

The slide features a dark background with a blurred image of a car's interior, including a steering wheel and dashboard. At the top center, there is a logo for the 'I-55 at IL 59 Access Project' which consists of a blue square containing a white stylized road map. To the right of this logo, the text 'I-55 at IL 59' is written in a bold, white sans-serif font, with 'Access Project' in a smaller, white sans-serif font below it. In the top right corner, there is a white speaker icon inside a circle. The main title 'US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road' is written in a large, bold, orange sans-serif font, with 'Public Hearing' in a slightly larger, bold, orange sans-serif font below it. The date 'October 10, 2024' is centered below the title in a white sans-serif font. At the bottom, there are two logos: on the left, the word 'JOLIET' in a white, stylized serif font; on the right, the Illinois Department of Transportation logo, which is a white circle containing a stylized 'I' and 'T' with the text 'Illinois Department of Transportation' to its right.

I-55 at IL 59  
Access Project

**US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road**  
**Public Hearing**

October 10, 2024

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The Illinois Department of Transportation, in partnership with the City of Joliet, welcomes you to the public hearing for the improvements of US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road, in Will County. These proposed improvements are the result of the I-55 Access Study. Information shared during this presentation is available on the project website and in the exhibit hall.

## Hearing Purpose

- Present the preferred alternative for US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road
- Present Section 4(f) impacts
- Obtain public input



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The purpose of tonight's public hearing is to:

- Present the preferred alternative for US 52, from River Road to Houbolt Road,
- Present Section 4(f) impacts to Hammel Woods and the Rock Run Preserve, and
- Obtain public input

## IDOT Project Phases



### Phase I

- Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study

### Phase II

- Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition

### Phase III

- Construction

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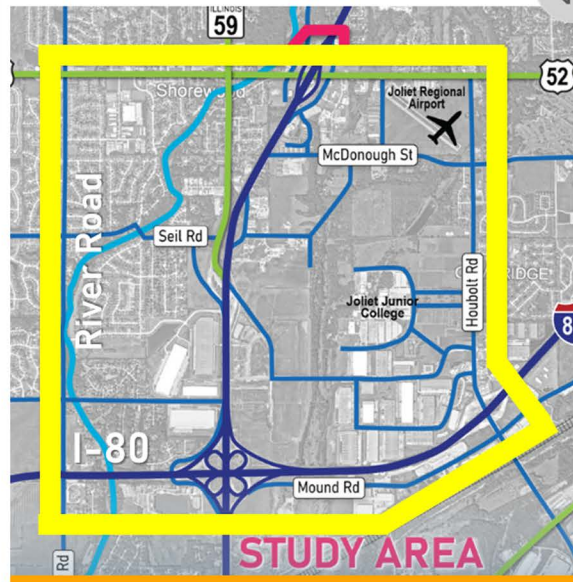
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IDOT projects are typically implemented in three separate phases:

- Phase I includes preliminary engineering and environmental study. Issues are identified, current system or operational deficiencies are documented, alternative analysis studies are performed, and a preferred alternative is selected.
- Phase II includes contract plan preparation and land acquisition.
- Phase III is the actual project construction, which is most visible to the public.

## I-55 Access Study

- I-55 Access Study limits
- Located within Village of Shorewood and City of Joliet



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The I-55 Access Study was initiated in 2017. The study area is bordered on the south by I-80, on the east by Houbolt Road, on the north by US 52, and on the west by River Road. The study area is located in both the Village of Shorewood and the City of Joliet, in Troy Township, Will County.

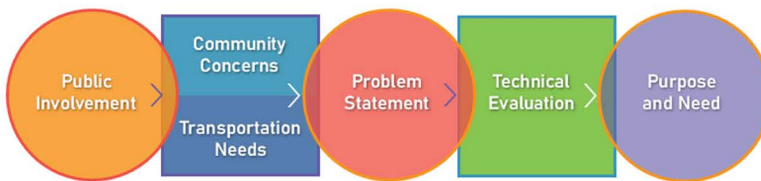
# I-55 Access Study



## Project Purpose:

The purpose of the project is to provide an efficient transportation facility for both interstate travel, and for the regional and local roadway network accommodated by and affected by access to and from I-55 for existing and future transportation needs.

