

WELCOME!

Welcome to the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) third Public Informational Meeting for the Business Route 51 study, locally known as Water Street and Main Street, from Eldorado Street to Pershing Road in the city of Decatur.

Public meetings were held for this project on March 30th and November 2nd, 2023. The public provided comments and discussed their concerns with IDOT and their consultant team. IDOT took this input and used it to aid in the development of the alternatives and to decide upon a preferred alternative.

The purpose of this public meeting is to present the preferred alternative and explain why this alternative was chosen from all the alternatives which were evaluated. The preferred alternative consists of roadway rehabilitation, addition of a shared-use path on Water Street, updated signals at all signalized intersections, new signal lights at Water St and McKinley, closing eastbound Marietta between Main and Water Streets, and on-street parking to remain on Main Street.

Please submit your questions and comments this evening. You also have the option to mail in the provided comment form or submit comments online via the project website. Comments can be submitted until October 30, 2024.

The meeting format is informal; no presentation will be made. Please browse the available materials at your leisure. Representatives from IDOT and IDOT's consultant team, Gonzalez and Horner & Shifrin, and the city of Decatur are available to answer any questions.

IDOT & the City of Decatur Working Together!

The limits of the IDOT Business Route 51 Study and the City's Bike/Walkway Study overlap. The goals of both studies complement each other, which are:

- Enhancing safety along the project route and within the project area.
- Repurposing of property along Business Route 51 to include a multi-use path.



What is being proposed?

IDOT is currently proposing on **Water and Main Streets**: resurfacing of the roadway, reconstruction of the sidewalk ramps, traffic signal & intersection modifications, and improvements to drainage. IDOT and the City are working together on possible lighting and sidewalk upgrades.

SHARED-USE PATH: On Water Street, IDOT is proposing to replace the eastern most lane of Water Street with a shared-use path, reducing the lanes on Water Street from four lanes to three lanes. The shared-use path is proposed to be 10-foot wide with a 7-foot buffer between the shared-use path and the edge of the traffic lane that consists of a barrier curb and landscaped area.

At the south end of the project on Water Street, three alignments for the shared-use path were considered. **ALTERNATIVE A was chosen.** This alternative will use the existing at-grade railroad crossing on Water Street.

Please view the exhibits available at the meeting tonight or visit the website: <https://idot.click/route-51-study> to see the various alternatives.

BUMP-OUTS: are being proposed for various intersections. Bump-outs effectively make the pedestrian crossing shorter by extending the curb into the street at those crossings.



EXAMPLE

SIDEWALK RAMPS: along Water and Main Streets will be reconstructed to meet the American Disability Act standards. This will allow for those with a disability to access the sidewalks in a smooth and seamless manner. Improvements to the sidewalks themselves are part of the City's project.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is maintaining the Shared-Use Path?

The City of Decatur will be responsible for the maintenance of shared-use path.

Are any new traffic signals being installed?

A new signal will be placed at McKinley.

Will on-street parking be eliminated on Water Street or Main Street?

IDOT is proposing to eliminate one block of parking on Water Street from Division St. to Johnson St. IDOT needs to remove the on-street parking so there are three lanes of through-traffic in this segment. IDOT will retain the on-street parking on Main Street.

What is being done to reduce the speed of vehicles traveling on Water Street?

Speed limit signs will be added to the entire length of the project. IDOT could possibly be adding these signs soon. In addition, reduction in both the number and width of the lanes will help reduce the speeds.

Will there be a multi-use path along Main Street?

Main Street is considered a "bike boulevard," which are streets with low traffic volumes and speeds. The sidewalk ramps along Main Street will be improved to provide easier access for pedestrians and bicycles.

Will the project address the congestion caused by the railroad?

No. The required coordination with the railroad will add considerable time and cost to the overall project schedule and budget.

Will there be road closures?

There is a possibility of roadway closures during construction, but IDOT will work to ensure these closures are minimized to the extent possible.

Will there be displacements?

It is not anticipated there will be any displacements as a result of this project.



WANTED! YOUR INPUT

OVERALL PROJECT

We need your input!!! The project is in the final stages of the Phase 1. Because of your input, IDOT and the City have ultimately come to the selection of a preferred alternative. Your input will aid in the refinement of the preferred alternative. Please provide your comments on the overall project improvements by discussing with IDOT staff members, filling out the comment form and returning it today, mailing it to the address on the form, or complete via the project website.

Please scan the QR CODE to take you directly to the Project Website



Contact IDOT Directly

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Business
ROUTE 51