



WELCOME

# I-55 at IL 59 Access Project

VIRTUAL PUBLIC OUTREACH

[www.i-55atil59accessproject.org](http://www.i-55atil59accessproject.org)  
June / July 2020

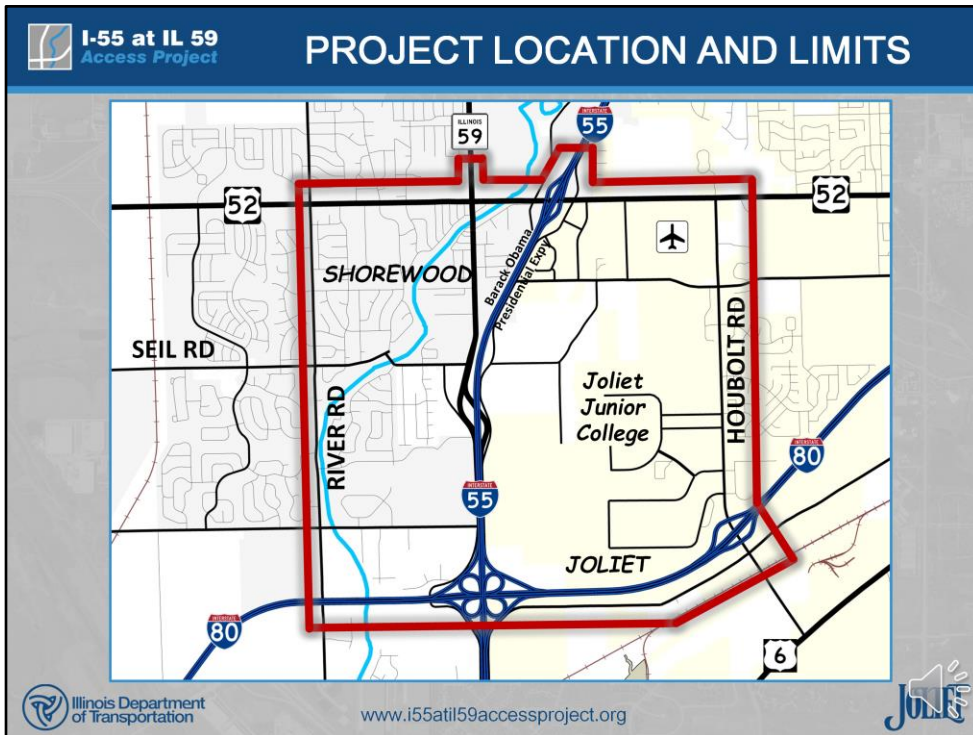
 Illinois Department  
of Transportation



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### SLIDE REVISION

After viewing this video, you will have an opportunity to browse and navigate through the public outreach exhibits online. Additionally, you will be able to provide your comments and questions on this webpage after viewing the exhibits and materials online.

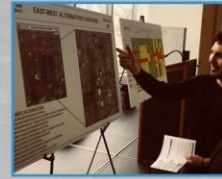


The I-55 Access Project study area is bordered on the south by I-80, on the east by Houbolt Road, on the north by US 52 and on the west by River Road. The study area is located in both the Village of Shorewood and the City of Joliet, in Troy Township, Will County.



## PUBLIC OUTREACH PURPOSE

- Summarize Previous Public Outreach Events
- Present the Preferred Alternatives
- Explain the Four Independent Projects Identified by the Study
- Provide a Project Status Update
- Discuss Next Steps in the Study



### SLIDE REVISION

The purpose of this public outreach is to:

- Summarize previous public outreach events
- Present the preferred alternatives
- Explain the four independent projects identified by the study
- Provide a project status update

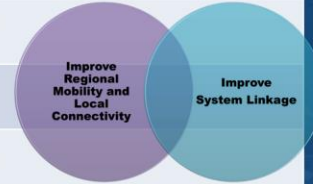
And

- Discuss next steps in the study.