## How the Purpose and Need was Developed:



## Project Needs:



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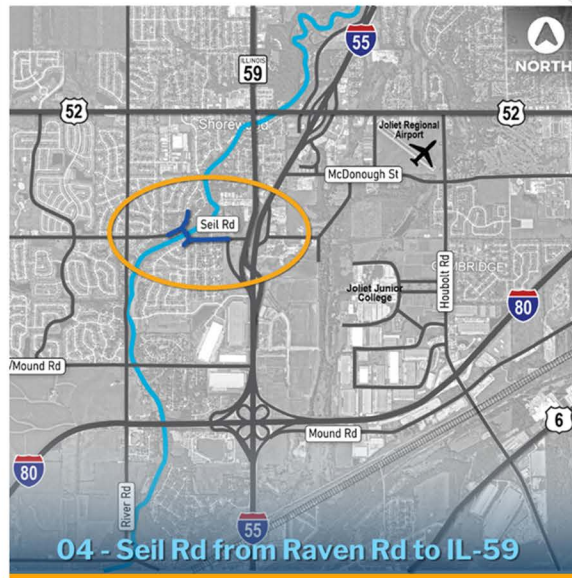
The project's Purpose and Need was developed through a rigorous public involvement process and engineering analysis.

Two distinct project needs have been identified: to improve regional mobility and local connectivity, as well as to improve system linkage.

The full Purpose and Need document is available for review in the exhibit hall and on the project website.

## I-55 Access Study

- **Improvement 1**  
US 52 from River Rd to Houbolt Rd
- **Improvement 2**  
I-55 from I-80 to US 52
- **Improvement 3**  
Olympic Blvd from I-55 E Frontage Rd to Houbolt Rd
- **Improvement 4**  
Seil Rd from Raven Rd to IL 59



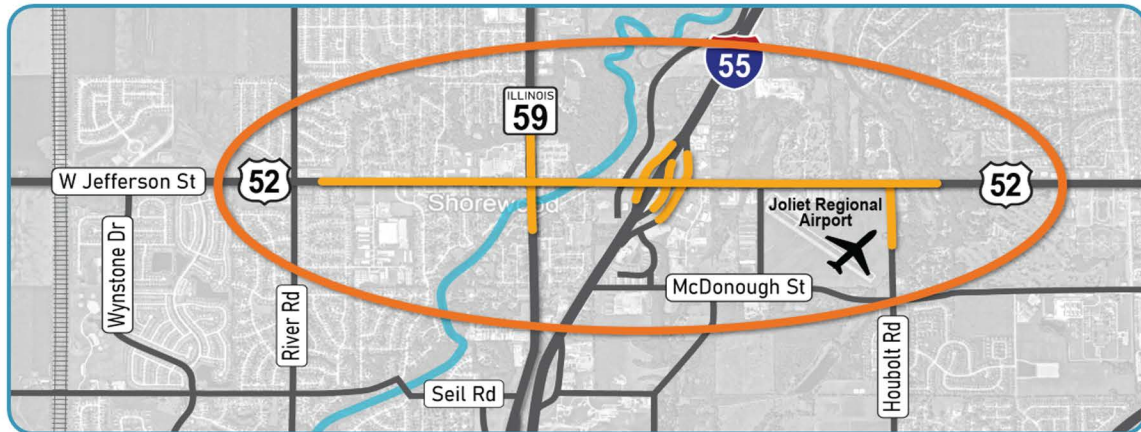
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The Preferred Alternative for the I-55 Access Study resulted in the identification of the following four independent improvement projects:

- Improvement 1: US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road, which is the primary focus of today's public hearing. This improvement is under IDOT jurisdiction and highlighted in orange above.
- Improvement 2: I-55 from I-80 to US 52, which is under IDOT jurisdiction. Construction is nearly complete. This improvement is highlighted in green.
- Improvement 3: Olympic Boulevard from I-55 East Frontage Road to Houbolt Road, which is under construction and being led by the City of Joliet. This improvement is highlighted in violet.
- Improvement 4: Seil Road from Raven Road to IL 59, which is being led by the Village of Shorewood and is in Phase II. This improvement is highlighted in blue.

## US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road: Improvement Area



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US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road is the last of the four projects to have the Phase I Study completed and is the primary focus of tonight's public hearing. This map shows the project area for the US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road Study.

## US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road: Proposed Improvements



- Additional Lanes and Curbed Median
- I-55 and US 52 Interchange Improvements
- Intersection Improvements
- Curbed Median / Turn Lanes

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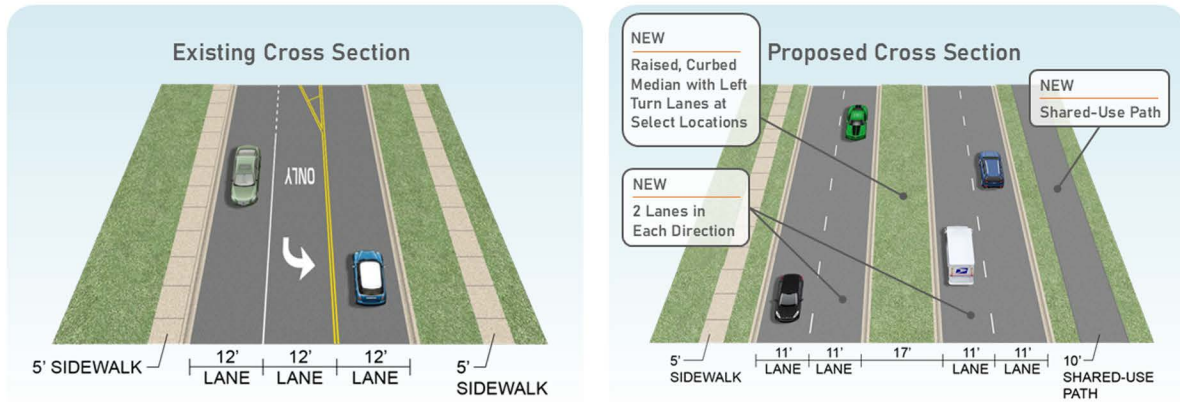
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Stakeholders have identified US 52 congestion as a major local traffic issue. The traffic and crash analysis validates these concerns. The proposed improvements address existing and future transportation mobility, operational deficiencies, and improve safety along the corridor from River Road to Houbolt Road.

The preferred alternative includes the following improvements:

- Additional through lane in each direction from River Road to IL 59 to provide two travel lanes in each direction throughout the project corridor
- Intersection improvements at IL 59 and Houbolt Road
- Interchange improvements at I-55 and US 52
- Raised, curbed medians throughout the corridor with left turn lanes at select locations
- Improved connectivity for pedestrians and bicyclists throughout the corridor

## US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road: Proposed Improvements – West of IL 59



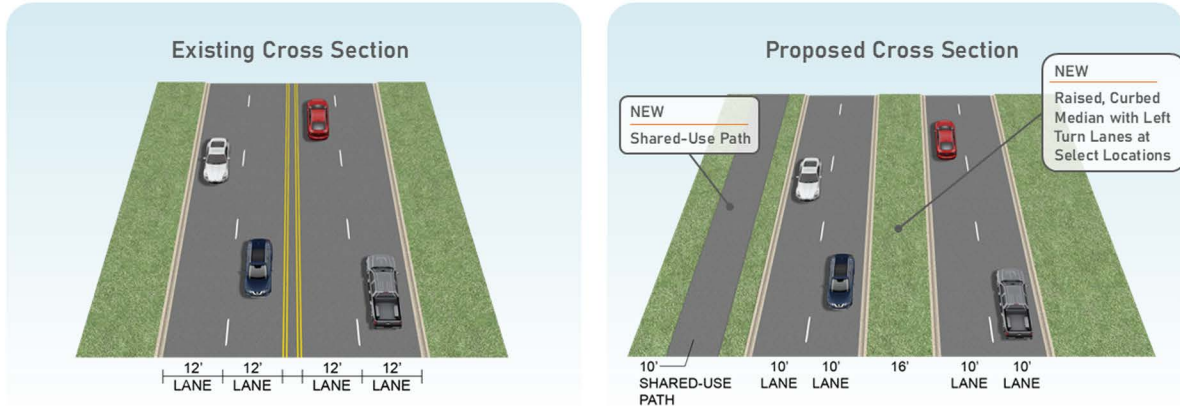
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The proposed improvements on US 52 between River Road and Illinois 59 include: An additional through lane in each direction and installation of a raised, curbed median with left turn lanes at select locations.

A proposed off-street, two-way shared-use path will connect to the existing path near River Road with access to Shorewood residential neighborhoods, as well as the DuPage River Trail in Hammel Woods.

