

Stakeholder Involvement Plan

I-57 Phase I Access Study

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Acronyms Page

Abbreviation	Title of Description
BDE	Bureau of Design and Environment
CAG	Community Advisory Group
CSS	Context Sensitive Solutions
FAQ	Frequently Asked Questions
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
IDOT	Illinois Department of Transportation
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
PSG	Project Study Group
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SIP	Stakeholder Involvement Plan

1. INTRODUCTION

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is conducting a Phase I study to improve access to Interstate 57 (I-57). This Phase I study includes the development of preliminary engineering of proposed improvements for consideration and environmental review of the area.

The I-57 Access Phase I study area is bounded by Wilmington-Peotone Rd (south), Monee-Manhattan Rd (north), US Route 45 (west), and 1-mile east of IL 50 (east). It is within the Villages of Peotone and Monee in Will County, Illinois. The study aims to propose improvements to improve access to I-57 and meet the 2050 travel demand, by improving local and regional connectivity to I-57. It is important to note that I-57 is classified as part of the Illinois Priority Freight Network, and any improvements will need to accommodate large trucks and potential access to freight hubs, such as distribution centers, airports, and other Priority Freight Network corridors.

The study will review existing conditions, gather input from the public and other stakeholders, ultimately developing a Preferred Alternative. The study is anticipated to be completed in three years and will be completed in accordance with the IDOT's Bureau of Design and Environment (BDE) Manual. A key planning tool in this process will include a public involvement program based on the principles of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). Communication with the public, local municipalities, federal, state, and local agencies, as well as other governmental entities, is critical to the CSS process.

This Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) will be a guiding document to ensure the adjacent communities are engaged and municipal leaders, agencies, and others are involved in the process to assist in developing the proposed improvements for consideration. This SIP is intended to be a living document and may be adjusted throughout the study to best align with the engagement needs of the community and stakeholders.

2. OUTREACH PROGRAM

This SIP outlines the goals, activities, and timelines of stakeholder outreach for the I-57 Access Phase I study. In addition to outlining the public engagement and agency coordination processes, this SIP also educates stakeholders and study team members on study goals and deliverables. The study team will use the framework established in this document to guide the collection and organization of input from all stakeholders. Stakeholder input will be used in collaboration with technical analysis to develop a proposed improvement for consideration.

All engagement methods will be accessible, and materials will be designed to convey technical information to the general public. A variety of outlets will be used to ensure that key issues, input, and ideas from the public and stakeholders are captured and considered. It is important to note that all outreach and engagement will be aligned with

the major milestones of the technical team to provide feedback and input on the work progress, as well as guidance and support for future milestones.

This SIP is intended to be a dynamic document that will be revised and updated as necessary throughout the duration of the study. All content-changing updates will be outlined in the revision history table above. The following are the objectives of the outreach program, as described in this document:

- Identify key stakeholders and establish a Community Advisory Group (CAG)
- Create a timeline for public involvement and agency activities
- Determine methods for engagement and public involvement
- Establish a system for input from municipalities, stakeholders, and the general public

3. STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

IDOT leads the I-57 Access Phase I study. It is intended that the study will conduct targeted engagement with the Project Study Group (PSG), municipalities, local agencies, a CAG of key stakeholders, and subject matter experts to help guide alternatives for consideration, and the general public.

Communication with elected officials, regional agencies, municipalities, key stakeholders and the general public will be essential to providing insights and guidance throughout the study. Stakeholder outreach will include a variety of methods including stakeholder meetings and informational materials. Stakeholder meetings will include individual meetings with key stakeholders, advisory group meetings, regional and federal agency coordination meetings, public meetings, and one public hearing.

Stakeholder meetings may be conducted in person, hybrid (in-person and virtual), or virtually. Hybrid and virtual meetings will include a web meeting, conferencing platform, and/or dial-in information option.

A stakeholder list has been developed to initiate and support engagement coordination. The list is shown in Section 7.

3.1 Individual Stakeholder Meetings

Individual meetings will be held with each municipality and township adjacent to the study area, the Will County Division of Transportation, and the Will County Center for Economic Development. These key stakeholders will support the study throughout its duration by providing critical information specific to each community. It is anticipated that:

- Up to four (4) meetings will be held with the Village of Monee, Village of Peotone, and the Will County Division of Transportation. These meetings are intended to introduce the study and gather initial insights, present the reasonable alternatives, review the preferred alternative for further design, and preview materials prior to the public hearing.

