

Knoxville Avenue (Illinois 40) Reconstruction Project



SEPTEMBER 2026 PROJECT UPDATE

IDOT is progressing on Phase I preliminary engineering. The Project Team will continue to conduct public involvement throughout the Phase I study as part of IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process. The Project Team is also working with a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to ensure that the needs and concerns of the community are identified, and the proposed solutions balance safety, operational, and community needs.

Project Overview:

Phase I Engineering Study Limits:

- Pennsylvania Avenue (south end)
- War Memorial Drive intersection (north end)

Goal of the Reconstruction Project:

- To develop a transportation facility that accommodates future traffic growth, user safety, and accessible multi-modal mobility.

Construction Funds:

- \$28M included in the FY 2026-31 Multi-year Program for corridor improvements
- War Memorial Drive intersection is not yet funded

IL 40 (Knoxville Avenue) Corridor (from Pennsylvania Avenue to War Memorial Drive):

The first CAG meeting was held in September 2020 and focused on the Knoxville Avenue corridor. Several options were discussed, with different combinations of lane widths and bicycle/pedestrian accommodations. As a result of those discussions with the CAG, additional traffic analysis was later completed to assess the impacts of a potential road diet (lane reduction). The additional traffic analysis determined that a road diet was not practicable due to unacceptable traffic impacts as a result of the lane reduction.

In September 2023, the Project Study Group and the City of Peoria ultimately agreed that a five-lane section with two lanes in each direction and a center bi-directional turn lane is preferable. A future CAG meeting will focus on impacts from this lane configuration and options for bicycle/pedestrian accommodations.

401 Main St. Peoria, IL 61602



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IL 40 (Knoxville Avenue) and War Memorial Drive Intersection:

Four additional CAG meetings were held from March 2021 through April 2022 with a focus on the Knoxville Avenue intersection with US Route 150 (War Memorial Drive). The design team started with twenty high-level intersection concepts, in addition to the "no build" option. The team completed an initial screening of the concepts to narrow the list. The initial screening process resulted in four alternatives that were presented to the CAG. The four alternatives consisted of two at-grade concepts and two grade-separated concepts.

The two at-grade concepts are:

- No Build (Keep the Displaced Left Turn) and
- Conventional Intersection.

The two grade-separated concepts are:

- Single Point Urban Interchange, and
- Dog Bone Roundabout with Grade Separation.

CAG members were tasked with discussing these options with the groups they represent and then providing a list of criteria that they find important to be considered in the evaluation of the intersection concepts. As a result of those discussions, the Project Team developed a Decision Matrix as a guide to identify the preferred option. The Decision Matrix was developed with the following key guiding principles:

- Performance Criteria – measures how well a design concept meets the functions of the project. These are measurable.
- Acceptance Criteria – indicates how well the design concept will be perceived by the stakeholders. These are subjective and consider the stakeholders' perception or feelings.
- Protected Resources Criteria – is a separate category used to address impacts to special lands.
- Cost – measures the financial impact of implementing each design concept.

Project Status / Next Steps:

After a brief pause in the project due to staffing changes within the Project Study Group, progress was resumed in the spring of 2025. Since then, the Project Team has been working on developing strategies to mitigate impacts from the proposed five-lane section and refining proposed geometry at the various signalized and unsignalized intersections along the corridor.

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In late 2025, the Project Team worked to update the scope of the Phase I Engineering Study to include additional field survey, with design-level accuracy in the data to be collected. This will allow the designers to develop a detailed 3D model, with a level of accuracy capable of assessing ADA compliance at critical locations throughout the study limits. This field survey was conducted in the summer of 2026.

Next steps include further geometry refinements, development of the 3D model, ADA compliance assessments, and implementation of the impact mitigation strategies. Additionally, based on feedback from the prior CAG meetings, the Project Team will also develop an “enhanced No-Build” option for the Knoxville Avenue intersection with War Memorial Drive. This option would present an alternative solution that reduces impacts, while still allowing for spot improvements related to capacity (such as more turning lanes) and safety (such as enhanced crossing options for bicycles/pedestrians).

When these design efforts have been completed, additional CAG meetings and Public Involvement opportunities will be scheduled with a target date for completion of Phase I engineering in 2028.

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