## PREVIOUS PUBLIC OUTREACH

Description	Date	Topics Covered
Public Meeting 1	9/14/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explained the study process, schedule and received input</li> <li>Lack of access and connectivity in study area</li> </ul>
CAG 1	10/10/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Issues and Concerns</li> <li>Problem Statement</li> </ul>
CAG 2	11/17/2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purpose and Need</li> <li>Alternatives Criteria &amp; Ideas</li> </ul>
CAG 3	03/15/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed screening criteria</li> </ul>
Public Meeting 2	04/11/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Alternatives Carried Forward for Further Study</li> </ul>
CAG 4	07/16/2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preferred Alternative</li> </ul>



### 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.

### SLIDE REVISION

- At the previous two public meetings and four community advisory group meetings the project team explained the study process and received input on transportation issues. Residents and stakeholders discussed the lack of access and connectivity in the study area for vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Project issues and concerns were used to develop the problem statement. From the problem statement, the purpose and need was developed and discussed.
- 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. The project needs include “improve regional mobility and local connectivity” and “improve system linkage”.
- Based on the project purpose and need and with stakeholder input, screening criteria were developed and used to identify the alternatives carried forward for further study.
- Since our last public outreach event, a preferred alternative has been selected, which includes four separate independent projects.



## 1) Interchange Alternatives

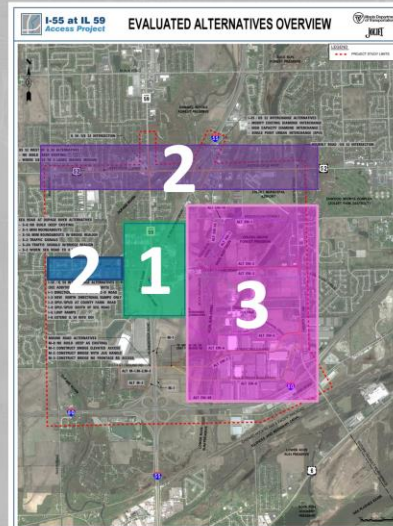
- I-55 and IL 59 Interchange

## 2) Route Capacity Improvement Alternatives

- US 52 (Jefferson Street)
- Seil Road

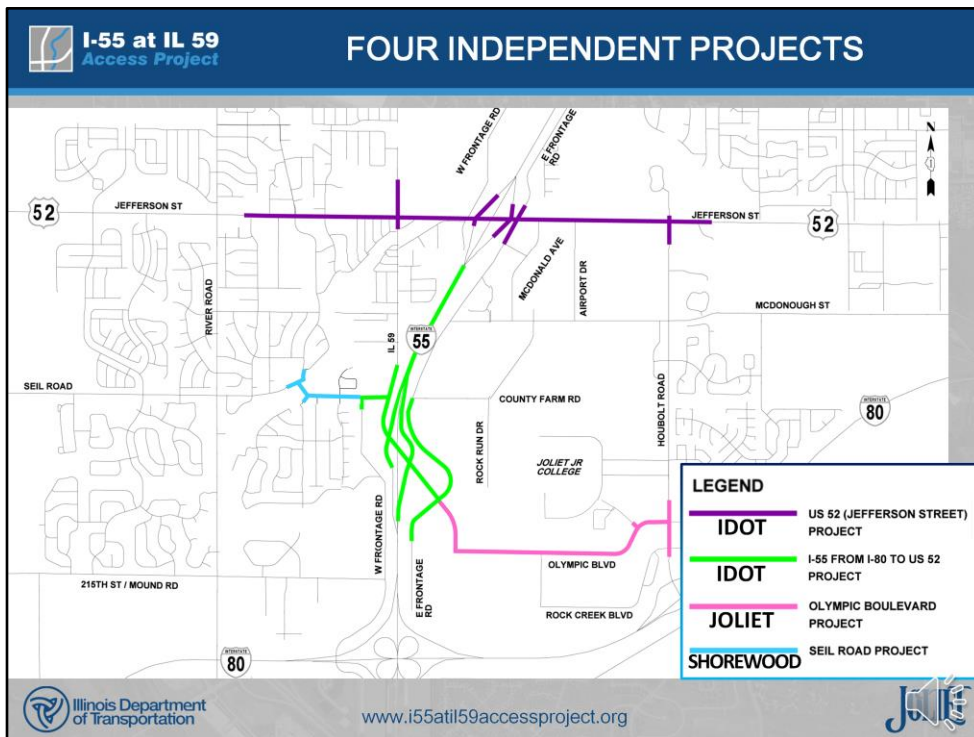
## 3) East-West Connector Routes

- Between I-55 and Houbolt Rd



At the previous public meeting, alternatives analysis was presented and public input was received on three alternative categories:

- Interchange Alternatives for the I-55 and IL 59 interchange
- Route Capacity Improvements for US 52, or Jefferson Street, and Seil Road
- and East-West Connector Routes between I-55 and Houbolt Road



## SLIDE REVISION

Four separate projects were identified from the overall study's preferred alternative to be independent of each other. Each of the four projects can be constructed separately to address the project's purpose and need.