- Up to two (2) meetings will be held with the Will County Center for Economic Development. These meetings will introduce the study and discuss the potential economic impacts of the preferred alternative.
- One (1) meeting will be held with the Green Garden Township, Monee Township, Peotone Township, and Will Township individually. This meeting will introduce the study and invite interested representatives to participate on the Community Advisory Group.

Additional follow-up meetings may occur, as needed, prior to the public hearing.

It is anticipated that all individual stakeholder meetings will be conducted virtually.

To facilitate engagement at these meetings, agendas, exhibits, and meeting minutes will be prepared and distributed. These groups will be contacted and informed of the study and meeting invitations via e-communications and phone.

3.2 Agency Coordination

As multiple agencies have jurisdiction, operate services, and maintain property on or near the corridor, ongoing coordination with resource agencies will be needed to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). These entities include local, state, and federal agencies. Some of these agencies may also be invited to join the CAG for additional coordination. Agency coordination also includes cultural resources coordination as part of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 procedures. Cultural resource stakeholders for this study are expected to include (but not be limited to) the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), local and regional historic agencies, and interested Native American tribes. See Section 7 for a listing of resource agencies and cultural resource stakeholders for the study.

This coordination will be in the form of letters, phone calls, e-communication, and as-needed meetings. IDOT and FHWA, with support from the study team, will send letters to entities inviting them to be Cooperating Agencies (CAs) and Section 106 consulting parties. For projects using the principles of CSS, these agencies are outlined in Appendix I. At least 30 days after agency early coordination letters are sent, the SIP will be updated to show which agencies accepted.

Local and regional agency coordination meetings will be conducted, ranging from one-on-one meetings, medium-sized group meetings with five (5) to twelve (12) attendees, and large group meetings. It is anticipated that there will be four (4) stakeholder agency coordination meetings.

Agency coordination meetings are anticipated to include study introductions and updates, public feedback received to date, and requests for any additional guidance or support the study's needs. The study team will develop materials for each meeting, such as factsheets, presentations, and maps. The study team will facilitate meaningful conversations at these meetings and will develop a post-meeting summary.

These meetings are expected to be conducted virtually to ensure robust participation.

3.3 Project Study Group

There will be a total of up to ten (10) Project Study Group (PSG) meetings throughout the study. These meetings may be conducted as hybrid (in-person with virtual component) or virtually. The Project Study Group consists of the consultant team, the FHWA, IDOT District 1, and IDOT BDE (Bureau of Design & Environment). The PSG will meet periodically and at study milestones to provide technical oversight and expertise in key areas, including study process, agency procedure and standards, and technical approaches. The PSG will also review the alternatives presented and discuss and comment on the impacts, analysis factors, and evaluation methods. IDOT will make the final decision on which alternative to select for further design specifications with concurrence from FHWA. The study team will develop materials for each meeting, clearly and articulately describing the meeting's agenda, study information, and the meeting summary for documentation.

3.4 Community Advisory Group

A Community Advisory Group (CAG) may include representatives from the Project Study Group, members of IDOT, FHWA, leaders from the study's Agency Coordination, and other subject matter experts to act as a sounding board and knowledgeable source of corridor-related information. The CAG may be composed of representatives of diverse community interests, including local municipalities, chambers of commerce, local institutions, houses of worship, local business owners, community members, property owners and residents, park and environmental organizations, and transit agencies as determined by the study team.

The study team will establish the members of the CAG following the first public meeting, the PSG meetings, and agency coordination. The selection of CAG members will occur transparently. As this is a dynamic group, members are subject to change following confirmation with IDOT.

The CAG will be convened to meet throughout the study to advise on study direction, needs, and details. Engaging and soliciting feedback from the CAG will help to ensure that the analysis and subsequent recommendations correspond to local conditions and solutions. Additionally, CAG members will be able to provide guidance and support for issues within their area of expertise.

