:13 keep ^[1] - 3:19 Kennedy ^[1] - 2:2 killed ^[1] - 2:19 kind ^[1] - 8:2
6	backed ^[1] - 4:1 barriers ^[1] - 8:4 benefit ^[1] - 7:20 benefited ^[1] - 7:21 benefits ^[1] - 7:19 big ^[1] - 3:22 biggest ^[1] - 4:11 bit ^[1] - 6:20 board ^[1] - 3:4 BONO ^[2] - 9:3, 9:16 Bono ^[1] - 1:13 Braidwood ^[1] - 2:2 brighter ^[1] - 8:8 bring ^[1] - 3:10 built ^[1] - 7:13 business ^[3] - 5:11, 5:20, 7:20 BYERS ^[2] - 2:1 Byers ^[1] - 2:1	danger ^[1] - 2:14 de ^[2] - 5:14, 5:19 deaths ^[1] - 2:18 DEPARTMENT ^[1] - 1:1 department ^[2] - 2:12, 2:13 design ^[1] - 6:19 destination ^[1] - 4:18 Diamond ^[1] - 7:5 different ^[1] - 3:12 direct ^[1] - 5:17 direction ^[1] - 2:10 directions ^[1] - 4:1 divert ^[1] - 4:17 down ^[11] - 2:6, 2:7,	H	L
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ATTACHMENT O
Comments

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#	Comment
40	The proposed round about at the River Road interchange needs to be a normal corner with a stoplight. This will be an issue for trucks that disregard any signage and assume this is a diamond interchange
41	I personally welcome the added infrasturcture to I-55 (from Chicago to Dwight, IL) as it will bring prevailing wage jobs to hard-working families in Will & Grundy Counties. I'm thankful to Gov. Pritzker's "Rebuild Illinois" capital plan. I wish to see a stronger committment from our new neighboring landowners (warehouse, railroads) to the Ger. Revenue fund & road funds). Tax income prvides stimuli, but the massive profits made should be (mandated or enacted as a law) excessively delved-into; set aside, then dispersed back to local roads and/or twp./road districts. If no public-private-parternship exists, I fear "overuse" and underfunded upkeep at the new interchange. Until the new intermodal kick-in their "fair share" I stand in opposition, respectfully.
42	We live near the proposed construction area. In the prior constructions (2019-2022), we heard the sickening, deadly crashes any number of times, as vehicles coming NB on 55 rounded that curve at 129 and were confronted with slowed traffic. People died. So my concern is how to keep drivers alert and aware during the construction period. I understand and can see the long-term safety improvements; however, I'm worried about people's lives during construction. today I spoke some with Anna and Eric and Rich Ray, so they can explain a little better. But I'd love it if an IDOT planner would call me to see how we can get tired drivers to pay attention as they round that curve. Thank you.
43	Thank you for taking time to share the vision of your project idea. Please keep doing it locally. Remember the peripheral impact on expansion. IDOT owns two state highways and should consider the traffic that will utilize both during highway closures. Consider removing IL 102 and IL 53 as truck routes or adding truck routes for detours. We enjoy our country type life without the bright lights of the city. Please consider low impact highway lighting during design and procurement.
44	By making these improvements & allowing expansion of the trucking business you wil force residents out of the area with increased truck traffic through our town. It brings no benefits to Braidwood. Big business continues to crush the American dream. I am sure your CEO's wouldnt allow this in there neighborhood.
45	A very through study; from the perspective of residents living in Braidwood 29 years and now currently in Wilmington almost 5 years, this is a positive future movement for our area. We lost the I-129 exit years ago and have missed it. I-55 is often backed up in this area with traffic. The nickname has become like driving in Chicago because of the increased congestion. we look forward to these improvements!

