

Public Hearing

Illinois Route 3 Connector Project

Public Outreach

The Illinois Route 3 Connector project followed both the federal National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) and IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) processes. IDOT's CSS process provides a defined approach to stakeholder engagement, including the development of a community advisory group (CAG)

The CAG for the Illinois Route 3 Connector Project was composed of residents, landowners, community members, business owners, elected officials, regulatory agencies, and people who use the study area for travel. The CAG met eight times, providing valuable input to IDOT throughout the study.

Public Information Meetings were also an important part of the CSS and decision-making process. Three open-house public meetings were held during the study. They occurred on Tuesday, April 8, 2014; Thursday, October 16, 2014; and Wednesday, September 2, 2015. During these meetings, the project team presented information and sought public input on a variety of study topics. IDOT and project team members were available to discuss the information presented and answer questions. Topics included an introduction to the study process, goals and objectives, existing conditions including environmental resources and constraints, the project purpose and need, range of conceptual alternatives, and the alternatives to be carried forward.



Next Steps

IDOT is nearing the completion of this **Phase I Study**. The remaining steps will be to compile comments from this Public Hearing and complete design studies and reports. Upon completion of the engineering design and Project Design Report, the project will be eligible to receive Design Approval and move forward to Phase II, which includes the final preparation of contract plans/specifications and land acquisition.

Phase III, or Construction, depends on budget availability, right-of-way, and project readiness. \$80 million has been identified for construction of the Illinois Route 3 Connector and associated improvements as shown in IDOT's FY 2024-2029 Proposed Highway & Multimodal Improvement Program.



IDOT representatives are here today and are available to answer your questions!

www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL-3-Connector-Project



Welcome

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) thanks you for attending the public hearing for the Illinois Route 3 Connector Project. The purpose of this hearing is to present to you the Preferred Alternative identified as a result of our study.

How to Participate Today

You are invited to view the exhibits, ask questions, and share your input regarding the Preferred Alternative. Representatives from IDOT and the Project Study team are here to discuss the project and answer questions. If you believe your property will be affected, please speak with one of the IDOT Land Acquisition staff members here today.

We Want to Hear From You!

IDOT representatives will be available to answer questions throughout the meeting. A public forum will begin at 6:30 p.m. during which the public will have an opportunity to provide testimony.

You can also share your comments at the public hearing with a comment form or by making a statement to the court reporter.

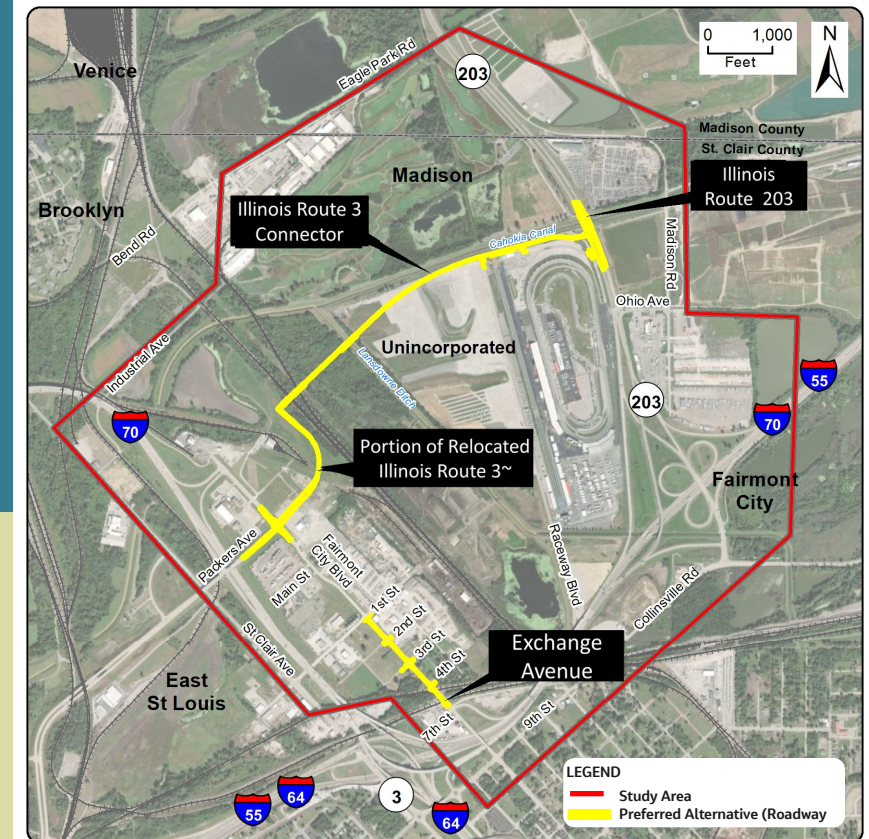
Comments can be emailed to Sarah Wiszkon at Sarah.Wiszkon@illinois.gov or mailed to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
 Kirk Brown, Region 5 Engineer
 Attn: Sarah Wiszkon
 1102 Eastport Plaza Drive
 Collinsville, IL 62234

Comments received by December 12, 2023 will become part of the official record.