The study team will meet with the CAG up to five (5) times at key points in the study development process to provide updates and to solicit member feedback throughout the NEPA Scoping to the end of the process, with the identification of the Preferred Alternative and final NEPA documentation. These key points will include

- Existing conditions and context audit
- Purpose and Need

- Range of Alternatives
- Alternatives Carried Forward
- Preferred Alternative & preparation for Public Hearing

The first CAG meeting will be held in person, during which a poll will be taken to gauge members' preferences to determine whether future meetings will continue to be held in-person or virtually. Information and meeting materials will be made available virtually for those unable to attend. At each CAG meeting, members will be asked to inform the study team on the feedback they have obtained from either their organization, community, or the PSG. Then, the primary meeting topics may be covered, as outlined below:

- CAG Meeting #1: Project introduction, existing conditions, and public survey review – February 2025
- CAG Meeting #2: Purpose and Need – July 2025
- CAG Meeting #3: Range of Alternatives – Spring 2026
- CAG Meeting #4: Alternatives Carried Forward – Winter 2026/2027
- CAG Meeting #5: Preferred Alternative and Review of draft NEPA documentation – Summer/Fall 2027

Each CAG meeting will entail an invitation and meeting announcement to CAG members (disseminated via letter, e-communication, or phone), a slide deck presentation, study exhibition boards, and as-needed aerial roll plot map(s), sign-in sheets, name tags, and meeting notes. The study team will follow up after the meeting with all CAG members, providing contact information and a meeting summary for all CAG members.

The CAG will also be fundamental in sharing information with the public and their respective communities about the study and any upcoming public activities. Whether disseminating information on their social platforms or through their local network, they will serve as a communication link between the study team, the PSG, their organizations, and the public.

3.5 General Public

As the study area extends through numerous communities, opportunities throughout the study will be available for all community members to provide input. The study team will engage the public through a variety of engagement opportunities, such as public meetings, a public hearing, a study IDOT-hosted website, and online surveys. Additional details on the public meetings and the public hearing are described in Section 4.

4. IMPLEMENTATION & EXECUTION OF PUBLIC MEETINGS & PUBLIC HEARING

Four (4) public meetings and (1) public hearing will be held during this study. Public information meetings and the public hearing conducted by the study team will follow the guidelines presented in the IDOT BDE Manual Section 19: Public Involvement Guidelines.

Public Meetings

1. Public Meeting #1: Context/Existing Conditions – November 2024
 1. The first meeting will provide context, introduce existing conditions, and distribute the public survey.
 2. Members of the public will review an automated presentation, study boards, and have the opportunity to ask questions as needed. The CAG will be introduced and applications will be available.
2. Public Meeting #2: Purpose and Need – August 2025
 1. The second meeting will be held to gather input on the Purpose and Need.
 2. Members of the public will review an automated presentation, study boards, and have the opportunity to ask questions as needed. The CAG will be introduced, and applications will be available.
3. Public Meeting #3: Range of Alternatives – Spring/Summer 2026
 1. A broad range of alternatives will be developed and considered, including the No-Build Alternative. A screening and evaluation process will determine which alternatives will be moved forward to be studied in greater detail, known as the Alternatives Carried Forward.
 2. Members of the public will view a presentation, study boards, collaterals with study details, and have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
4. Public Meeting #4: Alternatives Carried Forward – Winter/Spring 2027
 1. The fourth meeting will review the alternatives carried forward and the screening process.
 2. Members of the public will view a presentation, study boards, collaterals with study details, and can ask questions and provide feedback.

Public Hearing

The public hearing will have the same components as the public meetings, with the addition of a court reporter, and will continue to meet the guidelines presented in the IDOT BDE Manual Section 19: Public Involvement Guidelines. The public hearing will be held towards the end of the study, to present the preferred alternative, and to allow for public input on the environmental document and study prior to Phase I completion. This hearing will provide the public with a formal opportunity to review the Preferred Alternative and provide comments for consideration.

The public hearing is anticipated for Winter 2027/Spring 2028.

IDOT will approve all meeting and public hearing announcements, potential locations, materials, and format.

