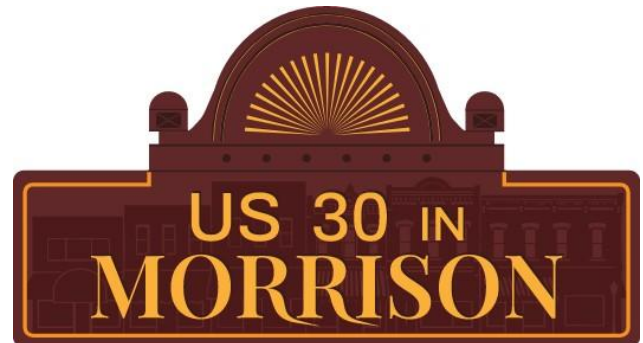




Illinois Department of Transportation

U.S. 30 Study

From 0.1 Mi. W. of IL 78 (N) to
0.2 Mi. E. of Jackson Street
City of Morrison,
Whiteside County, IL



Stakeholder Involvement Plan

For Public and Agency Involvement

Version I



May 2026

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Study Background and History

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is performing a Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study to analyze the work proposed for the reconstruction and addition of a multi-use path along U.S. 30, locally known as Lincoln Highway, from 0.1 mile west of IL 78(N) to 0.2 mile east of Jackson Street in Morrison, Whiteside County, Illinois. See the project location map below.



The Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study is considered an IDOT Phase I Study (Study), as it is the first phase of IDOT's three-phase project process. This proposed Study will take a detailed look at the potential improvements of U.S. 30. The proposed improvements include the reconstruction of U.S. 30 including all side street intersections (Milnes Drive is omitted) with horizontal alignment and vertical profile changes, curb and gutter, storm sewer, ADA ramps, a multi-use path, and retaining walls.

The Study, in addition to Phase II and Phase III, will be conducted using state funds only. The Study will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process but will not require coordination with or approval from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) of the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study report.

1.2 Stakeholder Involvement Plan Goals and Objectives

The Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) serves as a guide for implementing stakeholder involvement activities during the U.S. 30 Phase I Study. Stakeholders include local, regional, and state agency representatives; local, regional and state elected officials; business leaders; property owners; interest groups; media outlets; school districts and any stakeholders as identified by IDOT.

The goal of the SIP is to outline a program of activities to actively engage stakeholders throughout the planning process. The objectives of the SIP are to:

- Identify stakeholders
- Identify the roles and responsibilities of the lead agency
- Establish the timing and type of outreach activities with all stakeholders
- Establish stakeholder requirements for providing timely input to the study development process
- Provide an approach for evaluating the effectiveness of the public-participation program and refine, as appropriate, to respond to public needs and concerns

1.3 Public Involvement Process

Through early, frequent, and meaningful communication with stakeholders and a flexible, creative approach to design, the resulting project will improve safety and mobility for the traveling public while seeking to preserve and enhance the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities of the settings through which they pass.

The public involvement process will provide stakeholders with a mechanism to share comments or concerns about transportation objectives and Study alternatives, as well as improve the ability of the Project Study Group (PSG), which consists of IDOT and their consultant team, to understand and address the stakeholder's concerns. This integrated approach to problem solving and decision-making will help build community consensus and promote involvement throughout the Study process.

Stakeholder involvement is critical to the Study's success. The overall IDOT public involvement process strives to achieve the following:

- Understand stakeholder's key issues and concerns
- Involve stakeholders in the decision-making process early and often
- Establish an understanding of the stakeholder's role in the Study
- Consider all modes of transportation
- Set a Study schedule
- Apply flexibility in design to address stakeholder's concerns whenever possible

The public involvement process will address various potential effects to the Study area resources including:

- Historic resources
- Water resources, wetlands, and floodplains
- Natural resources, including threatened and endangered species
- Public resources, including parks and public lands
- Socioeconomics, including detour routes, and businesses/property owners both on and off the alignment

2.0 STAKEHOLDER GROUP ORGANIZATION

The Study development and public involvement process outlined in this SIP will be implemented using a variety of stakeholder coordination and outreach mechanisms and techniques as described in this section. The PSG will identify and coordinate with agencies, technical professionals, community leaders and other stakeholders. Outreach activities may include small group meetings and other tools.