## US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road: Proposed Improvements – East of IL 59



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Between Illinois 59 and Houbolt Road, the project includes the installation of a new raised, curb median with left turn lanes at select locations to improve mobility and safety. Also proposed is an off-street, two-way shared-use path that will provide connections to Joliet residential neighborhoods, Joliet Junior College, and Rock Run Preserve via the Rock Run Greenway Trail.

## US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road: Proposed Improvements - Bicycle and Pedestrian



- 2.7 miles of proposed new shared-use path
- 1.3 miles of proposed sidewalk connections
- Trail connections to DuPage River Trail, Rock Run Trail and existing trail network near River Road
- Project will create new multimodal connections over two existing barriers: DuPage River and I-55



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The Preferred Alternative includes multi-modal transportation enhancements through the proposed installation of shared-use paths and sidewalks. These support the Purpose and Need by providing local connectivity for active transportation.

A total of 2.7 miles of shared-use paths and 1.3 miles of sidewalks are proposed, including a new pedestrian bridge over the DuPage River, just south of the existing US 52 roadway bridge.

This new pedestrian bridge is proposed to be aesthetically similar to the bridge at the northwest corner of US 52 and River Road, shown here.

These improvements will create connections between the DuPage River Trail, the Rock Run Trail, and the existing trail network near River Rd. removing existing barriers presented by the DuPage River and I-55.

# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969

NEPA Compliance Umbrella



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The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 - also known as NEPA - is a federal law that outlines policies to protect the environment. NEPA requires that federally funded projects seek to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts to the natural and built environment. Some of the considerations include wetlands, noise impacts, endangered species, cultural resources, and parklands. This study is being performed in compliance with NEPA requirements.

## Section 4(f) Impacts: Hammel Woods and Rock Run Preserve



### Hammel Woods

Permanent Easement - 0.03 acres

Temporary Easement - 0.07 acres

Purpose:

- Construction/maintenance of proposed retaining wall & culvert extension
- Driveway reconstruction

### Rock Run Preserve

Temporary Easement - 0.073 acres

Purpose:

- Construction of shared-use path
- Rock Run Trail connection

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Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 provides for the consideration of park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites during transportation project development.

There are a few properties within the project limits that qualify as Section 4(f) properties.

They are: Hammel Woods and Rock Run Preserve, which are owned by the Forest Preserve District of Will County, and the Joliet Regional Airport which is owned by the Joliet Park District.

The project will have minimal impact - known as de minimis impact - to Hammel Woods and Rock Run Preserve. The project will not impact the Joliet Regional Airport.

Additional information regarding impacts to Forest preserve properties is available on the project website and in the exhibit hall.

## Traffic Noise Study

- Two walls found to be feasible and reasonable
- Wall heights range from 8 to 12 feet
- Wall implementation is dependent upon voting by benefitted receptors (5+ decibel traffic noise reduction)



Example Noise Abatement Wall

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A noise study was performed to evaluate the proposed improvements' traffic noise impacts. Two potential noise abatement walls were found to be feasible and reasonable. Wall heights would range between 8 and 12 feet.

Property owners and tenants that would achieve a benefit will have an opportunity to vote on whether the noise walls should be installed. The viewpoint solicitation was recently mailed to those benefitted by the walls.

Additional information regarding the noise study is available on the project website and in the exhibit hall.

## Potential Noise Wall Location: North Side of US 52 Near Brookshore Drive



- Potential wall on US 52 near Brookshore Drive
- 670 feet long



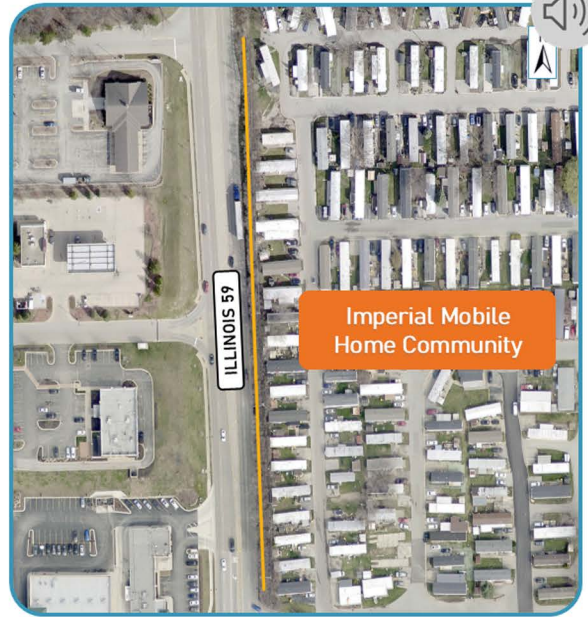
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The first potential noise wall would be located on the north side of US 52 near Brookshore Drive and would be approximately 670 feet long.