The four separate projects are:

- US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road, which is under IDOT Jurisdiction.
- I-55 from I-80 to US 52, which is under IDOT Jurisdiction.
- Olympic Boulevard from I-55 East Frontage Road to Houbolt Road, which is under City of Joliet Jurisdiction.
- Seil Road from Raven Road to IL 59, which is under Village of Shorewood Jurisdiction.

Each of the four projects will be explained further during this presentation.

**I-55 at IL 59**  
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## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE


Interchange Category

**EXTEND IL 59 INTO DIVERGING DIAMOND INTERCHANGE** ✓

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The interchange category alternative that extends IL 59 into a diverging diamond interchange was selected as the preferred alternative.

The interchange will extend IL 59 south over I-55. The project will include new ramps to and from the north and utilize the existing bridge over I-55 to carry the future southbound IL 59 lanes. A new bridge will be constructed to the south to carry the future IL 59 northbound lanes. An auxiliary lane is being added to I-55 in both directions between IL 59 and US 52.



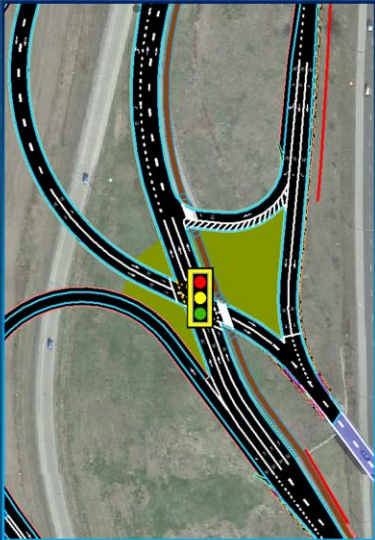
**I-55 at IL 59**  
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## PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

I-55 from I-80 to US 52

### WHY the DDI Interchange Alternative?


- Accommodates projected traffic demand.
- Most supported interchange alternative by stakeholders and general public.
- Accommodates east-west connectivity over I-55 for all modes of transportation.
- Utilizes the existing bridge constructed in 2008-2009.
- Minimizes impacts to a major gas pipeline facility.
- Moderate comparative construction cost to other alternatives.






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The Diverging Diamond Interchange alternative was selected as the preferred alternative for the following reasons:

- It accommodates projected traffic demand while providing acceptable traffic operations.
- It received the most support from stakeholders and general public.
- It accommodates east-west connectivity over I-55 for all modes of transportation, including bicyclists and pedestrians.
- It utilizes the existing bridge constructed in 2008-2009.
- It minimizes impacts to a major gas pipeline facility in the vicinity.
- It has a moderate comparative construction cost to other alternatives.




