

55th Street

Wolf Road to Brainard Avenue

Wednesday, August 24, 2016
4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Pleasantview Fire Protection
District – Headquarters Building
1970 W. Plainfield Road
La Grange Highlands, IL 60525



The 55th Street study area is located in Cook County Illinois, and extends through the Villages of Western Springs and La Grange, the City of Countryside and unincorporated La Grange Highlands, from Wolf Road on the west to Brainard Avenue on the east.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) is nearing completion of a Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study (Phase I) for the proposed improvement of 55th Street from Wolf Road to Brainard Avenue.

This public hearing provides an opportunity for interested persons to learn about the project, review project information and the proposed roadway improvements, ask questions of the project study team, and provide comments.

After this public hearing, comments received will be evaluated and included in the final Project Report. The Phase I study is anticipated to be completed in 2016.

PROJECT HISTORY

- In 1998, Joliet Road was closed between East Avenue and 55th Street due to safety and structural integrity concerns.
- On May 17, 2010, the State of Illinois was awarded 40 million dollars in a settlement with Vulcan Materials as a result of the Joliet Road closure.
- Later that year the Department revisited a 2003 Traffic Impact Study of this area to determine how to mitigate traffic impacts from the closure. *(continues on next page)*

The purpose of this project is to provide an **improved transportation system for 55th Street** for current travel conditions.

- Enhance safety for all users
- Address issues of roadway and intersection operation efficiency
- Improve mobility and connectivity
- Improve the overall condition and design of 55th Street



(continued from page 1)

- The updated study, known as the Joliet Road Feasibility Study, identified and analyzed intersections and roadway segments in the study area to determine how safety and capacity could be improved.
- This information helped to group intersection improvements by priority based on safety issues, opportunities to improve capacity, and proximity of the improvement to the Joliet Road closure.
- The status of projects in the area is shown in the table below.

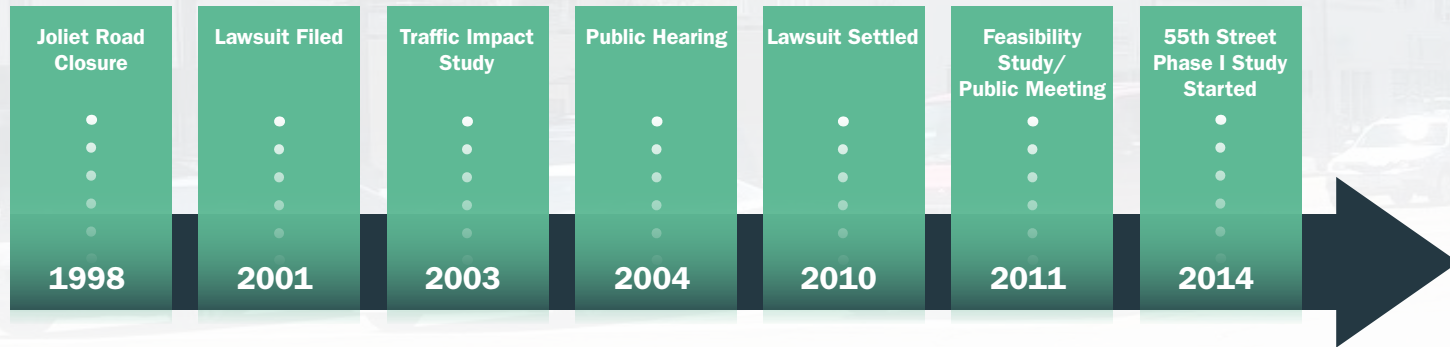
55th Street from Wolf Road to Brainard Avenue

The Average Daily Traffic volumes along the segment are 21,000 vehicles per day.

