



INTERSTATE 55 RECONSTRUCTION DESIGN STUDY & ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

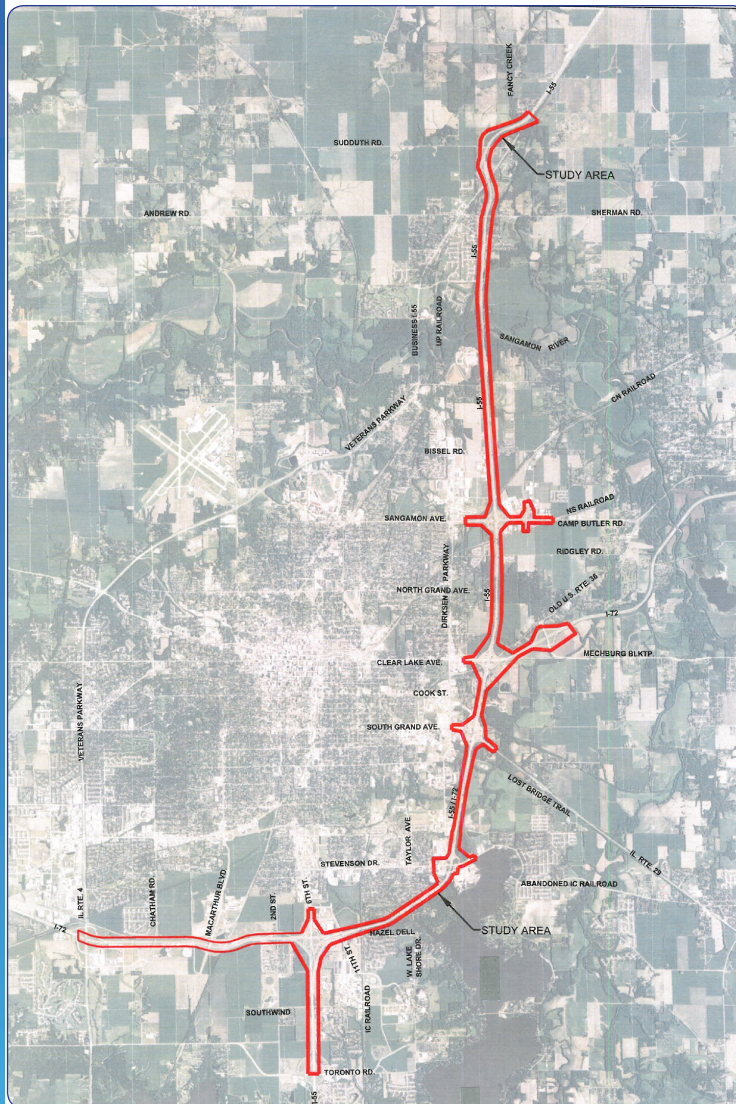
NEWSLETTER

Issue #2 Spring 2014

NUMEROUS ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPED TO IMPROVE CAPACITY AND SAFETY

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and its consulting team, Hanson Professional Services Inc., initially developed nearly 30 alternatives for mainline I-55 and the interchanges at Sixth Street, Stevenson Drive, South Grand Avenue, Clear Lake Avenue, and Sangamon Avenue. However after careful evaluation, these alternatives were narrowed down based on those that best satisfy the project's purpose and need, which is to provide safer, more efficient and more reliable travel for motorists. This project is needed because the corridor's existing capacity is insufficient to adequately support future traffic volumes.

For mainline I-55, one alternative is being proposed for further study and it consists of three lanes in each direction with a barrier median. Collector-distributor roads (C-D roads) will be used in two locations. A C-D road is an auxiliary roadway parallel to and separated from the main travelled way, which serves entering and exiting traffic from several access points. C-D roads reduce congestion and improve safety at interchanges, plus they have a lower posted speed limit than the mainline.



At Sixth Street, South Grand Avenue, and Clear Lake Avenue, there are two interchange alternatives being carried forward for further study at each location. For Stevenson Drive and Sangamon Avenue, there are three interchange alternatives being carried forward for further study at each location. Cost estimates and impacts have been compiled for each interchange alternative and they, along with the alternatives, will be presented at the June 3 public informational meeting. The alternatives will also be posted to the study's website (www.i55Springfield.com) after the second public meeting.



STUDY TIMELINE

Year	Quarter	Activity
2011	Q1	
	Q2	
	Q3	Study Begins
	Q4	Public Meeting #1
2012	Q1	Environmental Studies Begin
	Q2	Engineering Studies Begin
	Q3	Purpose & Need Alternatives Developed
	Q4	
2013	Q1	Alternative Analysis & Engineering Studies Continue
	Q2	Public Meeting #2
	Q3	Preferred Alternative Selected
	Q4	
2015	Q1	Environmental Assessment Review
	Q2	Public Hearing
	Q3	Final EA Submitted to FHWA
	Q4	

"Q" refers to the quarter of the year in which the activity is scheduled to take place

FHWA refers to the Federal Highway Administration



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

Region 4, District 6
126 East Ash
Springfield, IL 62704

I-55 RECONSTRUCTION

IDOT TO PRESENT ALTERNATIVES FOR I-55/I-72 AT JUNE 3 PUBLIC MEETING

Several potential alternatives for improving I-55 and I-72 around Springfield will be presented at an upcoming public informational meeting hosted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). This meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2014 from 4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. at the Route 66 Hotel and Conference Center, located at 625 East St. Joseph Street in Springfield, Illinois. There will be no formal presentation. You are welcome to stop by anytime to view the alternatives and provide your feedback.

The public informational meeting is the next step in the I-55 Reconstruction Design Study and Environmental Assessment. The study area now includes not only I-55 from south of the Sixth Street interchange to north of the Sherman interchange, but also a three-mile section of I-72 from the Sixth Street interchange west to Veterans Parkway (IL Route 4) and from Clear Lake Avenue to Camp Butler Road. I-72 was added because it also needs more capacity. Instead of doing a separate study, it was more cost-effective to include it as part of the I-55 study. The study's goal remains developing improvements to reduce congestion and improve public safety along the corridor.

Following the public informational meeting, IDOT will review attendees' feedback and select a preferred alternative for each of the study area's five affected interchanges. It will then present its recommendations to the Federal Highway Administration for review. A public hearing on the preferred alternatives will likely be held next spring.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit: www.i55springfield.com

Email: contact@i55springfield.com

Call: IDOT - Sal Madonia, Acting Studies & Plans Engineer, at (217) 782-4760