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## NOISE STUDY


I-55 FROM I-80 TO US 52

### Traffic Noise Results

- Potential noise walls have been identified along I-55 within the project study limits
- Voting form was recently mailed to those benefited by the walls.








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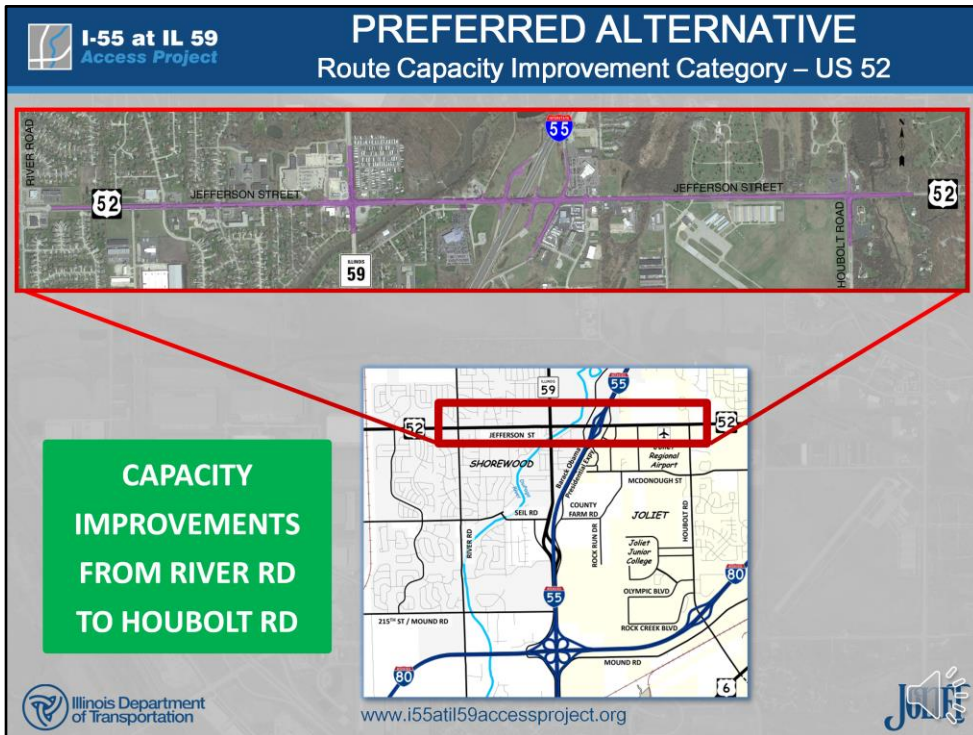


### SLIDE REVISION

A noise study was performed to evaluate traffic noise impacts. Potential noise walls have been identified along I-55 within the project study limits. Property owners and tenants that would achieve a benefit will have an opportunity to vote on whether or not 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.



Since the beginning of this study, stakeholders have identified US 52 congestion as a major local traffic issue that should be addressed. The traffic and crash analysis performed on the existing conditions validates these concerns. The proposed improvements address existing and future traffic capacity, operational deficiencies and improve safety along the corridor from River Road to Houbolt Road.