It is anticipated that approximately 12 stakeholder meetings will be conducted throughout the development of the Study to obtain stakeholder input regarding various Study issues and potential solutions. These meetings will provide an opportunity to facilitate initial public input on the alternatives that should be considered, focus more closely on alternatives development with a small group of interested parties, and will help create a shared vision for the study. Renderings and visualizations may be developed to illustrate concepts and issues that have been raised, developed, and evaluated. The renderings and visualizations will depend on the topics of discussion and format of the meeting in which it is presented.

2.1 Stakeholder Identification Procedures

A stakeholder is anyone who could be affected by the Study and has a stake in its outcome. This includes the public, property owners, business owners, state and local officials, state resource and regulatory agencies, special interest groups, and motorists who utilize the facility. Stakeholders for this Study may include, but not be limited to, the following: local City of Morrison officials, Morrison Illinois Historical Society, state regulatory agencies, commuters, surrounding businesses, and residents.

The identification of stakeholders will be done through a combination of research and input from local community leaders and the public. It is anticipated that new stakeholders will be added to the initial stakeholder list throughout the Study. All stakeholders expressing interest in the Study will be added to the Study contact list and will be able to participate in the process through various public outreach opportunities. The Study contact list will be updated and maintained throughout the duration of the Study.

Table 1 provides a preliminary list of U.S. 30 stakeholders.

TABLE 1: U.S. 30 STAKEHOLDERS*

City of Morrison	
Morrison Area Development Corporation	
Morrison Chamber of Commerce	
Morrison Historic Preservation Commission	
Whiteside County Highway Department	
Whiteside County Emergency Management Services	

* This table will be updated as stakeholders are identified

2.2 Project Study Group (PSG):

The PSG consists of representatives from IDOT and the Study consultant team. The PSG is tasked with performing detailed analyses of subjects that require various environmental, engineering and project development expertise. As a result, the PSG will determine Study recommendations and decisions for this Study. Per IDOT's CSS procedures, the initial PSG will be formed and will include District 2's Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator as this Study includes a Bicycle and Pedestrian Analysis for a possible multi-use path. However, to maintain an optimal multi-disciplinary PSG, this group may change as the Study progresses and the understanding of the Study's context is clarified.

The PSG has the primary responsibility for the Study development process. The group will meet throughout the Study process to provide technical oversight and expertise in key areas including Study process, agency procedures and standards, and technical approaches. The PSG also has primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the SIP.

Other responsibilities of the PSG include the following:

- Expediting the Study development process
- Identifying and resolving Study development issues
- Promoting partnership with stakeholders to address identified Study needs
- Working to develop consensus among stakeholders

2.3 Implementation

Public involvement in the planning process begins at the start of the Study and continues throughout the entire process. The SIP serves as a guide for public involvement in this Study but includes strategies that can be used throughout all phases, including construction. Implementation of this plan requires the commitment and efforts of all involved parties along with the expected actions, responsibilities, and timing. The PSG, which consists of IDOT and its consultants, will be responsible for the overall development, implementation, and coordination of the SIP.

2.4 Stakeholder Involvement

Any stakeholder that shows interest in the Study will be added to the stakeholder list, ensuring they will receive newsletters and meeting invitations. Newsletters will be distributed after each public meeting. Two public meetings are anticipated. The PSG will also be available to meet stakeholder groups on a one-on-one basis throughout the Study, if deemed necessary. In addition, stakeholders will be informed about the Study's website where they can access information and submit comments.