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#	Comment
46	A friend told us thankfully. We live across from proposed stop light of 129 ramp but didn't get our postcard until 2 days before presentation. This week's newspaper (Wilmington Advocate) had information. Just received Wednesday (yesterday) *This will de-value our home! You will hopefully consider our place. 1. Drainage has gotten bad since intermodal facilities were built. Hopefully drainage plan for highway will improve the situation. 2. Shoulders need to be wider for vehicles that often break down on frontage road and highways. Please, consider paved shoulders as aggregate along frontage road gives way to weeds and overgrowth, thus eliminating shoulders. 3. We are expected to just deal with the noise because there are so few of us living there? The noise is bad enough now.
47	I own the property at 31715 SE Frontage Rd. Wilmington. It is a self storage facility (T&R Mini Storage Inc.) When we originally bought the property it was because of the location. 1st the state removed the Rt 129 overpass from I-55 which had an impact on my property & now a cul-de-sac. 1. When semis make a wrong turn onto the frontage Rd & realize they are lost how will they make a turn or will they have to backout. Worse yet will they turn into my driveway or residential driveways & destroy them. Originally at the last meeting the State reps from IDOT assured me that I would have direct access to Rt. 129 from in front of my property. I come down from the north & now even the Rt. 129 exit ramp is not where they said. In all for change but not devaluing my property. I will have a negative impact on my property value.
48	Ridgeport needs much better signage of where to turn into warehouses. Many, many, trucks have passed the entrance and then try to turn around in parking lots only to jack knife. Needs flashing sign-TURN HERE!!
49	Lorenzo Rd & 129 Interchange are 2 of the worst maintained intersections in the state. Weeds, bushes, trees 150 million for the 2 but who is going to keep these 2 intersections maintained. Also signage is piss poor on Lorenzo Road for trucks trying to find where to go- What warehouse is where. Many try turning around on Lorenzo and end up terrible traffic messes on a narrow road. Looks like the new I29 is too confusing to me.
50	I support this project and think it's great for the area and safety.
51	SE Frontage Road- Multiple dips in the road which is a safety/maintenance issue. One over gas pipeline near Murphy Road. 4-5 further north by Lorenzo Rd. all in SB direction.
52	Please try to keep truck traffic from coming through Braidwood & Wilmington. The amount of trucks on 113 & 129 is heavy already. Many heading south down 102 & 113 to Kankakee area at high speeds.
53	Put up signs for dead end or truck restrictions semis keep going down this road w/no room to turn around.
54	I 100% endorse this project

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#	Comment
55	<p>I hope they do a better study than what you have now. During the last construction on I-55 North of the Kankakee River there were many accidents and deaths. When there is an accident on I-55 in that area people get off at Kennedy Rd. and Coal City Rd. They take Kennedy Rd, Coal City Rd, and Strip Mine Rd, to IL 53. This much traffic creates a nightmare of traffic in Wilmington. IL 53 is a 2 Lane Rd with 3 stoplights. Traffic does not move. People are endangered because fire and police personnel cannot get through town. Improvements are good but your video says safety is your business. In this case I hope it is.</p>
56	<p>And what I was just talking to the project manager about was the last construction on 55 that was north of the river, if there's an accident of any type, it shuts down 55, it closes down, the traffic would flow onto Strip Mine Road or Coal City Road to Illinois Route 53 and that runs to Wilmington and there's only one direction of each lane north and south. So this project, any accidents, you can't get through Wilmington, the fire department, police department, ambulances, traffic is so tied up that it's a danger to public. So he just told me that there's going to be two lanes during construction but if you look last time, last construction, which was four deaths because the truck trailer rear ended a car and I think killed five. So with this construction, I'm worried about what's going to happen to the traffic in Wilmington because it was overloaded last time they were doing construction and that was only for a couple of years. Now this one is going to be, I think the board said, four, five years, so Wilmington is going to be overloaded with traffic any time there's an accident so he said they should be able to solve that but until it happens, and they don't know they have never been down here when there's been an accident. I'm just trying to bring it to their attention that they have to come up with a different plan when there's an accident because you actually shut down Wilmington from traffic. I don't know how many people drive down 55 but when that happened, there's an accident, it sends them all through Wilmington being two lane and there's three stoplights and it's like a parking lot. He says they might be able to keep two lanes open but I just came home today on 55 and that was shut down, 80 was shut down over 55 so if it happens in Wilmington, a big accident, you are going to have traffic backed up in all directions not just on 55 but on the side roads. I'm hoping that they do a study plan to figure out if there's an emergency like that what they are going to do with traffic.</p>
57	<p>My biggest concern as a resident in Wilmington with the proposal of Interstate 55 is anything that is affected on Interstate 55, whether it be a traffic accident, road construction, whatever, Wilmington is the town that is impacted mostly by traffic because people divert through Wilmington to get to their points of destination. As a resident, I work in a neighboring town which only takes me 10 to 15 minutes to get to work. My concern with the impact on 55 is sometimes it has taken me two and a half hours to get home. Traffic is a huge concern for our emergency response, fire safety, whatever. Residents who live there just getting to a grocery store could take two hours if we are wanting to be in town where it should only take five minutes to go there and back. If the traffic issue could be addressed, I think that would ease the minds of a lot of residents.</p>