Project Overview

IDOT is nearing completion of this Phase I Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study. The project is located within East St. Louis, Madison, and Fairmont City in St. Clair and Madison Counties, Illinois. The roadway limits for the Preferred Alternative are displayed in the exhibit below.



~The portion of Relocated Illinois Route 3 shown is part of and compatible with the planned Relocated Illinois Route 3 approved in 2001.

Project Purpose and Need

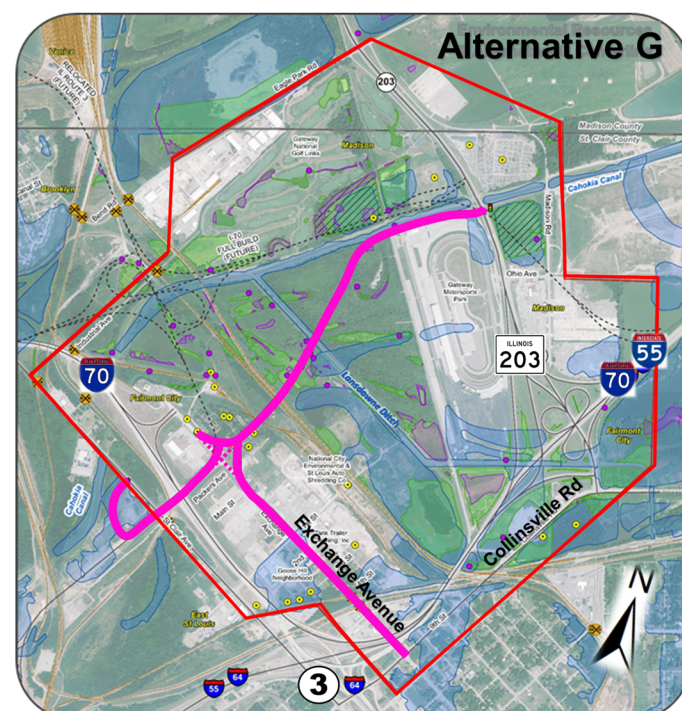
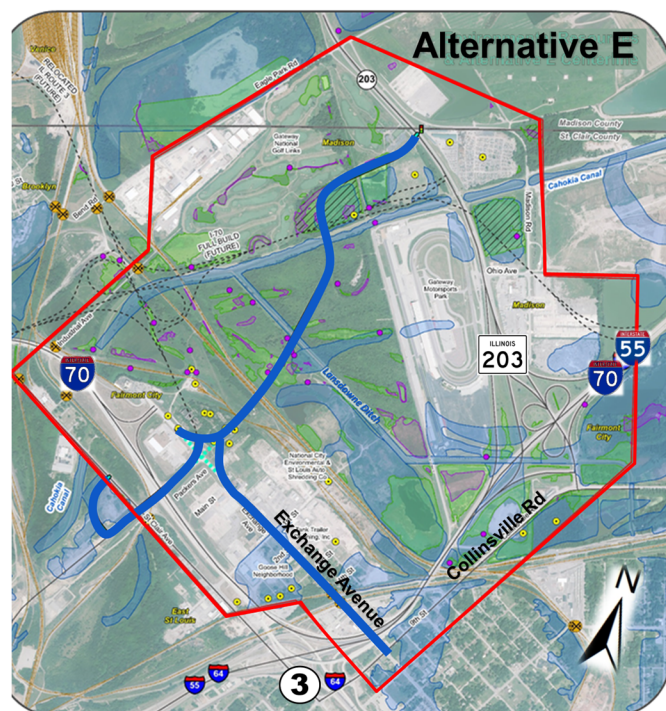
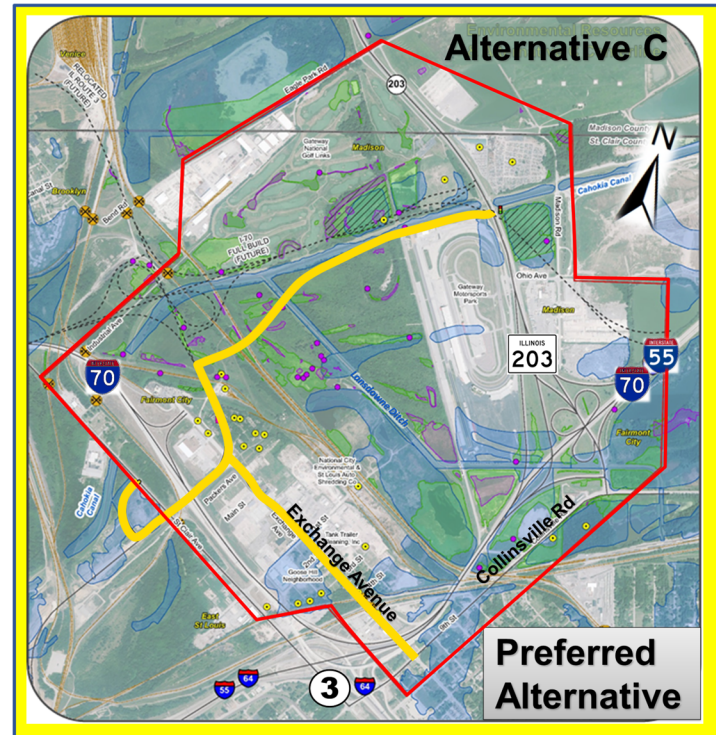
The purpose of the project is to improve traffic flow and network connectivity within the study limits by improving accessibility within the study area and between arterial routes, eliminating the reliance on circuitous local roads and short trips on I-55/70, and improving travel time consistency.