2.5 Stakeholder Consensus

IDOT is committed to working with stakeholders during the Study process. IDOT works early on with stakeholders to identify transportation issues and important community characteristics. Throughout the Study process, IDOT is also committed to building stakeholder consensus for decisions driving the project development process. However, if a consensus cannot be reached after making good faith efforts to address unresolved concerns, IDOT may proceed to the next step of project development without achieving consensus. All attempts for good faith efforts shall be well documented.

3.0 STEPS OF STUDY DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

Outreach activities have been coordinated to support NEPA process milestones, incorporate the public involvement process, and gather input at key decision points. This section describes the general Study development process, Study activities, and associated stakeholder involvement activities. These steps may be consolidated or expanded as needed because of the complexity of the project design, as it is developed. A comprehensive schedule of anticipated outreach activities and corresponding milestones is shown in **Appendix A**.

3.1 Step One: Stakeholder Identification, Development of the SIP, & Study Scoping

This step of the Study development process begins the public involvement process with identifying stakeholders, notifying agencies of the Study, scoping activities, collecting information about the Study area, and identifying existing transportation needs. These activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Develop the SIP
- Conduct scoping process
- Organize and hold stakeholder meetings

3.2 Step Two: Alternatives Development

A range of alternatives will be studied that consider the project goals and objectives. The alternative development process will be iterative in nature, providing progressively greater detail. Stakeholders will be provided with numerous opportunities to provide input. This milestone of the Study consists of screening the list of suggested alternatives to identify a reasonable range of alternatives that adequately satisfy the Study's goals and objectives. Steps in the alternative development process include the following:

- Identification of alternative development procedures, planning and design guidelines, and alternative evaluation procedures. This information will serve as the general guidance for the alternative's development and evaluation process
- The PSG evaluates preliminary alternatives
- The PSG identifies the alternatives to be carried forward.
- The PSG conducts public involvement activities to present the alternatives to be carried forward and the screening methods.
- The PSG reviews public comments from stakeholders when designing the alternatives.

3.3 Step Three: Preferred Alternative

In this step, the alternatives to be carried forward are further developed to screen additional environmental and design issues. These issues are summarized and presented to the stakeholders for their consideration, evaluation, and input of the final decision. The objective of this step is to achieve consensus on the preferred alternative.

- The PSG identifies a potential Preferred Alternative.
- Provide the preferred alternative to the public and receive input.
- Refine the potential preferred alternative to address stakeholder comments.
- Conduct stakeholder meetings, as necessary.

4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES

The following public involvement activities in this section are proposed for the U.S. 30 Study. Unless otherwise noted, the PSG is responsible for coordination of public involvement activities which will be approved by IDOT before proceeding. Examples of coordination include the consolidation of review comments and the resolution of possible conflicting Study issues.

The intent of these public involvement activities is to include all interested stakeholders so that the preferred alternative will fit within the context of the community in which it is located.

Stakeholder involvement for the U.S. 30 Study will be an ongoing process from Study initiation through the duration of the project. Various meetings will be held throughout the Study development process to provide outreach opportunities to all stakeholders. Meeting opportunities are listed below.

4.1 Agency Coordination

The preparation of the Phase I Study document requires compliance with many state rules, regulations, and laws. To ensure compliance, coordination with state resource agencies will occur periodically throughout the Study process. Initially, smaller regional group meetings may be required with state resource agencies to introduce the Study. As the Study progresses, meetings will be held with individual resource agencies, if

necessary, to discuss environmental findings and compliance with state requirements. Compliance with state rules, regulations, and laws will be ensured by early coordination with regulatory agencies.