Public Hearing Comments

#	Comment
58	So my property is at the very end of Southeast Frontage Road and they will be putting a cul-de-sac in there. The last meeting that they had how many years ago the folks from IDOT assured me that I was going to have direct access to 129 whether a stoplight or stop sign. Well, now that whole thing has changed to a cul-de-sac and the configuration is going to impact my business for accessibility and the property value is going to go down and my income I'm sure is going to go down because with not having the access like they originally promised. So I'm not pleased and there's no smile on my face.
59	I think you need to take into consideration making it a four-lane road to Gradner Road, all the way at least to that because you are going to have all this extra semi traffic coming down here. It makes more sense to make it four lane now. Plan forward not chasing it is what I'm trying to get at. It's just aggravating that they do this. They are notorious for doing it here. That's what I'm saying is it would be nice if they would plan it ahead. I don't have a problem with the design of what they want to do. I just wish that they would think forward a little bit farther and realize the situation that's coming down here with all the expansion and all these semis. We just had another accident today.
60	So my comment about the study, I would like to see the 113 exit addressed. The 129 exit is not the problem, it's not going to be alleviated by a project at 129. The problem is at 113 where all the trucks are getting off the highway for services. There are two truck stops there now and a third is to be built so that's where the trucks are getting off the highway. That's where the project should have been. All three interchanges were studied and for some reason they chose the 129 interchange for a large-scale project. That large-scale project basically benefits one business that is out there, it does not benefit the residents. The residents would be benefited by a project at 113. Also, I would like to comment on the lack of noise control. The kind of traffic that they are proposing should have noise control barriers. There should also be some attention to light pollution. As the highway is right now, they have changed out all of the fixtures and they are now lower and brighter than they used to be and that is noise pollution for those of us who live near it. Those two factors should be considered during this project and the project should not even be considered without considering the residents who live in this area. That's all.
61	I appreciate IDOT requesting input from Wilmington residents. It is critical that no additional trucking be directed into the City of Wilmington residential and downtown districts. Additional routes for trucking must be designed and constructed to reduce and eliminate the trucks on IL 102 and IL 53 through the city.
62	On page 21 it talks about possible roundabout interchanges. Really? Did the person who thought this up think a SEMI in a roundabout would be a good idea? Someone got paid way too much to make what you say is an unsafe interchange even more unsafe.

