



Public Informational Meeting – Open House

Water & Main Streets from Eldorado St. to Pershing Rd.

Decatur, IL

March 30, 2023



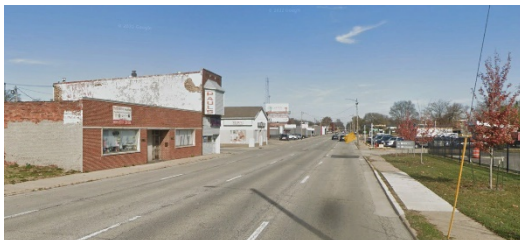
WELCOME!

Welcome to the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) 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.

The purpose of the public meeting is: to show why the roadway needs to be improved; to provide information about the existing conditions on Water and Main Streets within the project limits; provide details of the IDOT and City collaboration, inform the public of the proposed improvements; and to receive public input.

By providing your input, IDOT can determine the best solution for improving the roadways and how to enhance the walkability/bikeways along the project corridor. Please take time to participate in the workshop and 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 April 14th.

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



Study Purpose

IDOT is conducting a preliminary engineering and environmental study, referred to as the Phase I study, to analyze roadway improvements for Business Route 51, from US 36 (Eldorado St.) to IL 48/121 (Pershing Rd.) This study will take a detailed look at improving the Northbound and Southbound Business Route US 51, locally known as Water Street and Main Street, respectively. Improvements to be studied are options for reconstruction of the roadway and the associated drainage system, the addition of a multi-use path along the east side of Water Street, traffic signal modification, and roadway lighting updates.



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

IDOT has determined the roadway and its associated drainage system, sidewalks, and intersections are in need of repair and improvement within the project limits. The City's plan is to enhance safety throughout the project area, use vacated right-of-way segments along the route, and provide a direct and positive impact on the surrounding area. Working together will provide a benefit to all who live and work here, visit the many businesses, and/or attend school here.

What is being proposed?

IDOT is proposing to resurface Water and Main Streets and currently studying how to improve multiple intersections along the project route. The improvements to be made will be based on the Crash Study, existing intersection configurations, the average and projected daily traffic, and public input. These improvements could include adding a stoplight and/or modifying the area around the intersections to make for better movement of traffic,

A goal of both IDOT and the City's project is to add a multi-use path within the project limits. Water Street currently carries four lanes of traffic. IDOT is proposing to eliminate the eastern-most lane of Water Street and repurpose as a separated, 10-foot wide multi-use path.

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.

IDOT is conducting a Drainage Study and Lighting Study within the project area to determine where improvements to drainage and lighting are needed.

SCHEDULE

Study Concludes: Spring 2024

Design: Spring 2023-Fall 2024

Construction Begins: Spring 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens after collecting the public's input?

IDOT will take your input and utilize it while developing alternatives. IDOT must also consider crashes, traffic, environmental resources, and existing City plans. Your input will help when a solution is not apparent and IDOT needs the advice of those utilizing the project route. This will result in a preferred alternative that fits within the context of your community.

Will the public get a chance to see the preferred alternative?

Yes. Once IDOT goes through the alternative development process and determines the preferred alternative, IDOT will hold another public meeting. This meeting will also provide an overview of the project's alternative development project.

Has IDOT coordinated with stakeholders along the project route?

A stakeholder is anyone who has stake in the project. Yes, IDOT and the City together have held multiple meetings with businesses, schools, and employment centers.

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 for easier access for pedestrians and bicycles.

Can Water Street handle the traffic with the elimination of lane? Yes. Water Street no longer needs to carry as much traffic volume as in the past and can sustain the elimination of a lane.

Will the multi-use path be separated from the roadway?

Yes. It is currently being proposed to have a 5-foot buffer between the roadway and the multi-use path.

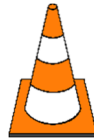
Will there be road closures?

It is too early in the study to determine if road closures will be required during construction.

Will there be displacements?

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

UPCOMING IDOT MAINTENANCE PROJECT ALONG WATER & MAIN STREETS



IDOT will be performing maintenance along Water and Main Streets in the near future. IDOT will be resurfacing and patching the worst areas along Water and Main Streets and will continue to monitor the project routes for additional maintenance needs.

WANTED! YOUR INPUT

We need your input!!! Please tell us about your experience traveling Water & Main Streets from Eldorado St. to Pershing Rd. From your personal experience traveling the project route, please let us know what you see as problems with the roadway and what improvements could be made. Your questions, comments, and input are greatly appreciated! **You may fill out the comment form and return it today, mail it to the address on the form, or complete via the project website by April 13, 2022.** All comments received will become part of the record for the project and included in the final project report.

Project Website

<https://idot.click/route-51-study>

All displays from the Public Meeting will be posted to the project website

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



Contact IDOT Directly

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