Improving connections within the project area to residential and business centers south and east towards Collinsville Road and to the greater St. Louis metropolitan area may also enhance economic development opportunities for existing and new businesses, as well as improve safety.

Preferred Alternative Selection Process

At Public Information Meeting 3 in September 2015, IDOT presented four alternatives for the Illinois Route 3 Connector Project: A, C, E, and G which were developed to meet the project's Purpose and Need (see Page 1).

After careful consideration, IDOT selected Alternative C as the Preferred Alternative because it best met the project's Purpose and Need, has the least environmental impact, is more favorable in terms of construction and maintenance costs, and was preferred by stakeholders.



The preferred alternative satisfies purpose and need by enhancing accessibility for all users, providing travel time reliability, and eliminating the dependence on indirect local routes and short trips along I-55 and I-70. Furthermore, by strengthening connections and accessibility, it can create opportunities for economic development, benefiting both existing and new businesses.

The preferred alternative was designed to avoid disproportionate impacts on environmental justice communities. In addition,

- it will add 1.5 miles of new roads and shared-use paths and sidewalks* within East St. Louis, Madison, and Fairmont City.
- converts approximately 73 acres of land to multimodal transportation purposes
- proposed right-of-way will encroach on approximately 2 acres of floodplain, the majority of which is within state right-of-way
- impacts approximately 3 acres of wetlands which will be mitigated
- impacts 7 state and federally-threatened plant sites which will be relocated
- within the proposed right-of-way, there are 24 special waste sites and one archaeological site, which will require special attention during final design and construction.

Despite the necessity for new right-of-way, there are no anticipated displacements.

Preferred Alternative

New Illinois Route 3 Connector

Comprised of a two-lane road and a shared-use path*, the Illinois Route 3 Connector will extend eastward from Relocated Illinois Route 3, bridge over the existing railroads and the Lansdowne Ditch, and terminate at a new signalized intersection with Illinois Route 203. These enhancements include replacement of two structures along Illinois Route 203 over the Cahokia Canal.

Portion of New Relocated Illinois Route 3

A continuation of Relocated Route 3 will extend from Packers Avenue to the new Illinois Route 3 Connector. The construction will feature a two-lane roadway with a shared-use path*. The design is compatible with a potential future extension of Relocated Illinois Route 3 to the north, which is a four-lane design.

Exchange Avenue (1st Street to 7th Street)

Improvements to Exchange Avenue include complete reconstruction of the two-lane roadway between 1st Street and 7th Street, incorporating a new sidewalk* along the eastern side, and installation of curb and gutters and closed storm sewers. The existing at-grade railroad crossings will be retained.



*Sidewalks and paths are dependent on local agency acceptance of maintenance.

