



Potential I-55 Improvements at Airport Road and at IL 126/Essington Road Public Meeting #2 Summary

Overview

The study area for potential interchange improvements along I-55 extends from the US Route 30 interchange to the Weber Road interchange, a distance of approximately 6 miles. Currently, the only access within the study corridor limits is an eastbound entrance and westbound exit at IL Route 126. The study area includes portions of Romeoville, Bolingbrook, Plainfield and unincorporated Will County, Illinois. The Weber Road interchange is subject to a separate study. Prior studies have identified a potential need for access improvements along I-55 that will improve safety, relieve traffic congestion, improve mobility within the surrounding regional area and promote economic development and job growth. This current study will evaluate potential alternative interchange locations. The current interim conditions for I-55 at the study location are comprised of a 6 lane section with a narrow median shoulder. If a build option is selected for design it will include a 6 lane section with a standard median shoulder.

Identification of Stakeholders

This project has been designated as one that will utilize the principals of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) as part of a robust public involvement process. CSS is a collaborative approach to engaging as many stakeholders as possible to develop a project that will best fit into its surroundings using a flexible and creative approach in planning and design to provide cost effective solutions. A project stakeholder is anyone that is affected by the project and has a stake in its outcome. Stakeholders are identified as residents and owners of property within the study area, users of I-55, Weber Road, IL 126, Airport Road and the surrounding roadway network, local businesses, elected officials and local agencies and the general public. The stakeholders will provide feedback on the needs for, and concerns about, the potential improvements along I-55. The project team will consider this information when making planning and design decisions.

The identification of stakeholders was done through a combination of desktop searches and input from local community leaders. Stakeholders were categorized by specific area of interest such as regional planning, transit and transportation agencies, Chambers of Commerce, business/economic development, civic and activist groups, county, municipal and elected officials, legislators, libraries, media, school and park districts, property owners, public safety and utility agency providers. The initial list contained approximately 386 stakeholders.


New stakeholders will be added to the initial stakeholder list throughout the project. All stakeholders expressing interest in the project will continue to be added to the project mailing list and will be able to participate in the process through various public outreach opportunities.



Public Involvement Efforts

Display Ad

The following is the display ad notifying the public of the June 21, 2012 Public Meeting. The ad includes a brief explanation of what the project is about and states there will be an opportunity to comment on any potential improvements within the project study corridor.



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

Notice of Public Informational Meeting Potential I-55 Improvements at Airport Road and at IL 126/Essington Road Romeoville, Bolingbrook & Plainfield, IL

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) continues to seek public input on possible interchange improvements along Interstate 55 (I-55) at Airport Road and at IL 126/Essington Road. The I-55 study area is located in the Villages of Romeoville, Bolingbrook and Plainfield and in unincorporated Will County between the Weber Road and US Route 30 interchanges.

The Public Meeting will be held in an open house format at the following time and location:

**Thursday, June 21, 2012
4:00-7:00 p.m.
Plainfield Village Hall
24401 W. Lockport Street
Plainfield, IL 60544**

Interested persons may visit anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 pm. Romeoville, Bolingbrook, Plainfield and IDOT will provide information regarding the study schedule, the federal review process, public involvement activities and interchange improvement alternatives. Attendees will have the opportunity to watch an audio-visual presentation, review exhibits, comment on the Purpose and Need and the conceptual alternatives developed and meet with IDOT and study team members on a one-to-one basis.

This meeting will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Anyone needing specific assistance should contact Heidi Voirol, V3 Companies, (630) 729-6177. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TDD number (800) 526-0844/or 711; TTY Users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/or 711; and for Telebraille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.

For more information, contact
Mr. Patrick Rinosa
Project Engineer
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096
(847) 705-4186

The meeting was advertised in the May 31, and June 14, 2012 [Romeoville Bugle](#), [Bolingbrook Bugle](#) and the [Enterprise](#).