4.1 Public Meeting and Public Hearing Locations

The public information meetings and the public hearing are anticipated to be conducted in person in an open house format and with a hybrid component. All meeting and hearing materials will be made available on the study website and physically at in-person events. Public comments will be accepted electronically, in person, or via mail for the duration of each public meeting and public hearing's comment period. Both the public meetings and the public hearing will provide a hybrid component which will allow the public to submit comments electronically and view the materials on the study website.

Regarding the public meeting and public hearing venues, the study team will look to hold them within or close to the study area. Potential venue facilities are listed below. The location chosen must meet the following criteria: it must be available on the date of presentation, can hold at least one hundred (100) people, be ADA accessible, and be low-cost or free of charge.

- Monee Village Hall
- Will County Fair Atrium
- Peotone Park District
- Additional Venues for Consideration:
 - Peotone Public Library District
 - St Paul the Apostle Catholic Church (Peotone)
 - Monee Educational Center
 - Governor State University (University Park)
 - Monee Educational Center

4.2 Public Meeting and Public Hearing Materials

All public meetings and the public hearing will have materials that describe the study in a clear and concise manner. Fact sheets for the public meetings and the public hearing will include general information, such as study goals, maps, and timelines. Other meeting and public hearing materials will include exhibit boards, plot maps, and an audio-visual presentation. The study team will work with IDOT to ensure all handouts and materials are available on the study website and physically at pre-determined locations throughout the study area, as requested before the public meeting and the public hearing.

Comment cards will also be provided to attendees to submit any questions or input they have regarding the study. These public comments will be gathered and assessed after each public meeting and public hearing. The study team will also encourage attendees to submit any comments via e-communications or mail to IDOT District 1 after the public meetings and the public hearing.

4.3 Public Meeting and Public Hearing Announcements

Public notification will be made through e-communication campaigns and press releases in line with guidelines presented in the IDOT BDE Manual Section 19: Public Involvement Guidelines. The notice may also be announced on social media IDOT accounts, social media Facebook groups, community message boards, radio, television, and relevant websites to encourage as much attendance as possible.

Meeting and public hearing invitations will be sent to approximately one thousand five hundred (1,500) businesses and residents' mailing addresses. Additional outreach will be encouraged through CAG members. Announcements will highlight public meeting and public hearing topics and invite the general public to attend.

The study team will develop social media posts to share the public meeting and the public hearing invitation and announcement on digital platforms and will share social media materials with select stakeholders to send through their channels as well.

4.4 Public Meeting and Public Hearing Format

Each public meeting and the public hearing will be open house format, which will include exhibit boards and a pre-recorded PowerPoint presentation with voiceover. The public meetings and the public hearing will be three (3) hours in duration, tentatively 3:00PM to 6:00PM. The time frame allows ample time for attendees to view displays, provide comments, and ask questions. The open house style of meetings is intended for attendees to provide input in multiple ways throughout the public meeting and the public hearing. As such, there will be written comment cards available at each meeting and the public hearing, and the study team may assess other formats to encourage public comments, such as interactive polling or allowing comments or questions to be submitted via a scannable QR code.

4.5 Public Meeting and Public Hearing Considerations and Accommodations

The meeting announcement and invitation for each public meeting and the public hearing will include information on requesting special accommodation such as accessible walkways or ramps, assistive technology or services, alternative seating arrangements, and so on. Accommodations will be utilized for individuals if requested in advance. Additionally, each public meeting and the public hearing will provide translation services for the attendees.

Letters notifying impacted property owners will be sent prior to the final public meeting and the public hearing to inform them of the potential impact, invite them to the meeting, and provide an opportunity to comment on the Preferred Alternative. Study team staff will be available at the public meeting and the public hearing to speak with potentially impacted property owners.

4.6 After the Public Meeting and Public Hearing

After each public meeting and the public hearing, a summary of the meeting and hearing will be drafted. All other meeting and hearing materials will remain available to the public on the study website. A follow-up email will be sent to all individuals who were invited directly, pointing them to the study materials uploaded on the study website and providing them with contact information to submit digital comments via e-communication. Following the public meeting and the public hearing, a three (3) week comment period will be provided to be part of the official meeting record.

The study team will track comments received during and after the meetings and the public hearing and coordinate with IDOT to review and respond to the public.

