

WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF THE NEW BRIDGE, AND WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED FOR MITIGATION?

In the Environmental Assessment, the project footprint is inventoried for the presence of environmental resources. Impacts to environmental resources are discussed, and mitigation measures included that would be implemented consistent with state and federal guidance.



- **Agricultural Land:** 17.4 acres will be permanently taken out of service; there is no substantial impact
- **Cultural Resources:** There is no direct impact to sensitive archaeological sites; the historic Florence Bridge is adversely affected. The bridge was offered to a responsible party for relocation, but no offers were received; additional measures will be taken to minimize harm
- **Noise:** Evaluation of existing and proposed traffic noise; did not exceed threshold for noise abatement analysis; Noise abatement and mitigation policies during construction will be followed
- **Natural Resources:** A mussel survey indicated no threatened or endangered mussel species found near the project; mussels from 2017 survey relocated and additional relocation will be done before construction
- **Forest:** 51.5 acres are impacted by new construction; 5.5 acres are impacted by bridge removal; tree replacement will be done per IDOT policy
- **Protected Species:** 2.24 acres of Decurrent False Aster are impacted by new construction and bridge removal; Undisturbed areas will be fenced off during construction; seed collection, storage and re-planting
- **Protected Species:** Northern long-eared bat and Indiana bat habitat are impacted by new construction and bridge demolition; no tree clearing will be done April-September; a bat survey will be done prior to bridge removal; additional tree removal and replacement specifications will be prepared to protect bats and provide suitable bat habitat
- **Waters:** No substantial increases in pollutant loads to waters; stream to be relocated west of IL River; coordination with IDNR if blasting is used for bridge removal; wells to be capped and abandoned

- **Wetlands:** 15.7 acres will be impacted by new construction and 11.6 acres will be impacted by bridge removal; construction mats and fencing will be provided to protect wetlands during construction; mitigation will be provided at the LaGrange wetland bank in Brown County
- **Recognized Environmental Conditions:** Two sites were identified; a 1987 river spill and potential asbestos on the existing bridge. An avoidance determination will be made and additional remedial actions if necessary, during construction
- **Parks, Wildlife Areas, Recreational Areas, and Special Lands:** The Pike County Boat Launch was identified as a site; not impacted by project

PROVIDE COMMENTS

Participants are encouraged to submit written comments about the Environmental Assessment or other project concerns. Written statements may be given to us today, mailed to the IDOT District 6 Office, or e-mailed to contact@www.florencebridgestudy.com by September 24, 2020. A public comment form is provided with this handout for your use.

Get Involved!

The entire Environmental Assessment document can be accessed at www.florencebridgestudy.com

NEXT STEPS

IDOT will consider comments received during the public comment period and recommend a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) be issued. Federal approval will make the project eligible for additional federal funding for design, land acquisition and construction. An approved Design Report will conclude the Phase I preliminary engineering for the project.

Additional steps include continued environmental coordination to obtain state and federal permits, a pre-construction archaeological survey, preparation of Phase II plans, specifications and estimates, land acquisition, utility relocations, and construction.

THANK YOU

Thank you for attending this meeting and assisting us in our efforts to make this project a success. For information regarding project status updates, please visit the Illinois 100/106 River Crossing Project website at:

www.florencebridgestudy.com



Open House Public Meeting

Thursday, September 10, 2020
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Scott County Fairgrounds
Nimrod Funk 4-H Community Building
401 North Walnut Street Winchester, Illinois 62694



J. B. Pritzker, Governor
Omer Osman, Acting Secretary





OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC HEARING

WELCOME

Welcome to the open house Public Hearing for the IL 100/106 River Crossing Project. Personnel from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the consulting firms of WSP USA, Inc., Crawford, Murphy & Tilly, Inc. and EFK Moen, LLC are here to introduce the project, explain the environmental study process, answer your questions, and receive your comments regarding the proposed project, including the Environmental Assessment that was performed in accordance with federal requirements. This meeting is being held in an “open house” format to allow informal discussions between the public and the project study team members throughout the session.

WHAT IS THE ILLINOIS ROUTE 100/106 RIVER CROSSING PROJECT?

The project is a study to determine how to improve the existing IL 100/106 Bridge crossing over the Illinois River in Florence, Illinois while minimizing impacts to the human and natural environments. In this stage, the Project Study Group would like to hear from the community on the Preferred Alternative designated as “4C/D”, consisting of removing and replacing the existing lift bridge with a new fixed bridge approximately 300 feet south of the existing bridge, providing adequate clearance above the Illinois River to accommodate river navigation and accommodations for all modes of vehicular traffic including motor vehicles, agricultural equipment, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Information regarding the project is on display at this public meeting for reference and comment.

WHERE IS THE PROJECT LOCATED?

The project study area is located approximately 21 miles southwest of Jacksonville, Illinois where IL 100 and IL 106 cross the Illinois River at Florence.

WHAT IS AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT?

