



PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING

IL ROUTE 4/15 OVER THE KASKASKIA RIVER BRIDGE STUDY

St. Liborius Parish Center, 911 Sparta St., St. Libory, IL
March 13, 2024



WELCOME!

Welcome to the second Public Informational Meeting for the IL Route 4/15 Kaskaskia River Bridge project near Fayetteville in St. Clair County, Illinois.

The purpose of this public meeting is to: provide an overview of the project, including proposed alignments of the new structures, and obtain public input. inform the public of the project schedule; and to receive public input.

Your input, along with the engineering and environmental studies being performed, will assist IDOT in determining the preferred alternative for the new bridge carrying IL Route 4/15 over the Kaskaskia River. Please submit your questions and comments this evening, mail in the provided comment form, or submit online via the project website. Comments can be submitted until March 27, 2024.

The meeting format is informal; no presentation will be made. Please browse the available materials at your leisure. Representatives of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and IDOT's consultant team, Horner & Shifrin and Quigg Engineering, are available to answer any questions that you may have.



Project History

The existing bridge was constructed in 1946 and carries two lanes of traffic. Because the bridge is nearing the end of its design life, rising maintenance costs, and age of the bridge, IDOT has determined this bridge needs to be replaced.

Public Meeting #1 Summary

The study's first Public Meeting was on June 15, 2022. Approximately 132 people attended this Public Meeting, and 38 comments were received. Most of the comments requested that the bridge that carries IL Route 4/15 over the Kaskaskia River not be closed during construction, and the new bridge needs to accommodate farm equipment.

IDOT Project Process

IDOT has a three-phase project development process, as shown on the timeline graphic below. All three phases are currently identified in IDOT's FY 2024-2029 Proposed Highway & Multimodal Improvement Program (MYP).

Potential Preferred Alternatives

IDOT is considering two possible proposed alternatives. One to the north and one to the south of the existing structure. Improving the existing alignment was considered but would require long closures during construction. This would not meet the problem statement agreed upon by the CAG.

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the bridge be closed during construction?

The bridge will not be closed for long periods of time. There is a potential that short term closures, such as weekends, may be required to tie back into the existing IL Route 4/15 alignment. IDOT will notify the surrounding communities, schools, and Emergency Management Services if closures are required.

Will the new bridge accommodate farm equipment?

Yes. The new bridge will be wide enough to accommodate modern farm equipment. The existing total bridge width is 31'9" and the proposed structure width is 54'.

Will there be displacements? Both preferred alternatives have potential displacements. IDOT has sent letters to those who could possibly be displaced.

How many alternatives were studied? Fourteen alternatives were analyzed and 12 were eliminated because these alternatives did not meet the Problem Statement or had engineering flaws, for example: extended closure time during construction, non-policy geometry, and/or negative impacts to river hydraulics.

Will bike and pedestrian accommodations be considered for this project? Yes, a proposed 10-foot-wide separate shared use path is being proposed as part of both potential preferred alternatives.

When will construction start?

The construction start date has not been determined but funding has been identified in IDOT's 2024-2029 MYP for utility relocation, land acquisition, design and construction.

Community Advisory Group (CAG)

As part of the in-depth public involvement process called Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), a Community Advisory Group (CAG) was formed for this study. The purpose of the CAG has been to provide input from the public's perspective on various elements of the study, including developing a problem statement, identifying issues important to the public, and providing feedback on alternatives. The Study Team has held two CAG meetings. The first CAG meeting helped identify the two biggest concerns were keeping the bridge open during construction and the new bridge being wide enough to accommodate farm equipment. During the second CAG meeting, CAG members reviewed and commented on the two potential preferred alternatives. After much discussion, the CAG members came to a consensus in support of the north bridge replacement alternative. For more information on the CAG meetings, please visit: <https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/transportation-management/featured-projects/st-clair-county---il-4-15-kaskaskia-river-bridge-study/public-involvement.html>

IL 4/15 KASKASKIA RIVER BRIDGE STUDY PROBLEM STATEMENT

The members of the CAG helped in developing the project problem statement. A problem statement identifies the problems within a project study area that need to be addressed.

"The existing bridge carrying IL Route 4/15 over the Kaskaskia River is aging and in need of continual repairs. There is a need to provide a cost-effective, long-term improvement to provide reliable access across the Kaskaskia River for farm equipment, Emergency Management Services, school buses, and everyday users of the bridge and to reduce the need for continual repairs, while demonstrating respect for our environment."

WANTED! YOUR INPUT

We also seek your input on the user experience of the existing IL Route 4/15 bridge over the Kaskaskia River. From your personal experience traveling the bridge, please let us know your thoughts on the preferred bridge replacement alternatives. 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 March 27, 2024.** All comments received will become part of the permanent public involvement record for the project and included in the final project report.

Contact IDOT Directly

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Project Website

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

<https://idot.click/il-4-15-st-clair-co>

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