5. ADDITIONAL METHODS FOR PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

5.1 Website

The study team will support the development and maintenance of a study website hosted by IDOT for the Phase I portion. This website will act as a single location for study information, public meeting summaries, newsletters, and announcements. This website will be updated to reflect study milestones and will be maintained and updated consistently throughout the study.

5.2 Electronic Surveys

Up to four (4) electronic surveys will be developed and distributed to the CAG and the general public via the website, social media, and mail to receive input on existing issues within the study area, community priorities and potential improvements. This engagement tool will additionally educate the public and stakeholders, establish a vision, identify public priorities, pinpoint potential problem locations, present alternatives, and gather input on the Preferred Alternative.

The study team will develop the surveys in consultation with IDOT to ensure that the most appropriate activities are selected for public engagement. The study team will continuously monitor the survey results, evaluate them, and report them to IDOT.

The public, CAG members, and all stakeholders may be encouraged to participate in surveys via e-communication, phone call, the study website, and social media.

5.3 Social Media

Utilizing existing IDOT social media platforms, such as “X” (f.k.a. Twitter) and Facebook, will be essential in engaging the public and inviting community members to public meetings and the public hearing. Social media posts will be developed throughout the study for IDOT to share and to be shared with pertinent stakeholders to spread through their social channels.

5.4 E-Communication Platform

E-communication will be a key facet of communicating with stakeholders. E-communications will be sent in e-newsletters and emails with study updates while utilizing the contact list, outlined in Section 7. IDOT will be included and coordinated with all print and e-communications.

5.5 Newsletters

Six (6) newsletters will be developed throughout the study and distributed at each of the four (4) public meetings, along with two (2) others providing updates on study milestones. The newsletters will include public meeting highlights, such as attendance, upcoming activities, general comment themes, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), and the study's next steps. The newsletters will be distributed via hard copy and electronically to the CAG members, stakeholders, partner organizations, and interested community members.

5.6 Contact List

A comprehensive contact list of individuals and stakeholder groups will be generated and maintained. It will include community organizations, elected and appointed officials, special interest groups, businesses, property owners and members of the public that expressed interest in staying updated on the study. The list will be updated throughout the study to reflect meeting attendees and additional interested parties. Public meetings and public hearing announcements will be sent to individuals on the contact list.

5.7 Media Outreach

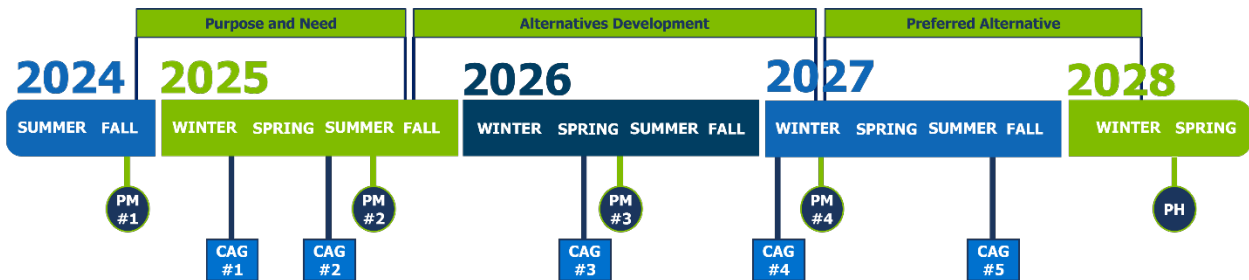
The study team will work with the IDOT staff to ensure that information regarding public meetings and the public hearing is appropriately disseminated to news organizations, community papers, and special interest publications. Media monitoring may occur in order to capture all published/posted information on this study.

5.8 Physical Advertisement

The study team may also utilize physical public advertisement methods such as door hangers, flyer distribution, and/or bulletin boards to inform the public of the study and invite them to public meetings and the public hearing.

