



State of Illinois
JB Pritzker, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Omer Osman, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Oct. 20, 2023

CONTACT:

Paul Wappel 217.685.0082
Kristophere' Owens 815.640.1027

Virtual public hearing Oct. 25 for proposed improvements on U.S. Business 20 in Boone County

DIXON – The Illinois Department of Transportation will host a virtual public hearing from 5 to 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 25, to discuss the latest updates on the preliminary engineering and environmental study for the improvement of 4 miles of U.S. Business 20 from Shaw Road through the State Street/Appleton Road intersection in Belvidere. There have been two public information meetings for this project to date, with this public hearing being the last meeting scheduled for Phase I. The public can register for the public hearing at <https://tinyurl.com/RegisterUS20PH>.

Additionally, IDOT will also host an in-person event for public comment only. This will take place Monday, Oct. 30, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Rivers Edge Recreation Center, 1151 W. Locust St. in Belvidere. At this event, residents can submit comments verbally to an in-person IDOT staff member and a court recorder. Please note that this event will not have a presentation and is for public comment only. All materials, including the public hearing recording, will be posted online at <https://tinyurl.com/USBusiness20Study> after the hearing.

U.S. Business 20 was opened in 1931 as a two-lane road and provides a critical transportation link for the region. As development in the area continues, future traffic projections indicate that maintaining a two-lane road would not provide sufficient capacity, and it is anticipated that traffic congestion will continue to escalate.

The engineering and environmental study evaluates reconstruction and expansion of the road from two to four lanes to accommodate future traffic projections. The study also examines safety, capacity and infrastructure deficiencies to increase mobility of the corridor. Input received during the first public information meeting held in January 2022 and second public information meeting in May 2022 was considered, and revisions have been made to the project geometry. This public hearing will summarize the revisions and present the proposed improvements. Any comments received through Nov. 25 will become part of the official public hearing record.

Over the [next six years](#), IDOT is planning to improve more than 3,000 miles of highway and nearly 10 million square feet of bridge deck as part of the Rebuild Illinois capital program, which is investing \$33.2 billion into all modes of transportation. [Accomplishments](#) through Year Four of Rebuild Illinois included approximately \$12.1 billion of improvements statewide on 5,339 miles of highway, 533 bridges and 762 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on Twitter at [@IDOTDistrict2](#) or view area construction details on IDOT's [traveler information map](#) on [GettingAroundIllinois.com](#).

###