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.

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
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, rush 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.

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 64 injuries. The predominant crash types are rear-end crashes (47%) and turning crashes (27%).

Recommended Improvements

From Feasibility Study

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 complements IAP-W’s Regional Greenways and Trail 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 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 curb, and 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 sidewalks/pavements, traffic signals and emergency pre-emption devices.

Proposed Typical Section

Residential Locations

Proposed Typical Section

Commercial Locations

Location

Priority I Improvements

Priority II Improvements

Location

Priority I Improvements

Priority II Improvements

Location

Priority I Improvements

Priority II Improvements

Location

Priority I Improvements

Priority II Improvements

NOTE

PHASE 1: Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Study

PHASE 2: Contract Plan Preparation & Land Acquisition
**Proposed Typical Section**

**Residential Locations**

**Project Phases and Next Steps**

- **Feasibility Study**
  - 2010-2011

- **Phase I**
  - Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Study

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

- **Phase III**
  - Construction

**WE ARE HERE**

**PHASE I COMPLETION**

**ANTICIPATED IN 2016**

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.

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.

**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

**Project Questions and Comments**