6. ANTICIPATED SCHEDULE OF STAKEHOLDER ACTIVITIES

6.1 Timeline Graphic



KEY

CAG	= Community Advisory Group
NEPA	= National Environmental Policy Act
PM	= Public Meeting
PH	= Public Hearing

Number of Meetings Noted in Scope	
Type	Meeting Count
Local Agency Coordination	4 Stakeholder Meetings
Public	4 Public Meetings
Public	1 Public Hearing
Project Study Groups (PSG)	10 Separate PSG Meetings
Community Advisory Group (CAG)	5 Meetings
Village of Monee	4 Meetings
Village of Peotone	4 Meetings
Will County Division of Transportation	4 Meetings
Will County Center for Economic Development	2 Meetings
Green Garden Township	1 Meeting
Monee Township	1 Meeting
Peotone Township	1 Meeting
Will Township	1 Meeting

Meetings with specific agency stakeholders may be additionally recommended in response to their comments, project purpose and need, alternatives, environmental resources, public comment, and other project information.

7. IDENTIFIED STAKEHOLDERS

The development of this stakeholder list involved a comprehensive identification process to ensure all relevant parties were included. This process began with mapping out key

local, state, and federal agencies that would require ongoing study coordination. Additionally, we conducted an analysis of community organizations representing residents, businesses, and special interest groups in the affected area. This inclusive approach ensures that diverse perspectives and concerns are considered. The study team will engage with stakeholders through a series of planned activities, including regular public & stakeholder meetings and surveys. These engagements will facilitate open communication, provide updates on study progress, and gather feedback to inform decision-making. Through these efforts, we aim to build a collaborative relationship with stakeholders, ensuring this study meets regulatory requirements and community needs.

Classification	Name
Municipality	The Village of Monee
Municipality	The Village of Peotone
County	Will County Division of Transportation
County	Will County Center for Economic Development
State	IDOT District Offices
Township	Crete Township
Township	Green Garden Township
Township	Monee Township
Township	Peotone Township
Township	Will Township
Municipality	Village of Beecher
Municipality	Village of University Park
County	The Forest Preserve District of Will County
County	Will County
County	Will County Board
County	Will County Environmental Network
County	Will County Green
County	Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways
County	Will County Illinois Executive Office
County	Will County: Resource Recovery and Energy Division
County	Will Kankakee Regional Development Authority
County	Forest Preserve District of Will County
Federal Government	FHWA
Federal Government	Federal Highway Administration
Federal Agency	Senator Duckworth
Federal Agency	Senator Durbin
Federal Agency	US House of Representatives Robin Kelly
State	Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity

State	Illinois Chamber of Commerce
State	IDOT Division of Aeronautics
State	Illinois Commerce Commission
State	The Illinois State Freight Advisory Council
State Elected Officials	Illinois State Representative Anthony DeLuca
State Elected Officials	Illinois State Representative Jackie Haas
State Elected Officials	Illinois State Representative Thaddeus Jones
State Elected Officials	Illinois State Senator Napoleon Harris, III
State Elected Officials	Illinois State Senator Patrick J. Joyce
Chamber of Commerce	Will County Center for Economic Development
Regional Government Agency	Regional Transportation Authority
Intergovernmental Agency	South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
Regional Planning Agency	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Community, Advocacy, or Nonprofit	Active Transportation Alliance
Regional Government Agency	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
College + University	Governors State University
Airport/Project	South Suburban Airport
Intergovernmental Agency	Will County Governmental League
Community, Advocacy, or Nonprofit	Will County Historic Preservation Commission

7.1 Agency & Tribal Coordination

This study requires compliance with state, tribal, and federal rules, regulations and laws. Compliance requires coordination throughout the study process. Coordination will occur during NEPA scoping with various tribes and local, state, and federal agencies.

APPENDIX I - Cooperating Agencies

Classification	Name
Federal	US Army Corps of Engineers - Chicago District
Federal	U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA), Illinois State Office
Federal	US Environmental Protection Agency, Region 5
Federal	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Chicago Ecological Services Field Office
State	Illinois Department of Agriculture
State	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
State	Illinois State Historic Preservation Office
State	Illinois EPA

APPENDIX III – Tribal Coordination

Classification	Name
Tribe	Citizen Potawatomi Nation
Tribe	Forest County Potawatomi
Tribe	Ho-Chunk Nation
Tribe	Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
Tribe	Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas
Tribe	Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
Tribe	Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
Tribe	Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
Tribe	Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians
Tribe	Potawatomi Nation-Hannahville Indian Community
Tribe	Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
Tribe	Sac and Fox Nation of Mississippi in Iowa
Tribe	Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri