

WELCOME

I-55 at IL 59 Access Project


PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

Joliet Junior College
September 14, 2017
4:00 to 7:00 PM

 Illinois Department
of Transportation

JOLIET

www.i55atil59accessproject.org



Narrative:

The Illinois Department of Transportation, in partnership with the City of Joliet, welcomes you to the first Public Meeting for the preliminary engineering and environmental studies of I-55, from I-80 to US 52, through western Will County.

Your participation in tonight's meeting will help identify and define future local and regional improvements within the project study area.

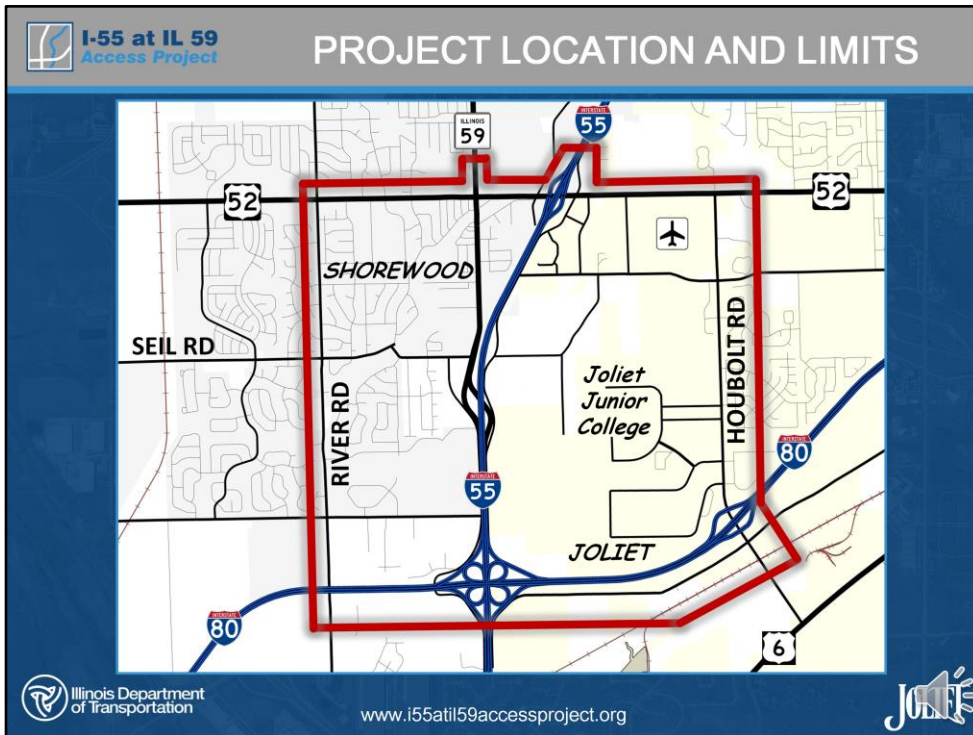


The focus and purpose of tonight's initial public meeting is to:

- Explain the study process and schedule
- Become familiar with the project study area
- Solicit input on transportation issues and needs
- Meet members of the project study team
- Seek volunteers to be on the Community Advisory Group (CAG) team

The focus and purpose of tonight's initial public meeting is to:

- Explain the study process and schedule
- Become familiar with the project study area
- Solicit input on transportation issues and needs
- Meet with members of the project study team
- Seek volunteers to be on the Community Advisory Group team



The I-55 at IL 59 Access Project is centered along Interstate 55, but considers an extended study area which is inclusive of both regional and local roadway networks which work together to meet transportation needs.


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 in the Village of Shorewood and City of Joliet.