Press Release

The press release announcing the June 21, 2012 Public Meeting was written and approved based on IDOT's communications guidelines. The press release was sent to IDOT for distribution:

Transportation News



Contact: Josh Kauffman (217) 558-0517

For Immediate Release:

**IDOT, in cooperation with the Villages of Romeoville, Bolingbrook, and Plainfield,
schedules the second Public Meeting concerning
the potential improvement of Interstate 55 (I-55) at Airport Road and at
Illinois Route 126/Essington Road**

The project study team including the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Villages of Romeoville, Bolingbrook and Plainfield are conducting a Phase I Engineering Study for potential improvements along I-55 at Airport Road and at Illinois Route 126/Essington Road. The study area includes I-55 from Weber Road to US Route 30 in Will County.

The public meeting will be held in an open house format at the following time and location:

Thursday, June 21, 2012
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Plainfield Village Hall
4401 W. Lockport Street
Plainfield, IL 60544

The purpose of the meeting will be to provide an update on the study process, present the draft Problem Statement and Purpose and Need, exhibit the initial range of alternatives, discuss the alternative evaluation process and obtain stakeholder feedback. Interested persons may visit anytime between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to watch an audio-visual presentation, review exhibits, comment on the current and future needs and conditions along the project corridor and meet with IDOT and study team members on a one-on-one basis.

This meeting will be accessible to individuals with disabilities. Anyone needing specific assistance should contact Heidi Voirol, V3 Companies (630) 729-6177. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844/or 711; TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/ or 711; and for Telebraille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.

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3rd Party Announcements

In addition to display ads and sending a press release, an effective way to reach stakeholders is to announce the public awareness meeting on various local websites. The display ad and press release were emailed to the below locations for inclusion on their website home page, board meeting agendas, local newsletters, or to forward.

- **Village of Romeoville**
- **Village of Bolingbrook**
- **Village of Plainfield**



Brochure

A four page brochure was distributed at the meeting for all attendees.

PROJECT PLANNING PROCESS

IDOT PROJECTS PROGRESS THROUGH 3 PHASES

PHASE I: Transportation needs and deficiencies will be identified, alternatives will be developed and evaluated, and a preferred plan will be selected and potential Right-of-Way identified.

PHASE II: Detailed Construction Plans will be developed and land will be acquired.

PHASE III: Construction will begin.

WE ARE HERE

PHASE I
Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Study
2011-2013

PHASE II
Contract Plan Preparation
Land Acquisition
18 - 24 MONTHS

PHASE III
Construction
24 - 36 MONTHS

Funding: Phase I of this project is fully funded with Federal and local funding. However, Phases II and III are not currently included in the Department's Proposed Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program but will be considered for inclusion in future programs.

PHASE I STUDY PROCESS

DATA COLLECTION

DEFINE PROBLEM STATEMENT AND PURPOSE & NEED

DEVELOP RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES

DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES TO BE CARRIED FORWARD

REFINE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

APPROVAL OF PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

PUBLIC AND AGENCY COORDINATION

WE ARE HERE

The planning process is based on guidelines prescribed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) which follows the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The first public meeting is meant to identify general issues, develop information on the community context, define the project's Purpose and Need, and to introduce the public involvement process. The Purpose and Need is a statement of the problem to be solved by the project.

During the second public meeting the Purpose and Need are generated, concept alternatives are introduced and feedback is solicited.

The third public meeting is held to present remaining alternatives being considered and to seek stakeholder input. A final public hearing is held to present the preferred alternative for the project.

DRAFT PROBLEM STATEMENT

Forecasted population and employment growth in the Villages of Romeoville, Bolingbrook and Plainfield and unincorporated portions of northwestern Will County will cause a significant increase in travel demand on the local and regional roadway network and at interchanges that provide access to and from I-55.

Provision for traffic to either enter I-55 in a southbound direction or exit I-55 in a northbound direction is unavailable over a six-mile length of the interstate highway between the interchanges located at US Route 30 and at Weber Road. This leads to traffic generated by land uses within the corridor being concentrated at the I-55 interchanges with US Route 30 and Weber Road since both locations have full access in either a northbound or southbound direction.

Improvements are needed to facilitate mobility for vehicular and non-motorized travel within the regional area that will reduce delay and congestion, improve traffic safety and provide full access to and from I-55. Access improvements will be considered while being sensitive to community values and the natural environment of the study corridor.

The Villages of Romeoville, Bolingbrook and Plainfield, along with IDOT, will lead the Phase I Study and Planning process in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

Stakeholder outreach efforts will be performed by the consultant team to ensure the users of I-55 and the surrounding roadway network have the opportunity for meaningful input into the project's development.