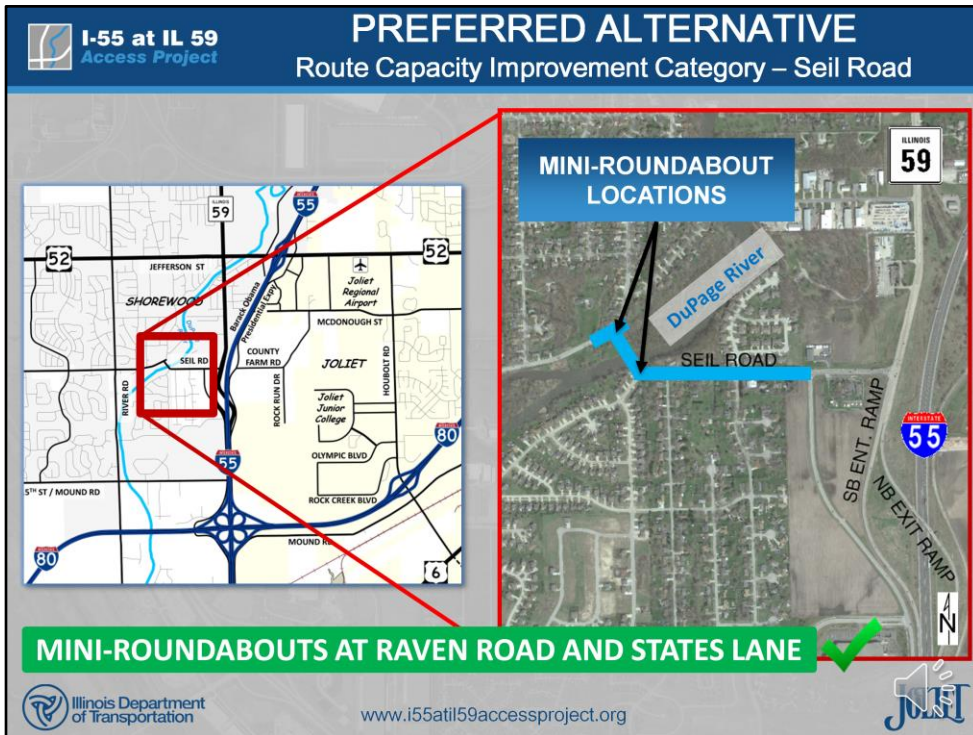
**US 52 Preferred Alternative Includes:**

- Additional through lane in each direction from River Road to IL 59
- Traffic capacity Improvements through additional & lengthened turn lanes
- Access control through raised median to improve mobility & improve safety
- Intersection improvements at IL 59 / US 52 and Houbolt Road / US 52
- Interchange ramps and turn lane improvements at I-55 and US 52



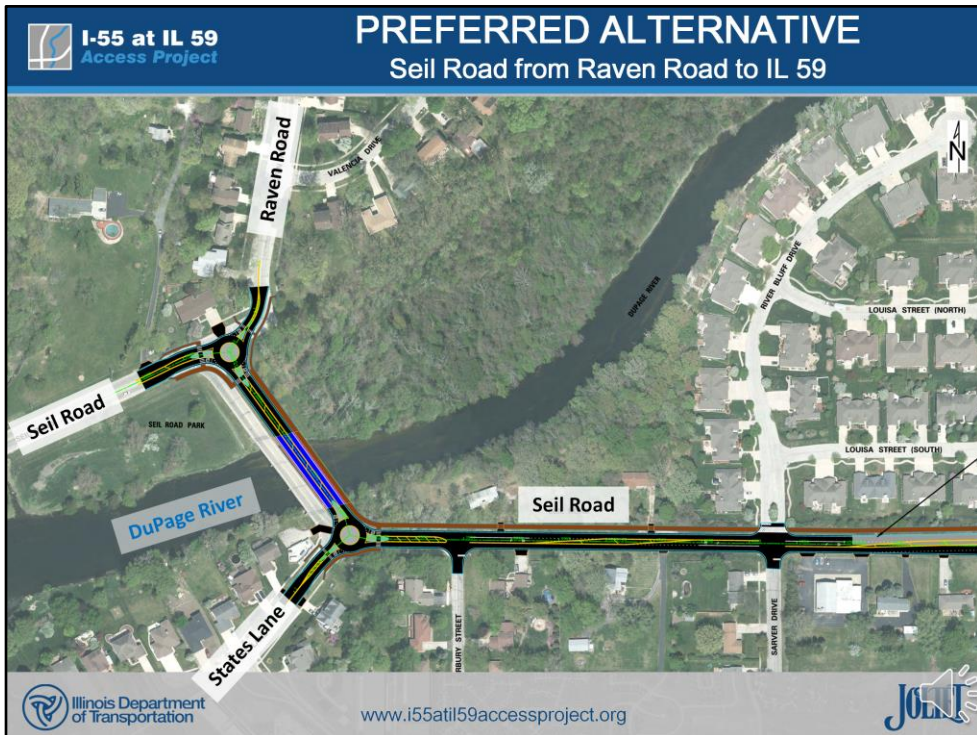
The following improvements have been selected as the preferred alternative and include:

