

IDOT/US Business Route 20 Belvidere Study



US Business Route 20 Study

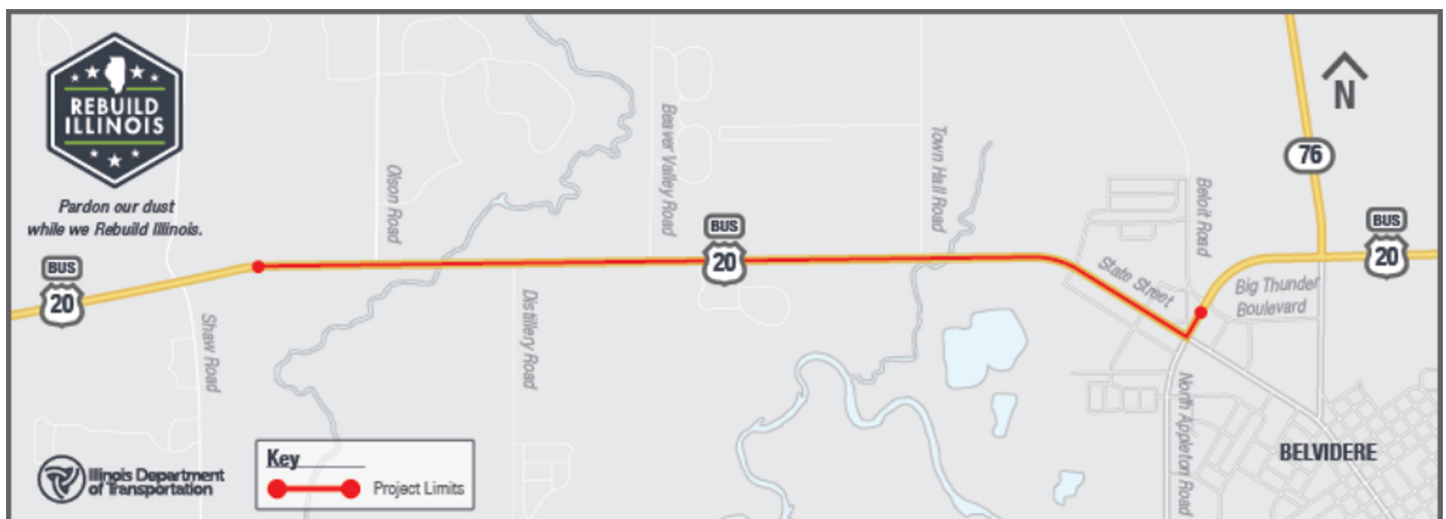
From Shaw Road to State Street/North Appleton Road
Intersection in Belvidere

Newsletter #1

Winter 2022/2023

Virtual Public Meeting #1 Summary - January 12, 2022

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first public meeting for the Illinois Department of Transportation's IDOT preliminary engineering and environmental studies for the US Business Route 20 Phase I Study. The meeting was held virtually on Wednesday, January 12, 2022, to provide an overview of the study process and to obtain public input on transportation issues and needs within the study area. Over 35 area residents and local government representatives were in attendance to learn more about the study and share their experiences in relation to the study area. To view materials from the first public meeting, visit the Resources tab on the study website: tinyurl.com/USBusiness20Study. The following is a summary of that meeting and what has occurred since.



Study Area

The study area extends just east of the Winnebago County line from Shaw Road to the State Street and Appleton Road intersection with a focus on potential improvements along the 4-mile segment of two-lane roadway of US Business Route 20.

With the study area, US Business Route 20 is one of three major roadways that provides connections to the City of Rockford to the west and Belvidere to the east. With these connections, US Business Route 20 serves a diverse range of travel uses and access demands both locally and regionally.

The Phase I process can be divided into several different elements.

The first objective of the Phase I study is to acquire and collect project specific data which will examine such items as infrastructure age and condition, traffic volumes, safety and crash history, environmental conditions, and existing drainage facilities.

