

WELCOME!

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

A public meeting was held for this project on March 30, 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.

The purpose of this public meeting is to present and explain the alternatives that have been developed and are currently being evaluated. Tonight, IDOT is looking to gather comments on these alternatives from the public.

By providing your input, IDOT can determine the best solution for improving the roadway and how to enhance the walkability/bikeways along the project corridor. 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 November 16th.

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 are being proposed. Key differences between the alternatives:

ALTERNATIVE A: Uses existing at-grade railroad crossing on Water Street.

ALTERNATIVE B: Construction of a new at-grade railroad crossing would be required.

ALTERNATIVE C: On the Franklin Street bridge. The widening of the bridge would be required.

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.

SCHEDULE

Study Concludes: Spring 2024

Design: Spring 2023-Fall 2024

Construction Begins: Spring 2025

Frequently Asked Questions

Have all the decisions been made?

No. IDOT is still gathering input from the public and has on-going engineering studies to determine the most suitable improvements for this project corridor. IDOT will come back to the public with a preferred alternative.

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?

IDOT is continuing to conduct traffic warrant studies for various intersections along the project route.

Will on-street Parking remain on Water Street?

IDOT is currently proposing to eliminate parking on Water Street from Division St. to Johnson St. due to site distance issues associated with this location.

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.

Who is paying for? How much will project cost?

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 study stage. Your input will help IDOT in the refinements of the alternatives and ultimately the selection of a 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.

WANTED! YOUR INPUT

PORTION OF E. MARIETTA BETWEEN MAIN STREET & WATER STREET

We need your input!!! IDOT and the City are currently discussing alternatives for the E. Marietta between Main Street and Water. Two alternatives are currently being proposed: 1) only allowing westbound traffic for this portion of E. Marietta; 2) Closing this portion of E. Marietta.

Please tell us about your experience traveling in this area of the project route 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.

WANTED! YOUR INPUT

PARKING ON MAIN STREET

We need your input!!! IDOT and the City are currently discussing whether to retain, partially remove, or eliminate the parking on Main Street within the project corridor.

If you live and/or work on Main Street within the project area, please share your use of parking on Main Street 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



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