An Environmental Assessment (EA) is one of the classes of environmental documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and it ensures that environmental factors are weighted equally when compared to other factors in the decision-making process. An EA identifies the purpose and need of the project, alternatives that were considered and evaluated using established evaluation criteria, the social and environmental characteristics of the area potentially affected by the project, and the potential effects of the project on these characteristics. A preferred alternative is identified that best balances environmental impacts and

costs with the ability to meet the project’s purpose and need.

WHAT IS THE PROJECT’S PURPOSE AND NEED?

The purpose of the project is to provide safe and reliable connectivity across the Illinois River for all modes of traffic, facilitate improved river navigation, and support local and regional economic needs, while meeting current design standards and minimizing impacts to the environment and surrounding area.

The project is needed because the existing IL 100/106 River Bridge is at the end of its useful service life, is increasingly costly to maintain, and its design is inadequate for current highway and river travel.

HOW MANY ALTERNATIVES WERE STUDIED?

Eleven build alternatives were studied, of which four (Alternatives 4A, 4C, 4C/D and 5B) were carried forward for detailed study. Three alternatives were studied that preserved the historic integrity of the existing bridge including a “no build” option, since the bridge is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

WHY IS ALTERNATIVE 4C/D PREFERRED?

- It meets the project’s purpose and need
- It is the only alternative with no impacts found to known sensitive archaeological resources
- There are no displacement of residences or businesses
- Its location is better for river navigation than Alternatives 4A (100’ north) or 4C (100’ south)
- It was the second favorite alternative of Community Advisory Group (CAG) meeting #3 and received no strong objection at either CAG #3 or Public Meeting #2

For new construction impacts:

- Alternative 4C/D has less wetland acreage than Alternatives 4A or 4C
- Alternative 5B has less wetland impacts than 4C/D but over 60% higher new construction floodplain impacts

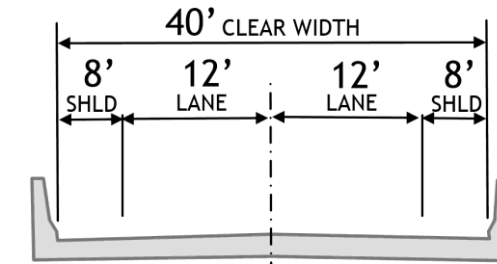
HOW WILL THE BIG SWAN LEVEE BE AFFECTED BY THE NEW BRIDGE?

The proposed bridge will provide 15 feet of clearance from the low beam of the bridge to the top of levee, so that levee maintenance and flood response vehicles can travel freely underneath the bridge as needed.

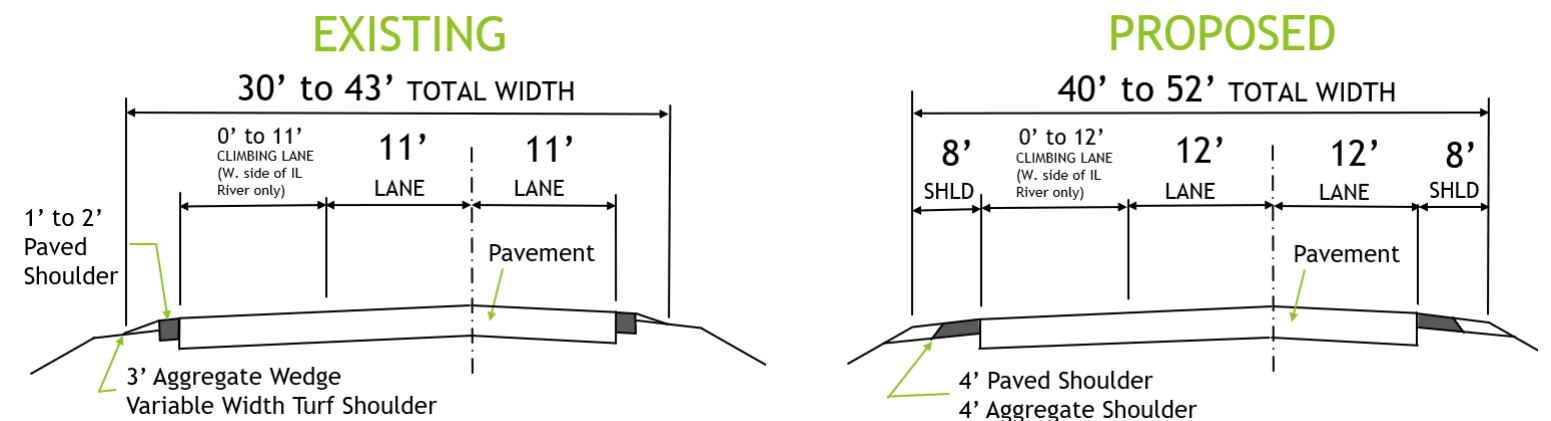
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE 4C/D



- Located approximately 300 feet south of the existing bridge
- Right-of-way needed for construction - 48.6 Acres
- Uneconomic Remnant/Undisturbed Area - 14.9 Acres
- Estimated construction cost - \$80.5 million
- New River Bridge length ~ 3,965 feet
- New roadway length - 1.10 miles



Conceptual Bridge Typical Section



Conceptual Roadway Typical Sections