Public Hearing Comments

#	Comment
63	First, please add me to the email distribution lists for this project. The email below on the upcoming public hearing was forwarded to me from my supervisor Krystle McClain. To my recollection, the last time the agencies discussed this project was in a NEPA/404 merger meeting in September 2022; at that time, the resource agencies raised concerns and had questions regarding resource impacts. What has changed on this project since the last time it was presented at a merger meeting? Should this project be added to the merger meeting since there is a public meeting scheduled? Also, what is the schedule at this point for release of an EA?
64	Does the interchange project affect the houses located on the corner of Murphy and Kavanaugh road?
65	I will not be able to make this in person. Will there be a Zoom available? If not, what about a recording afterwards?
66	I am a property owner in the area and would like to be added to the mailing list for the I-55 Lorenzo project study.
67	As part of this project, can we also address expanding the shoulder on I-55 in Will County to interstate highway standards? Currently, I-55 through Will County carries heavy truck traffic and some of the shoulders, particularly at the median, are not up to interstate highway standards; as a result, people have been catastrophically injured or killed, including at least one Illinois State Trooper. This area contains one of, if not the, largest interstate highway curves in the Chicago area, making it particularly hazardous not to have a complete shoulder as visibility is reduced.
68	We were not able to attend the Aug 15 meeting. Are the plans & exhibits on display somewhere for us to see before Sept 15?
69	Hello. I know you probably won't read this comment about the building up of the land on the west side of 55 in Wilmington, but I thought I would try anyway. I have lived in Wilmington over 50 years, and what I loved about it was that it was country. Twenty years ago still when I would awake at 3 am in the morning, I could hear coyote, foxes, owls and other other wildlife. Now I hear traffic. All night long. I live in the city limits next to the high school. Why does man call what they do to the earth progress? I know the Natives wouldn't call it that. Uplifting the earth, cutting down trees, killing the wildlife, implanting pipes, covering it with concrete, lights shining all night long, giant warehouses holding more stuff imported from China that us Americans do not need that will end up in land fills, more garbage blowing across our earth, congestion, anger, pollution, and heat. Progress, or the the progression of destruction? But carry on, as it appears the dollar is the god of most of mankind.

Public Hearing Comments

#	Comment
70	<p>Found out about meeting a week or maybe two weeks prior from friend with Facebook (which I don't use). Post card that came to house for me as an affected homeowner arrived only 2 days before the meeting. It was in the local paper only 1 day before the meeting. Consider notifying sooner, especially to those of us directly affected by the project. I am concerned about storm drainage after all the roads are in place and there is less land to absorb the rain. Where will the run-off go? The ditch of the SE Frontage Rd that is south of Widows Rd already fills quickly now with rainwater. The map for the project shows new elevated heights that will lead to faster rainwater runoff. I am also concerned about lowered property value because of the access routes being in front of my house. I know that there are no sound barriers in the project, but all of the engine breaking from the on- and off-ramps will occur at all hours...including all night long. Think of how you might feel if it was your house. My wife is asking that trees on berms be incorporated into the plan for sound mitigation if retaining sound barrier walls are out. Signage needs to be large and very clearly marked that the area near our home will be a dead end. That will be a big learning curve for drivers because the frontage road in front of our home had become a main road for traffic since the 129 overpass was shut down years ago. It became dangerous to be able to get our mail at times. Speaking of which, will the post office be relocating mail boxes for the houses at our end of the frontage road for the safety of the mail carriers and homeowners in this new design?</p>
71	<p>My name is Terry McEvilly and I have property off of Lorenzo Road. I feel it is imperative to add a lane to I-55 between Lorenzo and 129 and beyond if possible, The intermodal yard that will use these lanes will add from 5,000 to 10,000 trucks a day to this stretch of road that already sees a great deal of traffic. Much of this current traffic comes from trucks heading south from the intermodals off Arsenal road just to the north. That is considered the largest inland port in the nation with plans for a massive expansion. The current plans address the safety aspect of the additional truck traffic entering and exiting the highway but doesn't address the increasing traffic once they are on I-55. Even though the Des Plains River bridge is only 2 lanes that will likely change before 2050 and I-55 is 3 lanes just north of that bridge. Increasing to 3 lanes is just as important to safety as addressing those interchanges. At the very least procure the necessary land that would allow for an additional lane even if it were to be built at a later date. Providing more efficient access to the highway, knowing what the new intermodals will bring only addresses half of the traffic problem, and likely adds to a dangerous traffic bottle neck. As residence in the area we have to live with your decision. I ask you to address the entire traffic impact by making it 3 lanes between Lorenzo and 129.</p>
72	<p>While implementing this project, please include replacing Rt 129 all the way from I-55 to where Rt129 meets up with Rt113 in Braidwood. That stretch of Rt 129 needs badly to be repaved. Also, please put in FLOCK cameras on Rt 129 facing both North and South as cars get in and off of I-55. We need to be able to catch any criminals that may be coming on and off the interstate.</p>