This study focuses on:

- **Identifying** transportation and safety issues
- **Developing** alternatives to address these transportation and safety issues
- **Evaluating** impacts associated with each alternative
- **Refining** alternatives which best meet project needs
- **Recommending** a preferred alternative


This study focuses on:

- Identifying transportation and safety issues
- Developing alternatives to address these transportation and safety issues
- Evaluating impacts associated with each alternative
- Refining alternatives which best meet project needs and
- Recommending a preferred alternative




THREE PHASES

Phase I	Phase II	Phase III
Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study	Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition	Construction
<i>Currently Funded</i>	<i>Not Currently Funded</i>	<i>Not Currently Funded</i>



www.i55atil59accessproject.org



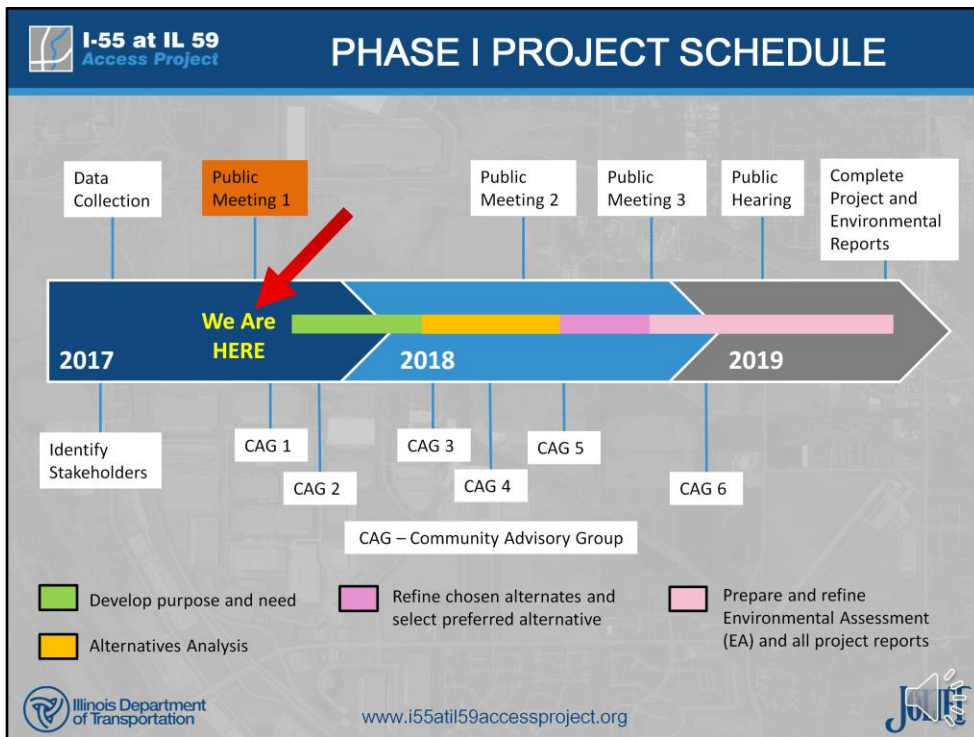
IDOT Projects are typically implemented in three separate and distinct phases.

Phase I includes preliminary engineering and environmental study. During this phase, issues are identified, any 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 for the project and improvements.

Phase III is the actual project construction that is most visible to the public.

Phase I is currently funded through a cost participation agreement between IDOT and the City of Joliet. Phase II and Phase III are not currently funded.



The Phase I study has many steps and stages throughout its process.

The timeline presented reflects key milestone stages and opportunities for stakeholders to interact and provide input.

As you can see, we are at the very start of the Phase I project with its introduction at this first Public Meeting.

The timeline identifies three public meetings and final public hearing. It identifies project working group or stakeholder meetings, defined later in this presentation as Community Advisory Group meetings, with a total of six meetings anticipated. It also notes the milestone stages from the initial Data collection efforts through successful completion of project and environmental studies.



This project will utilize an extensive public involvement and awareness process, referred to as Context Sensitive Solutions, or CSS.

The CSS process is designed to provide all stakeholders a wide range of opportunities to be actively engaged and provide meaningful input toward and during the study, as well as receive updates on the study as it progresses. The following few slides describe key tools utilized in the CSS process to gain public input.