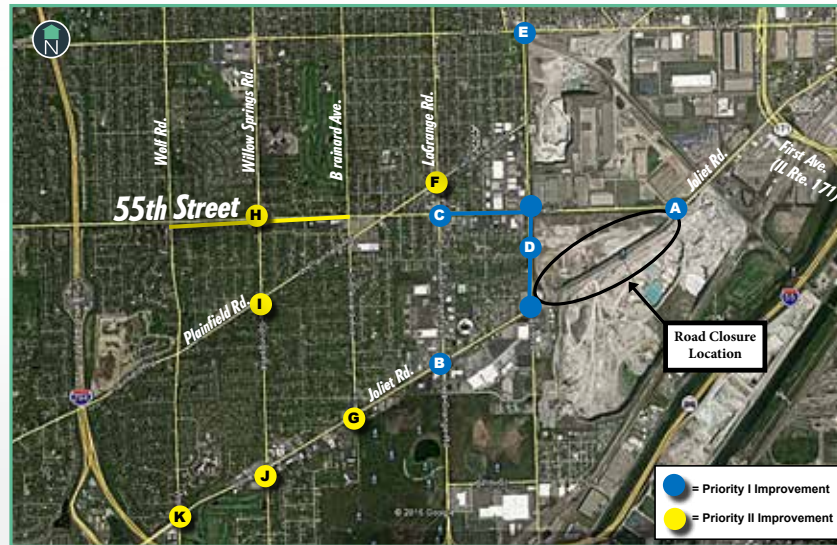
Safety concerns and travel delays have been experienced due to increased traffic volumes and lack of channelization. There were **180 crashes from 2009 through 2013** resulting in **54 injuries**. The predominant crash types are **rear-end crashes (47%)** and **turning crashes (27%)**.

The majority of the crashes can be attributed to the high number of turning vehicles and lack of turn lanes along the corridor. With the addition of turn lanes, flush median and improved pedestrian accommodations, the proposed improvements will address the safety and operational needs along the entire length of the study.

This project is not included in the Department's FY 2017-2022 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. However, the Department remains committed to funding 40 million dollars in highway improvements in this area. Including engineering, land acquisitions, construction, and construction engineering. Construction and preconstruction activities will continue to be prioritized for inclusion in the future Highway Improvement Programs as projects are developed and readied for construction.



Recommended Improvements From Feasibility Study



Priority I Improvements			
Location	Community	Project Status	
A. Joliet Road at 55th Street	McCook	Phase II Ongoing	
B. US 12/20/45 (LaGrange Road) at Joliet Road	Countryside/Hodgkins	Construction Complete	
C. 55th Street at US 12/20/45 (LaGrange Road to East Avenue)	Countryside	Phase I Ongoing	
D. East Avenue from Joliet Road to 55th Street	Countryside/Hodgkins/McCook	Phase II Ongoing	
E. 47th Street at East Avenue	Brookfield/LaGrange/McCook	Phase I Ongoing	

Priority II Improvements			
Location	Community	Project Status	
F. US 12/20/45 (LaGrange Road) at Plainfield Road	Countryside/LaGrange	Phase II Ongoing	
G. Joliet Road at Brainard Avenue	Countryside	Phase I Ongoing	
H. 55th Street from Wolf Road to Brainard Avenue	Western Springs/LaGrange/Countryside/Unincorporated LaGrange Highlands	Phase I Ongoing	
I. Plainfield Road at Willow Springs Road	Countryside	Phase II Ongoing	
J. Joliet Road at Willow Springs Road	Countryside/Indian Head Park	Under Construction	
K. Joliet Road at Wolf Road	Indian Head Park	Construction Complete	