DRAFT PURPOSE & NEED

SHARE YOUR OPINION

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU. YOUR COMMENTS ARE IMPORTANT TO THE PROJECT PROCESS. WE ARE SEEKING YOUR INPUT ON THE PROBLEM STATEMENT, IDENTIFIED TRANSPORTATION NEEDS FOR THE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT AND RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES TO BE CONSIDERED.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO VISIT THE EXHIBIT AREA TO REVIEW THE PROJECT DETAILS AND TO MEET WITH THE STUDY TEAM MEMBERS.

The purpose of the proposed action is to provide improved access to Interstate Route 55 (I-55).

- Improve regional connectivity
- Accommodate forecasted growth
- Reduce delay due to adverse travel

WHO IS INVOLVED?

Potential I-55 Improvements

AT AIRPORT ROAD AND AT IL 126/ESSINGTON ROAD

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS & INFORMATION

WE INVITE YOU TO SUBMIT COMMENTS ABOUT THE PROJECT AT THE PUBLIC MEETINGS OR BY MAIL TO:

V3 Companies
Attn: Dave Heslinga, P.E.
Director of Transportation & Municipal Engineering
7325 James Avenue
Woodridge, Illinois 60517
Phone: 630.724.9200
Email: airportand126study@v3.com

COMMENTS ARE WELCOME AT ANY TIME, BUT TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SECOND PUBLIC MEETING RECORD, COMMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JULY 9, 2012.

SECOND PUBLIC MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2012
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM

PLAINFIELD VILLAGE HALL
24401 W. LOCKPORT STREET
PLAINFIELD, IL 60544

WEBSITE: WWW.AIRPORTAND126STUDY.COM



Public Awareness Meeting #2 Summary

The second public meeting for the Potential I-55 Improvements Phase I Study was held on Thursday, June 21, 2012 at the Plainfield Village Hall, 24401 W. Lockport Street, Plainfield, Illinois from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. The meeting was an open house format with a continuous PowerPoint presentation, exhibit boards for review, and a large scale aerial of the study area. Meeting attendees were encouraged to view the current 12 alternatives and leave their feedback. **133 people** signed in at the meeting.

The following public officials were in attendance:

- Village of Plainfield: Brian Murphy, Village Administrator
 - Paul Fay, Village Trustee
 - Bill Lamb, Village Trustee
 - James Racich, Village Trustee
 - Randall Jessen, Superintendent of Public Improvements
 - Allen Persons, Director of Public Works
- Village of Romeoville, John Noak, Mayor
 - Nathan Darga, Senior Planner
- Village of Bolingbrook, Tom Pawlowicz, Assistant to the Director for Engineering
 - James Boan, Village Attorney
- Will County Board, LeAnn Goodson
 - Laurie McPhillips
- Forest Preserve District of Will County – Andrew Hawkins, Superintendent of Planning and Development
 - Laurie McPhillips
- Illinois General Assembly, Rep. Tom Cross (represented by LeeAnn Goodson)
- Illinois State Senate, Senator Pat McGuire

Additional agencies/organizations represented included:

- Plainfield Park District, Cameron Bettin, Greg Bott
- Lakelands Community Homeowners' Association
- League of Illinois Bicyclists, Heath Wright
- Will County Land Use, Colin Duesing
- Will County Highway Department, George Catalano



The following Media were represented:

None

The public comment period after the meeting was open until July 9, 2012. A total of **46 comment forms and 0 additional alternatives to consider** were submitted at the meeting. Another **23 comment forms and 1 additional alternative** were emailed or mailed in. Comments covered a variety of topics with the most predominant themes including:

- Both support and opposition expressed for a possible interchange improvements at Airport Road, IL 126/Essington and 143rd Street.
- Concern over increased traffic near 135th and Essington because of already heavy traffic, the proximity of several schools, neighborhoods and overall safety to the area.
- Concerns were expressed about negative impacts to natural areas.
- Concerns over the impact of a possible interchange to the environment, including air, noise and water pollution, wetland impact, and negative effects to the cultural environment
- The effect on property values was questioned