

PUBLIC HEARING

U.S. Route 136

Grade Raise

Tuesday November 7th, 2023
4:00– 6:00 p.m.
Hamilton Community Center
1680 Keokuk St.

Welcome! The Illinois Department of Transportation is holding a Public Hearing to present the proposed improvements to U.S. Route 136 in Hamilton, located in Hancock County. This hearing will use an Open House format. No formal presentations are planned. The purpose of the meeting is to present those proposals and receive feedback on the Department's preferred alternative for the improvement as well as several other considered alternatives.

Exhibits and aerial maps are available for review. Representatives from IDOT and their consultants are present to answer questions. Questions and comments, both written and oral, may be submitted during the public hearing. If you wish to provide an oral comment, please see a staff member who can record your comment. Written correspondence regarding this project can also be mailed or emailed to the contact information at the bottom of the newsletter. Comments received by November 21, 2023, will become part of the official public hearing record.

Purpose of the Project

Due to past flood events which made U.S. 136 impassible, IDOT is proposing to raise the profile of a portion of U.S. 136. The area evaluated extends from the Mississippi River Bridge to 0.1 Miles E. of Main Street in Hamilton.

Timing of the Project

The project is included in the Department's FY 2024-2029 Proposed Highway & Multimodal Improvement Program.

A start date for construction is not available at this time. Additional coordination is required to address railroad and environmental impacts and work through the land acquisition process for affected property owners.



Previous Public Involvement

A public meeting was held for this project on January 6, 2011. This meeting was general in nature and presented the project to the public and requested feedback. Attendees also had an opportunity to sign up to be a part of the Community Advisory Group (CAG).

Community Advisory Group (CAG) meetings were held on August 23, 2011 and May 8, 2013.

As determined by the CAG, the purpose and need of the project is to:

- raise the roadway at least 2' above the 1993 flood elevation (U.S. 136 would be raised approximately 5.4 feet through the lowest areas),

The CAG also provided the following additional project goals:

- maintain at least 1-lane of traffic in both directions on U.S. 136 during construction, and
- keep railroad closures to a minimum during construction.

Alternatives Under Consideration

The 2nd CAG meeting recommended that five alternatives be further evaluated. After further evaluation by the Department, three alternatives are being presented to the public at today's public hearing.

Alternative 3A would raise the road on the existing alignment. This alternative requires raising the railroad line as well.

Alternative 7D would realign U.S. 136 to the south to allow the highway to cross the railroad tracks above the flood elevation. *(Recommended by the Department)*

Alternative 8 would use a bridge to take U.S. 136 over the railroad tracks and Warsaw Road.

Each alternative would cause various impacts to area businesses and natural features. Please see the available displays or the Department website for further information.

For more information, visit the IDOT webpage shown below, or use the QR code:

<https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/transportation-management/featured-projects/hancock-county---us-136-realignment-project.html>



If you have questions or comments about the project, please contact Jay Edwards, Project Engineer, 126 East Ash Street, Springfield, IL 62704-4792, (217)785-0597 or Jay.Edwards@Illinois.gov

COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

	Alt 3A Existing Alignment	Alt 7D South Bypass (Preferred)	Alt 8 Bridge over Railroad
Construction Cost	\$29,000,000 (includes \$5,100,000 for RR work)	\$17,400,000	\$45,800,000
Future Maintenance Costs			Higher due to long bridge
Right-of-Way Required	9.5 acres	21.2 acres	18.3 acres
Business Affected	None	Gas Station, Asphalt Plant, Part of Storage Units	Asphalt Plant, All of Storage Units
IDNR Property and Prairie State Eagle Refuge	1.75 acres	2.3 acres	2.5 acres
Stream Impacts	49,400 SF	6,300 SF	12,300 SF
Wetland Impacts	6.0 acres	6.13 acres	7.8 acres
Tree Removal*	7.1 Acres	7.4 Acres	9.8 Acres
Construction Traffic Impacts	Temporary Closure of RR and Warsaw Road	Minimal	Minimal
Structural Challenges	Typical	Typical	Curved bridge, skewed piers, tall bridge girders
Number of RR Crossings	US 136 and Warsaw Rd	US 136 and boat access road	Warsaw Rd and boat access
Warsaw Road Susceptible to Flooding	No	No	Yes
Other Issues	Significant Coordination Required for RR Construction		Project delays due to grant for RR bridge

* Project is within the Cedar Glenn Kibbe INAI Site. INAI (Illinois Natural Areas Inventory) sites are areas in Illinois recognized as high quality natural communities that sometimes include habitat for state-listed species. Properties within the INAI side can be publicly or privately owned.

KEY = Areas of Some Impact Areas of Greatest Impact