- **Public Meetings and Hearing**
- **Community Advisory Group**
 - A group of stakeholders with varied interests
 - Meet at key points within the project
 - Review, discuss and offer input
 - Meet in 6 anticipated daytime workshops for two hours



Tools utilized within the CSS process include:

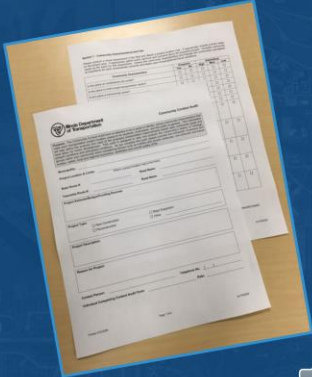
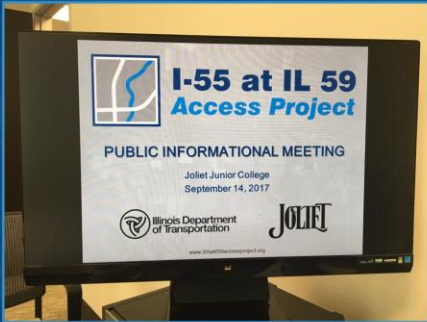
Public Meetings such as tonight. Two additional public meetings and one public hearing are planned throughout the study duration


Community Advisory Group – As its title suggests, a group of stakeholders with varied interests will be formed to meet at key points within the project to review, discuss and offer input toward addressing project goals. The Community Advisory Group will meet in the form of 6 anticipated daytime workshops, typically for 2 hours per workshop. In the next room, you can find out about how to sign up and be a part of the Community Advisory Group.

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


ADDITIONAL CSS TOOLS

- Community Context Audit / Project Survey
- Project Website



 Illinois Department of Transportation

www.i55atil59accessproject.org



Additional tools utilized in the CSS process which are available and accessible tonight are:

- A Community Context Audit, or more simply a project survey of understood transportation and drainage issues, goals and suggestions.

A project dedicated website where tonight's and future study exhibits, presentation and other documents can be found.

The website also offers a portal for direct posting of comments to the Project Study Team.

The website address is included in the brochure handout where you signed in.


I-55 at IL 59
NEPA



National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, simply referred to as NEPA

NEPA is Federal Law and Policy on the Environment

Study Elements to be Evaluated

- Socio-Economics
- Air and Noise
- Farmlands
- Parklands
- Water Resources
- Threatened & Endangered Species
- Cultural & Archaeological Resources





www.i55atil59accessproject.org


This I-55 Phase I Study will be performed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, which we will commonly and simply refer to as NEPA moving forward in this presentation.

NEPA is the federal law which outlines policies to identify, evaluate and consider the environment and the effects any improvement will have on it.

Study elements to be evaluated relative to the NEPA policy include:

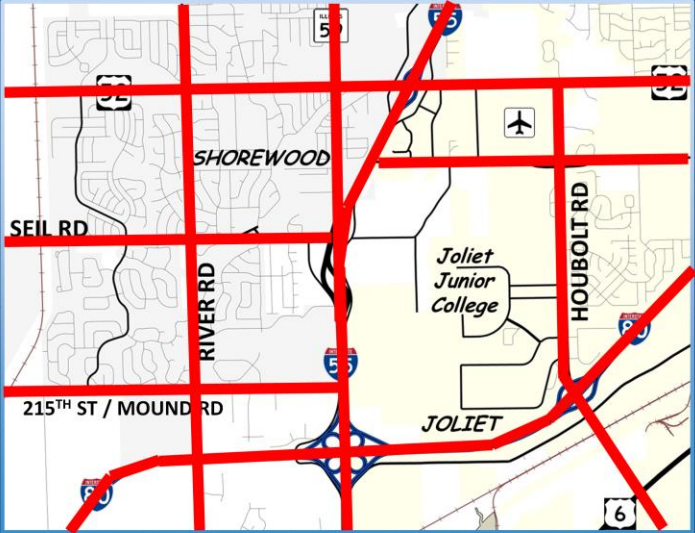
- Socio Economics
- Air and Noise
- Farmlands
- Parklands
- Water Resources
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Cultural and Archaeological Resources