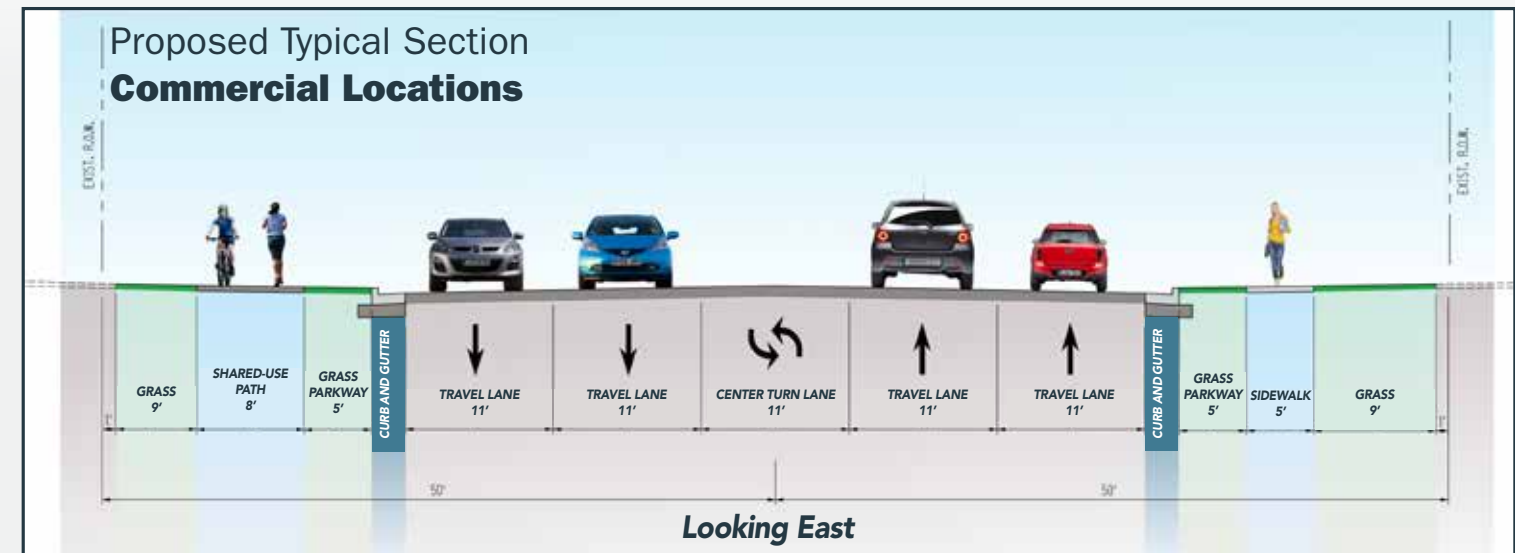
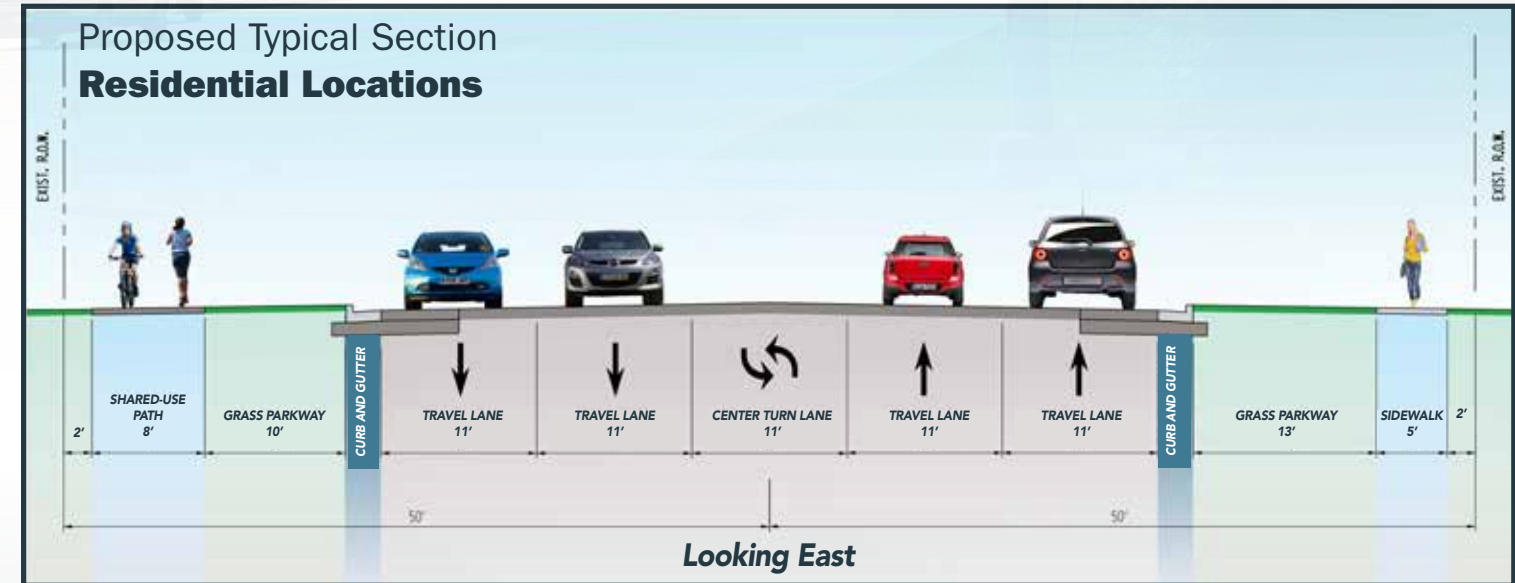
NOTE: PHASE I - Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Study
PHASE II - Contract Plan Preparation & Land Acquisition