## Potential Noise Wall Location: IL 59 North of US 52

- Potential wall along IL 59 north of US 52
- 770 feet long



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The second potential noise wall would be located on the east side of Illinois 59, north of US 52, and would be approximately 770 feet long.

## IDOT Land Acquisition Process



- If you have any questions about land acquisition, please speak with an IDOT representative during tonight's hearing

OWNERSHIP DETERMINATION

APPRAISAL

NEGOTIATION

COURT PROCEEDINGS (IF NECESSARY)

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IDOT's process for land acquisition complies with the federal Uniform Relocation and Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act - known as URA. The following activities would not begin until the Phase I Study is complete.

- Step 1: Determine ownership and prepare plat of survey
- Step 2: Prepare independent appraisal
- Step 3: Negotiations with property owners
- Step 4: Court proceedings: This is only necessary if an agreement on acquisition price cannot be reached or if there are title issues or liens on properties.

The land acquisition process typically requires between 1 and 3 years. If you have any questions about land acquisition, please speak with an IDOT representative during tonight's hearing.

## Please Provide Your Comments!

- Provide comment to court reporter
- Make comment during Public Forum
- Comment form
- Project website
- Email
- Mail
- Comment period ends on November 12, 2024



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You may provide your comments to the project team through the following methods:

- To the court reporter at any time during the hearing or Public Forum
- Completing a comment form and dropping it in the comment box
- Through the project website
- Email or
- Mailing in the comment form

Contact information and comment forms are available in the hearing brochure and at the registration table. Comments received by November 12, 2024, will be included as part of the hearing's official public record.

US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road

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**Public Forum**  
**6:00 p.m.**

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Tonight’s public hearing includes a Public Forum, which will begin at 6:00 p.m.

## Public Forum Rules



### Forum Rules:

- All speakers **MUST** complete a Public Forum sign-up form
- Comments are limited to two minutes maximum



**US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road Public Hearing – October 10, 2024**  
**Public Forum Sign-up**

\*All speakers will have a maximum of two minutes each to present their comments to a court reporter.

A moderator will announce the speaker's name in the order the forms are received. The Illinois Department of Transportation welcomes your comments and requests that you present your remarks in a respectful manner, within the established two-minute time limit.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Public Forum is an opportunity to make comments about the proposed improvements. The Forum will be held in the adjacent room. Individuals wanting to speak must complete a Public Forum sign-up form and give it to a project team member. Forms are available at the registration table. Speakers will have a maximum of two minutes, and comments will be recorded by a court reporter.

## Next Steps – Phase I Study

- Evaluate public comments
- Comment period ends November 12, 2024
- Refine design
- Complete Phase I study



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Your interest and input are critical to the success of this project! All comments received will be considered in the study.

Comments must be received by no later than Tuesday, November 12, 2024. All comments received by then will be included as part of the hearing's official public record.

After the hearing, IDOT will refine the design and complete the Phase I study.

## Funding and Project Phasing

- Phase I completion anticipated in early 2025
- Estimated program cost: \$80.5 million
- Construction is included in IDOT's FY 2025-2030 Proposed Multi-Year Highway Improvement Program (MYP)



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Phase I completion and design approval for US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road are anticipated in early 2025.

Phases II and III are anticipated to take between two and three years each.

The estimated program cost for this roadway improvement project is \$80.5 million.

Construction is included in IDOT's 2025-2030 Proposed Multi-Year Highway Improvement Program - known as MYP.

 **I-55 at IL 59**  
**Access Project**

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**US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road**

**Thank you for attending!**

**This presentation will restart momentarily.**

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Thank you for attending tonight's public hearing. If you have not already, please review the exhibits and discuss them with the project study team in the adjacent room. All material from tonight's hearing is available on the project's website. This presentation will restart from the beginning momentarily.