Public Hearing Comments

#	Comment
73	<p>I am a homeowner residing on Readman Lane along with my family. I would like to express some concerns and observations of IDOT'S proposed improvements to I55 and Lorenzo Road interchanges. Existing Conditions: Every day I commute back and forth from my home at peak rush hour times. When exiting I55 I am almost always the first car at the stop sign. Traffic congestion is always minimal. I execute a left turn and drive to the dead end of Lorenzo Road. An occasional car will turn right Southbound on Frontage Road. Left Northbound, the Frontage Road leads to Readman Lane both are dead ends. There is nothing safer than a dead-end street that you can only turn right or left. All northbound traffic exiting from I55 has its own separate exit from residential traffic. Can't get any safer than that. New IDOT Proposal: Will have North bound residential and semi-truck traffic entering a roundabout, causing cars and semi-trucks to compete for their choice of exit. Every day in America semi-trucks roll over on sharp turns and short ramps causing thousands of dollars' worth of damages and injuring people. This roundabout will be pushed all the way to the bank of the Kankakee River on top of the residential homes on Readman Lane. Obviously causing an increase in accidents and endangering residents on Readman Lane. The previous IDOT proposal simply showed the South bound Frontage Road being relocated behind the BP gas station, with no roundabout, taking minimal land and staying as far as possible from the homes and the Kankakee River on Readman Lane. The new Frontage Road proposal ROW comes all the way down to Readman Lane, a private drive, taking part of my yard, my neighbors' yards and a major part of the Readman farm. No compensation mentioned for the diminished property values for the homes along Readman Lane from the loss land. Environmental Impacts: Flooding and runoff from the roundabout and the proposed Frontage Road will contaminate my well and my neighbors' wells along with the Kankakee River. The noise from the current interchange is at the point where it is barely tolerable. Making all semi-trucks exit into a roundabout on top of the Readman Lane homes along with Frontage Road will increase the noise level to an unbearable point around the clock. A sound wall along the Frontage Road and roundabout would help control the noise, stop the runoff and the pollution trenching the homes and the Kankakee River. In addition, it would help protect the residents from semis rolling down the Kankakee Riverbank onto the properties, cars, boats and homes of those that live on Readman Lane. Potential Threatened and Endangered Species: The Kankakee River has been declared a National Waterway. At this location, the water is crystal clear and shallow. Every day the American Bald Eagles and Osprey fish these waters. It is a prime fishing and recreational area adjacent to the Des Plaines State Fish & Wildlife Area and Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The runoff, the noise and the lighting will most definitely have an adverse effect on the American Bald Eagles, the Osprey's, Cranes and hundreds of various migrating bird species and fish. In Closing: Eliminate the roundabout, pull the Frontage Road back to the gas station and erect a sound wall and everyone is happy. Or raise and add a third lane to the Kankakee River bridge and make all entrance and exit lanes longer. A new raised bridge would help eliminate flooding of the town of Wilmington if the ice jams could pass freely under the bridge. This past winter when the ice jam broke the ice piled up and threatened to go over the Kankakee River bridge and close I55. The ice and water backed up causing major flooding and damage to the Wilmington area and downstream homes. Please find a way with less impact to our homes and environment.</p>