The project team is currently collecting data and beginning the collaborative process of getting feedback from the community on the improvements needed. This information is used to determine potential alternatives that will address the needs.



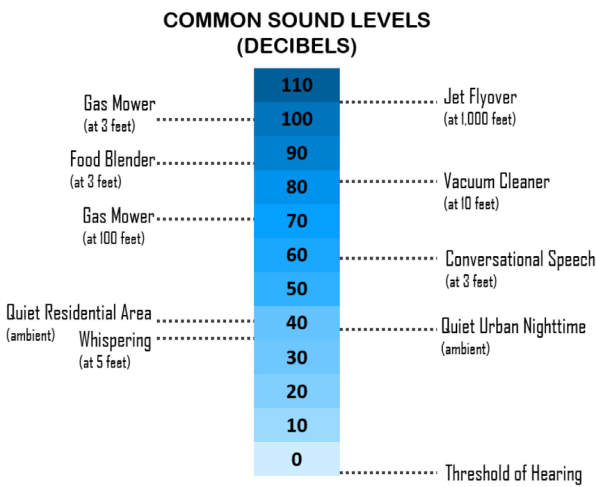
Existing Conditions



Within the study area, the existing pavement surface varies in condition and the Department anticipates fully reconstructing the roadway. Other existing infrastructure elements that need enhancements include lighting in the eastern urban section, drainage components such as concrete box culverts that are exhibiting deterioration and the addition of detention accommodations to meet current criteria and address reported flooding issues..

Noise

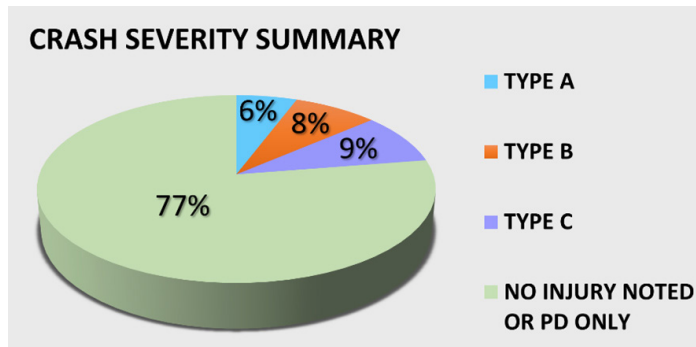
As part of the Phase I planning process, a noise analysis will be performed along the study area corridor to evaluate the potential need for noise walls as part of the recommended improvements. Existing noise measurements will be taken along the corridor and a computer model will be prepared to estimate noise levels at sensitive receptors (including residential properties) with the future traffic and roadway configuration. In any areas where the future noise levels are predicted to be at or higher than federal noise abatement criteria, noise abatement measures, such as noise walls, will be considered. If the results of the study indicate noise mitigation may be a benefit to properties, these owners will have the opportunity to provide input before it is decided if mitigation measures will be included as part of this project.



Safety

Public input and engineering data related to crashes along this segment of US Business Route 20 will inform the development of improvements in this area.

Crash Summary 2014-2018



Type A - Serious Injury

Type B - Minor Injury

Type C - No Injury Visible/Reported

PD Only - Property Damage Only

Crash Locations

LOCATION	# CRASHES	%
Shaw to Olson Segment	10	4%
Olson Intersection	12	5%
Olson to Distillery Segment	10	4%
Distillery Intersection	16	7%
Distillery to Beaver Valley Segment	5	2%
Beaver Valley Intersection	9	4%
Beaver Valley to Anderson Segment	3	1%
Anderson Intersection	2	1%
Anderson to Town Hall Segment	8	4%
Town Hall Intersection	31	14%
Town Hall to Van Epps Segment	20	9%
Van Epps Intersection	12	5%
Van Epps to High Line/Doc Wolf Segment	1	0%
High Line/Doc Wolf Intersection	17	7%
High Line/Doc Wolf to State/Appleton Segment	1	0%
State/Appleton Intersection	70	31%
TOTAL	227	100%