- Additional through lane in each direction from River Road to IL 59
- Traffic Capacity Improvements through additional and lengthened turn lanes and additional auxiliary lanes
- Access Control through a raised curb median to improve mobility and improve safety
- Intersection Improvements at IL 59 with US 52 and Houbolt Road with US 52
- Interchange Ramps and turn lane improvements at I-55 and US 52



For the Seil Road improvement, the mini-roundabouts alternative was selected as the preferred alternative to mitigate a capacity need based on existing traffic congestion levels near the DuPage River.

Seil Road is under the Local Jurisdiction of the Village of Shorewood.



At the previous CAG Meetings and Public Meetings, the alternative with mini-roundabouts at States Lane and Raven Road consistently received the strongest favorable response from the public.



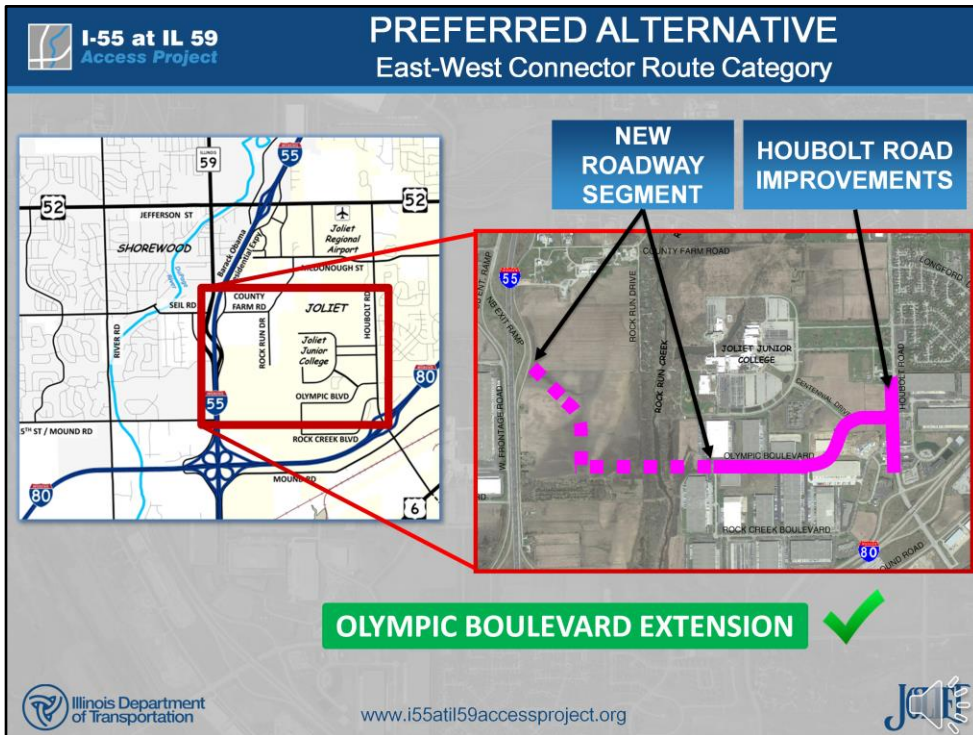
### WHY Seil Road Mini-Roundabouts Alternative?