I-55 at IL 59
Access Project

STUDY AREA CHARACTERISTICS


- Located within Joliet & Shorewood
- Western Will County region with widespread growth
- Study area:
2.5 miles length
2.5 miles width
- Major roadways:
 - I-55
 - I-80
 - US 52
 - IL 59
 - Houbolt Rd
 - River Rd
 - McDonough St
 - Seil Rd
 - Mound Rd / 215th






Illinois Department
of Transportation

www.i55atil59accessproject.org



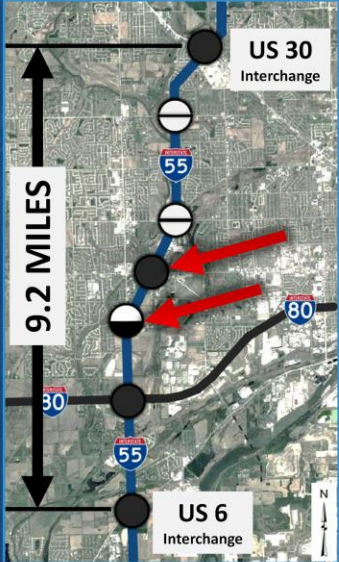
The Project Study is located in the City of Joliet and Village of Shorewood, with respective populations of approximately 150,000 and 16,000 residents. Western Will County is a region with continual growth. The study area is 2.5 miles in length and width. Major roadways within the project study area include I-55, I-80, US 52, IL 59, Houbolt Road, River Road, McDonough Street, Seil Road and Mound Road, also known as 215th Street.




I-55 at IL 59
Access Project

STUDY AREA CHARACTERISTICS


- Central portion of a 9.2 mile segment of I-55
- Interchange at US 52 with I-55 access to/from ALL directions
- Interchange at IL 59 with I-55 access to/from south only
- Heavy traffic volumes on US 52 and IL 59
- Notable crash history along US 52 and above average crash rates





Illinois Department
of Transportation

www.i55atil59accessproject.org



This study is focused on the central portion of a larger 9.2 mile I-55 system segment, from US 6 to US 30.

Within the 9.2 mile segment, there is only one full access interchange located at US 52, which allows access for ALL directions between I-55 and US 52. There also is one partial access interchange at IL 59 and I-55, which allows access between I-55 and IL 59 to and from the south only.

US 52 and IL 59 both experience high traffic volumes and congestion. US 52 also has a notable crash history, and an above average crash rate for the State of Illinois for its facility type.

Exhibits in the adjoining room provide additional crash details for the entire study area.

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



Hammel Woods *Rock Run Floodplain and Wetlands* *Trails and Natural Areas*



Joliet Airport Hangar

Illinois Department of Transportation www.i55atil59accessproject.org JOLIET

A preliminary environmental inventory of resources has been identified; however, a full, robust study of ALL environmental resources will be evaluated through the previously described NEPA process.

Environmental Resources identified to date include:

Hammel Woods, Colvin Grove and Rock Run Forest Preserves, trails and natural areas within Forest Preserves and Joliet Junior College, wetlands and floodplains along both the DuPage River and Rock Run and their tributaries, and recreational and wildlife in the project study area.

The NEPA process also includes evaluation of impacts to potential historic resources. Within the project study area, an airport hangar built in the 1930's is located at the Joliet Airport, and is listed in the National Registry Of Historic Places

- Review Exhibit Boards
- Complete Project Survey
- Consider joining the Community Advisory Group



Please take your time to review the exhibits and materials in the adjoining room, and feel free to ask questions of the Project Study Team.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the project survey to help us identify drainage and transportation needs. The project survey may also be completed remotely through the project website at i55atil59accessproject.org

and

Please consider joining the Community Advisory Group. You may sign up in the exhibit hall.



I-55 at IL 59
Access Project

THANK YOU



Illinois Department
of Transportation



JOLIET



www.i55atil59accessproject.org

The Illinois Department of Transportation, and our partner, the City of Joliet, thanks you for taking the time to attend tonight and providing valuable insight and input to the process.