4.2 Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder meetings will be held to engage the public and share information. Meetings usually include:

- Addressing specific Study issues
- Allowing for more specialized discussions and input
- Aiding the public in developing a better understanding of the Study goals and objectives

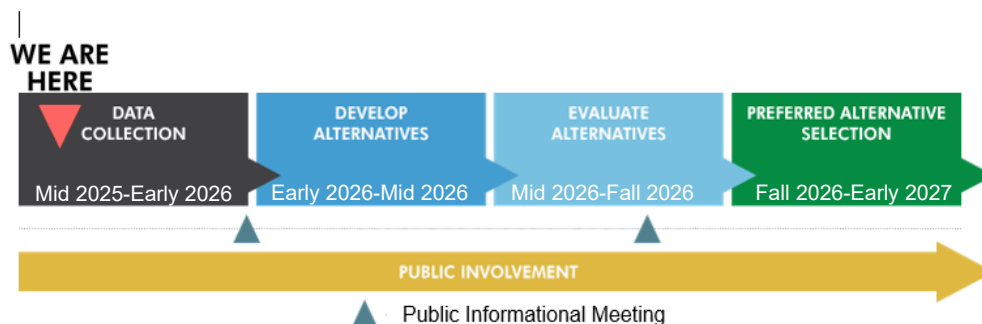
Stakeholder meetings will be held throughout the Study as the stakeholders are identified. These meetings could include the PSG, local agencies and organizations, members of the business community, and affected property owners. Study handouts or other appropriate meeting materials will be prepared for distribution at these meetings. If and when applicable, a specific stakeholder meeting could be held for residents and businesses that may be relocated.

4.3 Public Meetings

Public involvement for the U.S. 30 Study will include multiple opportunities for the public to participate through two open house public meetings. These large-scale meetings will encourage public attendance and foster public awareness of Study developments and alternatives that are being evaluated. These meetings will also provide a forum for general stakeholder input, including concerns and comments regarding Study alternatives. A press release and public notices will be utilized to announce the meetings. All public meeting exhibits and associated information will be available on the project website after the public meeting is held. Public meetings will be held as necessary throughout the project Study.

The intent of the public meetings will be to provide the public with the opportunity to provide their perspective and opinions on the goals of the Study, the alternatives and their associated impacts, and the preferred alternative.

These meetings will utilize a range of presentation methods and techniques including display boards, handouts, and PowerPoint or multimedia presentations. The meetings will be advertised by a newsletter/invitation, public notices placed in local newspapers, on the Study website, and on 3rd party websites. Translation services will be provided when requested in advance. The figure below illustrates the anticipated Study schedule.



4.4 Virtual Meetings

If necessary, virtual Stakeholder meetings will be held in accordance with IDOT BDE Manual Section 19.3.03 (c)5 *Virtual Public Meetings*. The Department may elect to hold virtual public meetings instead of in person meetings. If the project area or persons affected by the project lack reliable access to technology or internet service, then a virtual public meeting may not be feasible. At minimum, a virtual public meeting must include the following:

- a public meeting notice that meets Section IDOT's BDE Section 19-4.01(c). The location of the meeting would be stated as virtual and include the website address.
- a method for the public to submit comments electronically for the project.
- the notice shall also contain a starting date and ending date of when official comments may be made a part of the public record (a minimum timeframe should be seven calendar days). Typically, it is assumed the starting time of the meeting is the starting date of when official comments can be received.
- persons with limited internet access and/or require special accommodations under ADA should contact IDOT District 2 for further assistance.

The following considerations may assist the districts in implementing a successful virtual public meeting.

- publish public meeting notices on several social media sites (e.g. Facebook, LinkedIn, X, etc.) as well as traditional newspapers. Ads on radio and television may be another option to get the public's attention. The meeting should be coordinated with the Office of Communication for use of social media sites during this process
- host a virtual presentation of the project. The presentation should be available for streaming later if a live presentation was used for the virtual public meeting.
- a longer timeframe for the virtual public meeting (i.e. more than seven days) is recommended for larger and more complex projects.
- develop a brochure/pamphlet to be distributed that includes project information, project website, and it is suggested to have a pre-paid mailer included as part of the brochure/ pamphlet for the public to submit comments.
- in addition to the above considerations, the district should be mindful that these methods be accessible to ADA stakeholders included in the virtual public meeting process

5.0 COMMUNICATION TOOLS

Several communication tools will be used throughout the U.S. 30 Study to engage stakeholders. These tools are designed to reach local stakeholders, as well as those with regional or national interest in the Study. Communication tools will include a Study website, media outreach, and other tools. The Schedule of Stakeholder Activities in **Appendix A**.