The Future of 55th Street

The proposed roadway improvements include:

- **Widening and resurfacing of 55th Street to add a median to separate the existing opposing traffic lanes and to provide safe storage of left-turning vehicles**
- **New 8-foot shared-use path on the north side of 55th Street from Wolf Road to Stone Avenue**
New shared-use path compliments CMAP's Regional Greenways and Trails Plan and Village of Western Springs Mobility Plan. The path is proposed beyond the project limits to provide connection to St. Cletus School.
- **New 5-foot sidewalk on the south side of the roadway between Laurel Avenue and Willow Springs Road**
Between Willow Springs Road and Brainard Avenue sidewalk improvements will be performed, where necessary, to meet current standards
- **Exclusive southbound right turn lane at the Willow Springs Road intersection**
- **Exclusive left turn lanes on the 55th Street at the Laurel Avenue, Edgewood Avenue, and Calle View Drive intersections**
- **Drainage improvements will include new drainage structures at the new curb and gutter locations, new storm sewer pipes and laterals, oversized storm sewer pipes for detention and extension of the existing culvert under 55th Street west of Edgewood Avenue.** This location is included in an ongoing study by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District to address drainage issues throughout the local communities
- **Add pedestrian signals and crosswalks**
- **Replacing traffic signals at Wolf Road, Laurel Avenue, Willow Springs Road and Brainard Avenue**

Local cost participation and maintenance is required for new sidewalk/paths, traffic signals and emergency pre-emption devices.



Project Phases and Next Steps



Feasibility Study
2010-2011

Phase I
Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Study

WE ARE HERE

**PHASE I COMPLETION
ANTICIPATED IN 2016**



Phase II
Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition
(Typically 18-24 months)

Phase III
Construction



This location was included in the Joliet Road Feasibility Study which evaluated roadway improvements to mitigate traffic impacts from the closure of Joliet Road. This project is not included in the Department's FY 2017-2022 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. However, the Department remains committed to funding 40 million dollars in highway improvements in this area, including engineering, land acquisition, construction, and construction engineering. Construction and preconstruction activities will continue to be prioritized for inclusion in future Highway Improvement Programs as projects are developed and readied for construction.

3 TYPES OF LAND ACQUISITION

Fee Simple Acquisition-

or the acquisition of all rights and interest of real property.

Permanent Easements-

where underlying ownership is retained by the property owner, but access is permanently allowed during and after construction for maintenance of facilities such as drainage structures.

Temporary Easements-

where underlying ownership is retained by the property owner but access is temporarily allowed only during construction for items such as grading work, driveway construction, and landscaping restoration.



Land Acquisition Process

Land acquisition is required for this project. It includes Fee Simple acquisition of **0.071 acres from 9 parcels** and Temporary Easement of **0.401 acres from 13 parcels**. The Land Acquisition process will follow the Federal Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Act. The Department can begin the land acquisition process for the 55th Street Wolf Road to Brainard Avenue project once funding is identified in a future multi-year program.

The Department's Land Acquisition process involves the following sequence of steps:

1. The ownership of the property is confirmed;
2. A plat of survey drawing is prepared to show the dimensions and amount of property that is being acquired;
3. An independent appraisal is made to determine the fair market value of the property to be acquired;
4. Negotiations begin with an offer to acquire the necessary property at the appraised value;
5. If a settlement cannot be reached, the matter is referred to the courts for acquisition under the law of eminent domain.

Project Questions and Comments



Written comments and questions may be submitted during the public hearing, emailed to or mailed to the Department no later than September 14, 2016 in order to become part of the official public hearing record. The correspondence should be addressed to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
201 W. Center Court

Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

Attn: Bureau of Programming

Ken Yang, P.E.

Or submit via email:

55thstreetproject@gec-group.com



Illinois Department of Transportation