Public Hearing Comments

#	Comment
74	<p>Thank you for making the study materials available online and for this comment opportunity. The main concern I want to raise is how these planned improvements will impact the larger area. Many roads near this project (Peotone-Wilmington, 53, River Road, etc.) already see a high volume of semi traffic and are overburdened by pollution. How will these two projects impact existing traffic problems in the area and what are the plans to deal with any problems? This stretch of I-55 is a frequent spot for crashes as documented in the presentation and it makes me nervous to think of even more semi traffic on these roads. I am also concerned about impacts to wetlands and potential run off from the new roads to the Kankakee River.</p>
75	<p>Openlands appreciates the ability to provide comments on the IDOT Interstate-55 improvements at Lorenzo Rd and IL 129 in Will County. Openlands is not opposed to the project and agrees that this project is appropriate for addressing public safety. However, the project will have significant effects on the surrounding land use, communities, and environment. These significant effects should be assessed through an EA or EIS. The FHWA's determination that this project meets the criteria to be Categorically Excluded under NEPA is unsupported. Will County has seen an exceptional growth in freight traffic in the last several years. Truck traffic increases, as expected, with the development of new roads, warehouses, and intermodals. Improvements like the I-55 interchange have a direct, indirect, and cumulative effect of increasing truck traffic in the area and therefore a significant impact to the surrounding areas. At the public meeting held on August 15, 2024, IDOT claimed that their improvements are not correlated with the increase in traffic. However, no data was presented to the public to support this claim. The project area provided to the public was limited to the adjacent lands needed to complete the construction. The project area did not include the areas that would be impacted by the project. FHWA Procedures under 23 CFR 771.117, require that for a project to be Categorically Excluded under NEPA that project must meet both the definition contained under 40 CFR 1508.4 and not induce significant impacts to land use. . . or not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts. There has been no data presented to the public to show that this project satisfies the requirements of a Categorical Exclusion. It is reasonably foreseeable that by improving truck access to the interstate the project will induce greater truck use of the surrounding roadways, especially if the cumulative impacts of roadway enhancements are considered. IDOT needs to expand their project area to include those facilities that will need to use local roads to access the new interchange. This project will have foreseeable and likely impacts to land use, communities, and the environment. Therefore, the FHWA should require IDOT to conduct an EA or EIS and properly minimize those impacts.</p>

Public Hearing Comments

#	Comment
76	<p>On August, 15th I attended the public hearing and had several questions and concerns. Number 1 Being that the roundabout and the Frontage Road has been pushed all the way to the Kankakee river bank and my home on Readman Lane, how does IDOT plan on controlling runoff, fuel and oil from contaminating my well and the Kankakee river? The only answer I received was the runoff ends up in the river anyways and oh, you're on a well? Is IDOT going to be responsible for polluting the groundwater that my family drinks? Number 2 I have researched and have not been able to find any studies that truck traffic exiting a major interstate into a roundabout with residential traffic is safer than a separate exit from a Frontage road. Please disclose the study that was conducted by IDOT backing up your claims. Transparency is important. Number 3 When I asked about a sound wall I was told it is not feasible or reasonable. The noise level now from the semi trucks sounds like thunder and the semi trucks are constantly engine breaking. The roar of the traffic at peak times is unbearable. The improvements to the interchange pushes traffic up over the top of the homes on Readman Lane, along with additional sky ramps and truck and car headlights flashing on the homes. All up and down I55 there are sound walls constructed where only the interstate passes by. For example, at the new casino there is a sound wall on the West side of the interstate and not a home in sight. At 355 and I55 there is a sound wall on the North side and that interchange is half the size with no sky ramps. I'm sure that these sound walls were asked for and negotiated by the local townships before construction. Please disclose your study that deems the sound wall is not feasible or reasonable.</p>