5.1 Study Identity



A study identity, including a logo and graphics, will be developed to provide a consistent and recognizable image for the Study. The Study identity will be used in all stakeholder involvement materials.

5.2 Study Website

A study website will be maintained throughout the Study. The website will support broader outreach and provide access to Study information to accommodate regional and national interest in the Study. <https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/transportation-management/featured-projects/whiteside-county--u-s--30-in-morrison.html>

The website will serve as a comprehensive information resource for the Study. Study and meeting materials will be available on the website, including public meeting announcements, public comment summaries, documents, frequently asked questions, and other information.

The Study web pages will be included on IDOT's website. Updates will be made as the Study progresses at the following key Study milestones:

5.3 Notifications and Advertising

Press releases will provide descriptions of the public meetings (purpose, date, location, and format) to local newspapers. The press releases are intended to reach a larger audience and inform individuals that are not on the Study's mailing list of the upcoming public participation opportunity. The PSG will develop newspaper notices following IDOT media guidelines. Announcements will also be placed on the Study web page and shared via social media. News releases will be developed in coordination with IDOT to send to media affiliates including print, radio, and television stations. Legal notices will be posted when required by policy. Advertisements in local media may be used as well if outreach needs to be expanded.

In addition, IDOT District 2 will send public meeting invitations to any potentially affected property owners, as well as set up any necessary one-on-one meetings with affected property owners.

5.4 Media Briefings

A proactive approach to media coordination will be used to ensure that media has current, relevant, and accurate information to share with the public. This approach includes participation by the IDOT spokesperson or the consultant in media briefings, preparation of media kits, preparation of press releases, and availability of Study staff to support the spokesperson in ongoing coordination with members of the media.

5.5 Stakeholder Mailing List

A stakeholder mailing list consisting of Study stakeholder contact information will be maintained throughout the Study. The stakeholder mailing list will be used to distribute notifications about upcoming public participation opportunities and provide Study updates. Newsletters, postcards, and/or email notifications will be distributed to the mailing list to provide Study information and announce upcoming public meetings.

6.0 STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT PLAN AVAILABILITY AND MONITORING UPDATES

The SIP is a dynamic document that will be available to the public and updated as appropriate through the duration of the Study. This section describes SIP stakeholder review opportunities and plan update procedures.

6.1 Availability of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan

As the Study proceeds, the PSG will update the SIP as needed to reflect appropriate changes or additions. The PSG will advise stakeholders of future SIP updates.

6.2 Modifications of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan

The SIP will be reviewed on a regular basis for effectiveness and will be updated as appropriate. Updates to the SIP include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Maintaining a current list of agency partners
- Maintaining a detailed list of all public outreach methods

APPENDIX A		
SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT ACTIVITIES		
ACTIVITY	DATE	DESCRIPTION
Development of Draft Stakeholder Involvement Plan	December 2025-March 2026	Develop a Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) to document outreach goals, objectives, stakeholders, tools, and participation opportunities
Stakeholder Meetings Round#1	May- July 2026	- Meet with key stakeholders to discuss any issues or concerns with the proposed project - Discuss the Feasibility Study Public Meeting held in July 2025
Public Meeting #1	July 2026	- Present Study specifics (existing roadway system, environmental resources, community characteristics) - Present comments received from Feasibility Study Public Meeting and how they are being addressed - Present Alternatives to Be Carried forward and the associated Impacts.
Stakeholder Meetings Round #2	Aug - Oct 2026	- Provide updates from Public Meeting #1 - Discuss the Potential Preferred Alternative and associated impacts
Public Meeting #2	Nov 2026	Present the Potential Preferred Alternative and associated impacts
Stakeholder Meetings Round #3	Jan-Feb 2027	- Provide Study update - Discuss anticipation of Design Approval in March 2027
Design Approval	March 2027	Design Approval