

# Preliminary work kicks off Butterfield Road widening

By [Jenn Zimmerman](#) Tribune reporter Thursday at 3:44 p.m.

A collection of state politicians and local officials joined Illinois Transportation Secretary Gary Hannig Thursday in the official roll out of a two-year road construction project that will convert Butterfield Road into a four-lane, divided highway.

Currently a two-lane heavily traveled street, the \$69.8 million project will expand the roadway through Wheaton and Warrenville from Naperville Road to Illinois Route 59. Construction is not expected to begin until the spring, although some preliminary work has already started following the recent removal of several trees along Butterfield Road.

“It’s been 10 years in the making,” Hannig said.

Touted as a project that will improve safety and ease congestion, the improvements are being financed through a mix of federal, state and local dollars. The federal portion is leveraged through the Illinois Jobs Now capital program. The \$31 billion economic initiative is meant to kick start Illinois’ lagging job market. The project is expected to create or retain 910 construction jobs.

“Finally we are here and it is clear it is going to happen,” said Warrenville Mayor David Brummel.

DuPage County Board Chairman Bob Schillerstrom joined Brummel in his excitement about the Butterfield Road project, which he said will not only improve safety but also allow for an easier commute for the more than 26,000 travelers who utilize the road each day.

Two lanes will be added in each direction and include dedicated turn lanes and modernized traffic signals at all major intersections to improve access to businesses and residential areas. One of those intersections may include the entrance to the Arrowhead Golf Club, which some neighboring residents have raised concerns about because of congestion in the area.

Hannig said the state is currently conducting an engineering study to determine the level of traffic in the area and whether it warrants a stoplight.

“That proposal is under review by Springfield at this time,” he said.

Bridges over the DuPage River’s west branch and Ferry Creek also are on track to be replaced, and federal grants were awarded to build a bicycle trail to run alongside the road.

IDOT spokesman Guy Tridgell said a lane in each direction will remain open at all times during the length of the project, with construction beginning on the eastbound lanes.

The expected completion date is November 2012.