ATTACHMENT P
Media Coverage

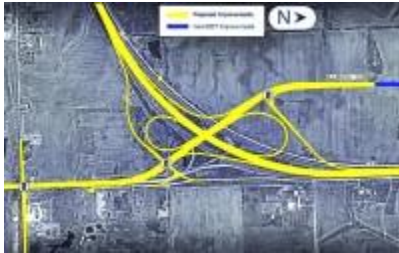
<http://freepressnewspapers.com/tags/lorenzo-road>

Free Press Newspaper 8.20.2024

Lorenzo Road

I-55 project a game changer for growth, jobs

Published by admin on Tue, 08/20/2024 - 4:03pm



At one time, anything south of Route 59 on Interstate 55 was considered the “wild blue yonder,” with little on the horizon except corn and soybean fields.

Ready or not, that will soon change forever. The Illinois Dept. of Transportation (IDOT) has masterminded a project that will open the west side of Wilmington to commerce and industry, and ultimately, growth.

Farmers Weekly Review

IDOT Eyes Reconfiguration of Lorenzo and Ill 129/I-55 Interchange



IDOT officials unveiled their plans to reconstruct the Illinois 129/Interstate 55 interchange. Residents who saw the plan said they were glad it was finally going to happen. (Photo by Stephanie Irvine)

By Stephanie Irvine

The Lorenzo Road and Illinois 129 interchanges on Interstate 55 are scheduled to get much-needed facelifts if the Illinois Department of Transportation's proposed \$149.5 million plans come to fruition.

IDOT is currently in the midst of the first of three phases of the project, and it is scheduled to conclude with construction by 2030. Prior to the August 15 public hearing, the last public meeting for the project was held in 2020.

The proposed improvements include adding auxiliary lanes, reconfiguring the aforementioned interchanges, and improving drainage. A section of West Frontage Road at Lorenzo Road north of Kavanaugh Road will be permanently closed as part of the plan.

Phase I of the project is scheduled to conclude this year. Phase II, which includes final design and land acquisition, is projected to take approximately 24-36 months.

Proposed improvements would displace one business and one home. The environmental impact includes 16 acres of wetlands, four acres of hazard flood zone, and just over six acres of prairies. Sixty-three acres of agricultural land would also be affected.

"The proposed improvements along Interstate 55 have been a long time coming and will help alleviate some of the long-standing issues," said Wilmington Mayor Ben Dietz after the open house.

"For our residents, restoring access to IL-129 and rebuilding Lorenzo will give residents three opportunities to access Wilmington from I-55. The two new interchanges will be built to modern safety standards and have been engineered well beyond today's traffic needs.

"Most of us can remember how bad the Arsenal Road interchange used to be on 55 by Mobil compared to today's improved traffic flow."

Dietz said he was excited about the long-term opportunities for the community. On the west side of the interstate, he said, the city will have over 175 acres of prime real estate directly off the interstate.

"These sites are designated to be commercially zoned so we are not talking more warehouses; we're talking services, retail, hotels, restaurants. Having the development out there gives Wilmington the economic boost that

we can use to invest in our parks, roads, and infrastructure while having a buffer to keep our small town atmosphere and community in place while investing in our future.

Improvements such as those also will help keep trucks off our local roads, Dietz said.

"Will County is a national leader in transportation, and one of the side effects is we also have a ton of trucks on our roads. Truck drivers are just looking for the quickest way from point A to point B. Having improved access to the interstate helps keep trucks off the local roads and keep them on the interstate."

Dietz said the city has been actively working with the county and state on getting our local issues such as the resurfacing of Baltimore Street.

"I am happy that the resurfacing project from Water Street east to Wilmington-Peotone Road will begin the week of August 26. The other major item the city is actively engaged in is the Wilmington-Peotone 2040 planning project and making sure that the county is focused on planning for tomorrow, not just fixing the issues of today."

IDOT Project Manager Steve Schilke was present at the public hearing and said that for the most part, feedback from attendees was positive.

