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# Share your views on proposed Morrison bypass

The Illinois Department of Transportation wants the public to comment on two proposed bypass routes that would take a new four-lane U.S. Route 30 around Morrison. Today's the day to do it in person during a 6-hour open house.

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By the Sauk Valley Media Editorial Board



Widening a 24-mile stretch of U.S. Route 30 to four lanes between Rock Falls and Fulton has been talked about since 1967 – well before the personal computer age.



Now, here in the second decade of the 21st century, the Illinois Department of Transportation has a website devoted exclusively to the project.

Go online to [www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/us-30-fulton-to-rock-falls](http://www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/us-30-fulton-to-rock-falls), and you will find more information about it than you can shake a stick at.

Today is an important day in the process.

IDOT plans an open house from 1 to 7 p.m. at Odell Public Library, 307 S. Madison St., Morrison.

People can visit the open house, view

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exhibits and maps and various documents, and learn more about where the project stands.

The open house is in Morrison for a reason.

IDOT has developed two possible bypasses, one that goes north of the city, and the other that goes south. That way, motorists whose destination is not Morrison can avoid the slowdown of driving through town at 30 mph.

The casual motorist may not care which bypass route is chosen.

That's not the case for Morrison area residents.

The selection of a route could be a life-changing experience for many. Homes, farms and property in the way of the bypass will have to be acquired by the state, and affected people will have to move elsewhere.

The same process occurred decades ago with construction of major interstate highways that people today travel regularly without giving much thought to those who were displaced.

The good thing is that the process today, with public open houses and information posted online, appears to be much more open.

Along with commenting in person today at the Morrison library, people can share their views until Nov. 10 via the project's website; through voicemail at 866-768-8330; and by regular mail: write to Paul A. Loete, IDOT, 819 Depot Ave., Dixon, IL 61021.

The Route 30 widening project has been

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financed only through Phase I, the current environmental impact statement and design report portion. No money has been secured for Phase II, which includes land acquisition, final design, and construction bid documents, or Phase III, construction.

We encourage people to attend today's open house and let IDOT know what you think.

 **Comments**

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