- Provides acceptable traffic operations for the future, projected traffic.
- Replaces all-way stop signs with mini-roundabouts to provide nearly continuous traffic flow.
- Received substantial stakeholder support over S-2 (traffic signals) and S-3 (add-lane) alternatives at both CAG and Public Meeting.
- Mini-roundabouts discourage illegal truck traffic.
- Minimizes impacts to Seil Road Park.
- Lowest costs when compared with the other alternatives.



The Seil Road route capacity improvement roundabouts alternative was selected as the preferred alternative for the following reasons:

- It provides acceptable traffic operations for the future, projected traffic.
- It replaces all-way stop signs with mini-roundabouts to provide nearly continuous traffic flow.
- It was the alternative most favored from public input.
- It discourages illegal truck traffic.
- It would minimize impacts to Seil Road Park.
- This alternative has the lowest cost when compared with the other alternatives.



The east-west connector route category alternative that extends Olympic Boulevard over the Rock Run Creek was selected as the preferred alternative.

Olympic Boulevard is under the jurisdiction of the City of Joliet. The City and public comments both strongly support this alternative. It utilizes existing Olympic Boulevard and constructs a new roadway westward over the Rock Run Creek to the I-55 East Frontage Road. The alternative includes improvements to Houbolt Road that will be coordinated with the planned I-80 and Houbolt Road interchange improvement.




### WHY East-West Connector Route Olympic Boulevard?

- Utilizes an existing conservation easement for transportation purposes over the Rock Run Creek.
- Does not encroach on Joliet Junior College Natural Areas, sensitive forest preserve lands and endangered species.
- Utilizes existing infrastructure, an already wide, industrial street with existing low average daily traffic.
- East-West alternative with the least amount of wetland impacts.
- East-West alternative that received the most positive public feedback.
- Accommodates projected traffic demand.



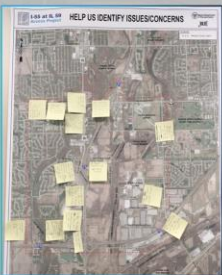
The Olympic Boulevard alternative was selected as the preferred alternative for the following primary reasons:

- It utilizes an existing conservation easement for transportation purposes over the Rock Run Creek.
- It does not encroach on Joliet Junior College Natural Areas, sensitive forest preserve lands and endangered species.
- It utilizes existing infrastructure, an already wide, industrial street with existing low average daily traffic.
- It is the alternative with the least amount of wetland impacts.
- It received positive feedback both in the Community Advisory Group and previous Public Meeting.
- It accommodates projected traffic demand.


