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## Virtual public meeting May 11 for proposed improvements on U.S. Business 20 in Boone County

**DIXON** – The Illinois Department of Transportation will host a second virtual public meeting from 5 to 6 p.m. Thursday, May 11, 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**. For additional information about the study or to register for the public meeting and send questions to IDOT staff online, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/USBusiness20Study>.

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 meeting held in January 2022 has been considered and revisions have been made to the project geometry. This meeting will summarize those revisions and present the latest recommended improvements. Any comments received through June 15 will become part of the official public meeting record.

The proposed project would involve use of land at the Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area from the Boone County Conservation District and land from the Belvidere Park District within the Glenn H. Green Open Space Area. Less than one half acre of right-of-way and less than one half acre of temporary easement would be used from the 23-acre Glenn H. Green Open Space area. Less than one acre of temporary easement will be required from 79.1-acre Beaver Bluffs Conservation Area. Land is needed for the reconstruction and widening of U.S. Business 20 and will not adversely affect the park's activities, features or attributes that make the property eligible for Section 4(f) protection. Through publication of this notice, IDOT is requesting the public's views on the proposed use of parkland and on FHWA's intent to make a Section 4(f) de minimis determination.

Over the next six years, IDOT is planning to improve more than 2,500 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 Three of Rebuild Illinois included approximately \$8.6 billion of improvements statewide on 4,422 miles of highway, 412 bridges, and 621 additional safety improvements.

For IDOT District 2 updates, follow us on Twitter at [@IDOTDistrict2](https://twitter.com/IDOTDistrict2) or view area construction details on IDOT's [traveler information map](https://www.idot.gov/traveler-information-map) on [GettingAroundIllinois.com](https://www.gettingaroundillinois.com).

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