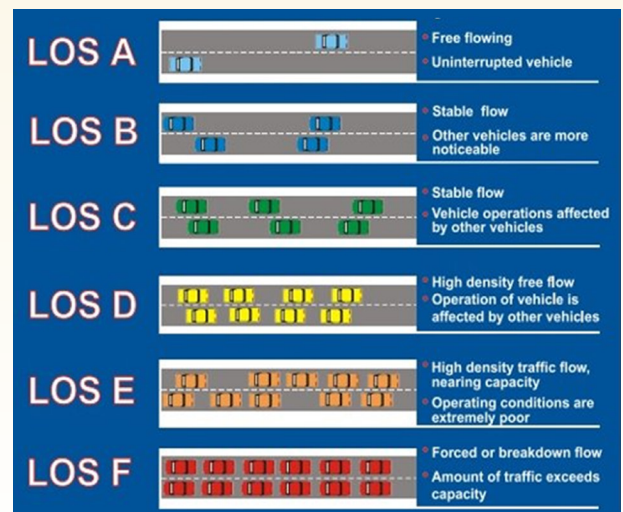
Key Issues that will be Evaluated During the Phase I Process

Traffic

As part of this study, traffic data has been collected and analyzed to understand existing travel patterns and operations of this segment of US Business Route 20. The results will help guide the development of alternatives that are presented to move forward to Phase II.

In accordance with methodology defined by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Department defines and measures traffic delays, flows and vehicle speeds by a Level of Service (LOS) rating using a scale from A to F with free flow or no congestion rated as Level of Service A and heavy congestion related as Level of Service F.

These grades are based on traffic flow, vehicle speed, and delays experienced



Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations

As the study area exists today, there are not any consistent connections or accommodations for pedestrian and non-motorized users to access local businesses and establishments. While there are some sidewalks on the eastern end of the study limits near the businesses, there are no connections that extend to the residential areas for pedestrians and bicyclists. During the study's alternative development process, the study team will evaluate options that consider all modes of transportation, including safe and accessible routes for bicyclists and pedestrians. IDOT coordinates with municipal and regional agencies on bicycle improvement plans to ensure alternatives from this study accommodate any future planned bicyclist and/or pedestrian improvements.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodations - Continued

Coordination with local agencies has determined a separate multi-use path is not feasible for this portion of the corridor. Therefore, in order to accommodate bicyclists, a wide shoulder has been added to the outside of the pavement in both directions of travel to provide on-road bike facilities.



What's New?

Since the first public meeting...

The project team continues to refine the roadway design to best balance the drainage and environmental concerns along the corridor.

In response to comments received at the first public meeting, the project team re-investigated the center raised median in attempts to improve stakeholder access to existing driveways. Given the arterial classification of US BR 20, the additional traffic lane in each direction and the higher speed on the west portion of the corridor, a raised median is still proposed to provide safety and control access management. However, we heard your concerns regarding emergency access and u-turns. Therefore, we have added additional openings in the median, where practical, to allow turning vehicles refuge from through lane traffic, while still regulating crossing traffic.

Detention basins are proposed to be added to the project in order to alleviate drainage issues and coordination with property owners on the placement of these basins has begun.

What's Next?

Proposed right of way is anticipated in order to accommodate the roadway widening. Final right of way needs have not been fully determined but coordination with potentially impacted property owners will begin in 2023 to discuss potential improvements. The acquisitions are expected to be primarily partial acquisitions consisting of strip right-of-way and temporary easements along both sides of U.S. Business 20.

We Are Listening...



Here are some comments we heard from the Public Meeting last January:

- *Concern over separating lanes with a raised median*
- *Concerned about noise and drainage in our subdivision*
- *Liked the idea of a bike path, wish it connected to park*

Public Meeting #2



Is currently being coordinated and tentatively scheduled for Spring 2023. Stay Tuned!

Share Your Input



Comment Form: <https://apps.dot.illinois.gov/WER/?from=40>

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Sign Up!



For more information visit: tinyurl.com/USBusiness20Study and sign up for the mailing list to receive updates featuring the latest study news and progress.