**I-55 at IL 59**  
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PROJECT PHASES


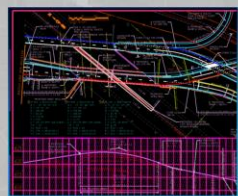
### Phase I

Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study





### Phase II


Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition


### Phase III

Construction


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## SLIDE REVISION

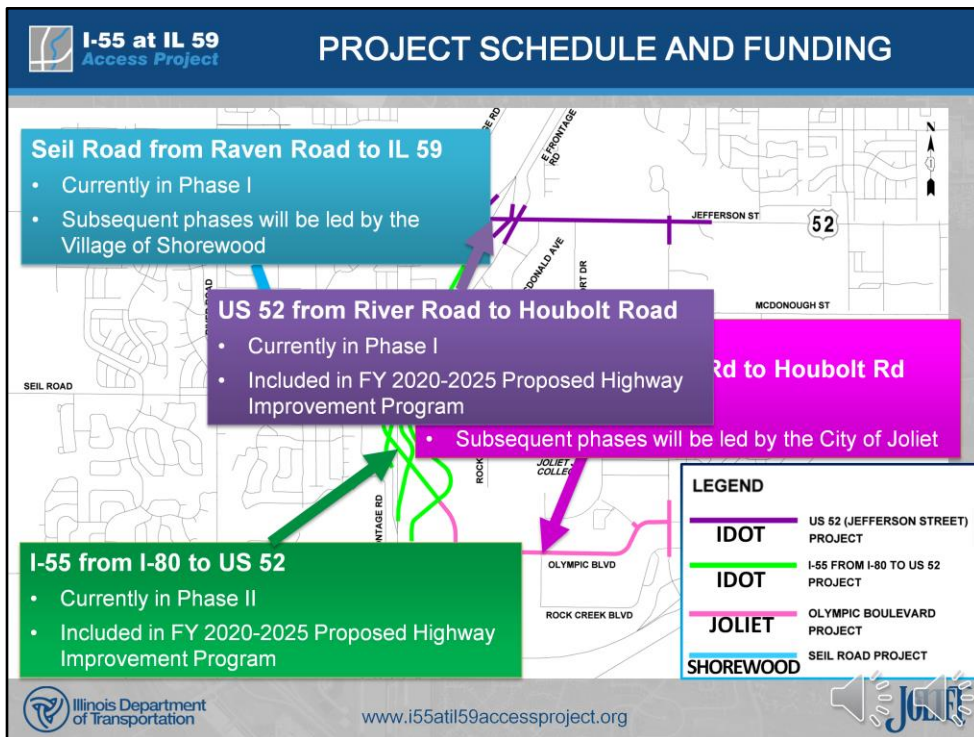
Projects are typically implemented in three separate phases. The phases shown refer to the IDOT project phases and should not be confused with the Restore Illinois Phases associated with COVID-19.

**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.

Initiation of Phase III is dependent upon completion of land acquisition and funding availability.




Each of the four projects are moving forward on separate study timelines based on extent and complexities with roadway and environmental components, each roadway's jurisdiction and funding status. All four Phase I studies are currently funded through a cost participation agreement between IDOT and the City of Joliet.

The I-55 from I-80 to US 52 improvement has moved onto the next implementation phase, Phase II, and is included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2020 to 2025 Proposed Highway Improvement Program.

The US 52 improvement, from River Road to Houbolt Road, is currently in Phase I and also included in the Department's Fiscal Year 2020 to 2025 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Current engineering efforts are targeted to enable a contract letting in the late years of the multiyear program.

The Olympic Boulevard and Seil Road improvements are currently in Phase I. Subsequent phases will be led by each roadways' local jurisdiction, which is the City of Joliet for Olympic Boulevard and the Village of Shorewood for Seil Road.

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PUBLIC OUTREACH EXHIBITS

- Public outreach exhibits
- Provide your comments and questions online / comment form
- Comments & questions received by August 4, 2020 will become part of the public meeting record

**COMMENTS / QUESTIONS**

Comments and questions may be submitted online using the form below. Alternatively, a printed **Comment Form** may be returned via U.S. mail to the following address:

Illinois Department of Transportation  
201 W. Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196  
Attn: Bureau of Programming, Jessica Feliciano, P.E.

1. For which project(s) is/are your comment(s)/question(s) related?  
(check all that apply)

I-55 at IL 59 Access Project (Overall I-55 Access Study)

US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road

I-55 from I-80 to US 52 (I-55 at IL 59 Interchange)


Olympic Boulevard from I-55 East Frontage Road to Houbolt Road

Sell Road from Raven Road to IL 59

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

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

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK ABOVE TO VIEW THE FULL SIZE PDF ARTIST RENDERING.





**Typical Cross Section**

This exhibit shows the US 52 existing and proposed typical cross sections of the roadway, in the western portion of the project primary, in the Village of Shorewood.

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## SLIDE REVISION

Please continue to browse and review the public outreach exhibits included on this website. The website will guide you through the exhibits and will provide an opportunity for you to leave your comments and questions, either online or via a printable comment card that can be returned by US MAIL. Comments and questions received by August 4, 2020 will become part of the public meeting record.



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**THANK YOU!**



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**JOLIET**

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**SLIDE REVISION**

The Illinois Department of Transportation and our partner, the City of Joliet, thank you for taking the time to visit the website, review the project and exhibits, and provide input to the Project Study team.