He noted that about a decade ago, IDOT removed a bridge on Route 129, cutting off travelers' southbound access point.

Schilke explained that because of that closure, most traffic today gets off at Lorenzo Road and filters down the frontage roads to return to Illinois 129.

"We started this study to replace that bridge, but at the same time, there were operational issues that we noticed at Lorenzo," Schilke explained, noting that they explored several options but ultimately, this was the preferred plan.

"We still have a lot of safety issues on this corridor. We've had a couple wrong-way maneuvers on 129, and now Lorenzo is getting to capacity, especially with the development pressure it has right next to it."

As Schilke said, most residents seemed happy with the proposed changes.

Bill Luttrell attended the hearing with his wife, Rora, to learn more about the proposed changes.

"Years ago, they took out the exit going onto 129. We had lived in Braidwood at the time, and that was very much an inconvenience," Bill Luttrell said.

"They said someday it would come back, but that was many years ago," Rora Luttrell said.

The Luttrells, who live in Wilmington now and regularly travel I-55, were happy to see the improvements finally making some headway and noted that the changes are needed.

Similarly, Wilmington resident Jason Shipley attended to get a better view of maps and learn more about the timeline.

"I was interested in what they were going to be doing with the intersections. They had closed down Route 129 a long time ago, and it just kind of made it inconvenient for some people coming into Wilmington," Shipley said.

"I like it, and it makes a lot of sense," Shipley said when asked what he thought of what he had seen of the proposed plans at the open house.

The few in attendance who appeared critical, or at the very least skeptical of the changes, declined to comment publicly. Some expressed regret among themselves that IDOT didn't identify and address infrastructure needs sooner.

Overall, IDOT plans to address safety, accessibility, and road condition and design at these two interchanges. Between 2018 and 2022, IDOT identified 297 crashes in the study section.

IDOT also provided 2050 traffic projections, which noted that traffic would be in complete gridlock at the Lorenzo interchange if no improvements are made.

"The majority of the trucks do go up north on I-55, so this will certainly help alleviate the safety and operational issues we've been noticing already at Lorenzo," Schilke explained of the proposed changes.

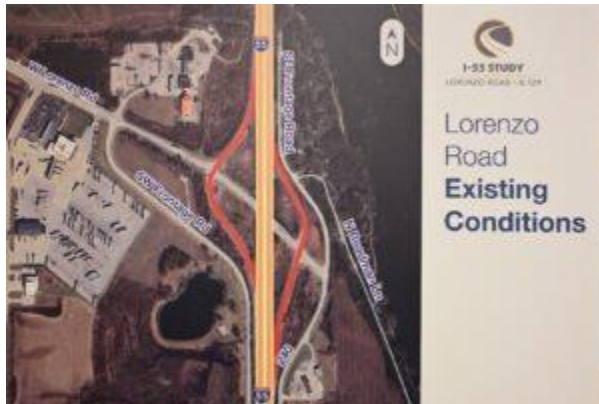
Representatives from the City of Wilmington, a representative from the office of Senator Rachel Ventura, D-Joliet, and representatives from Openlands were present but did not provide comment.

Those who attended could learn about the project in a variety of ways. IDOT representatives invited visitors to watch a 10-minute video presentation of the project, as well as an exhibit area with posters that mirrored the presentation set up around the room.

In the center, large maps of the study area were laid out on tables for people to view, and off to the side, a court recorder could dictate public comments. IDOT representatives were available at every turn to field questions and address concerns raised by those who attended.

Those who could not attend the public hearing but are interested in providing a comment for the public hearing may do so online at www.i55lorenzoi129outreach.org by September 16.

Stephanie Irvine is a freelance reporter.



The current, often-confusing, interchange at 129 and 55.



Residents who attended IDOT's open house on the reconfigured interchange quizzed IDOT officials.

(Photos by Stephanie Irvine)