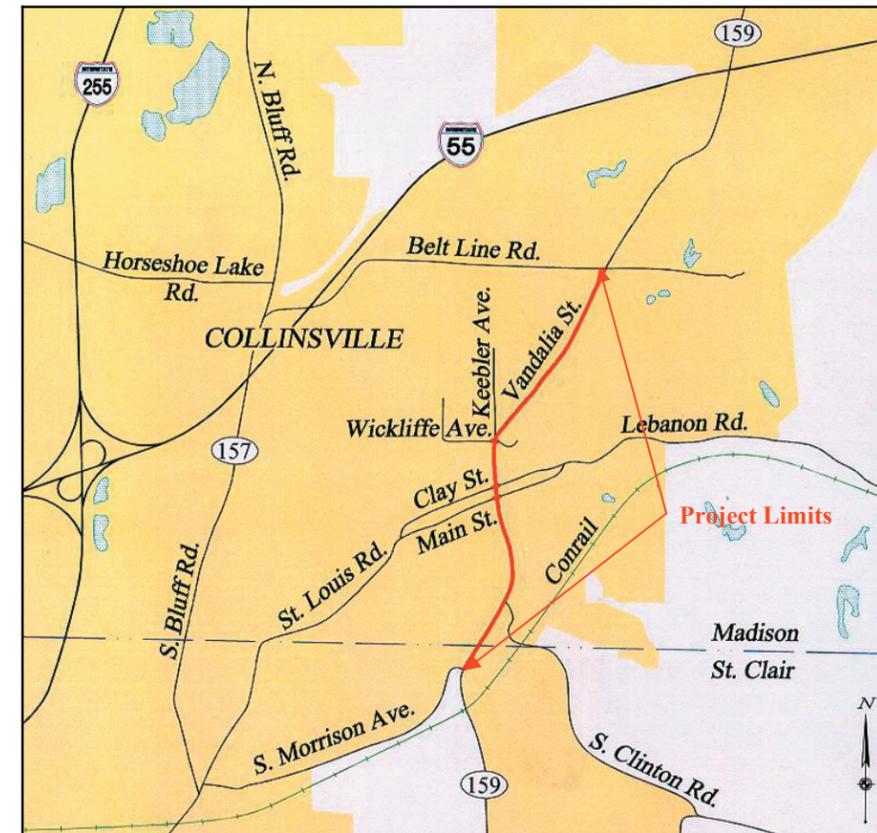


OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

Illinois Route 159 From South Morrison Avenue to Belt Line Road

Place: American Legion Hall
Date: June 19, 2007

City, State: Collinsville, Illinois
Time: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



~ An "Open House" Format Will Be Utilized~

~ No Formal Presentation Will Be Made ~

~ All Comments Accepted ~



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**
Division of Highways/District 8
1102 Eastport Plaza Drive
Collinsville, Illinois 62234



Illinois Department of Transportation

OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

Illinois Route 159

From South Morrison Avenue to Belt Line Road

Madison/St. Clair County, Illinois

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the open house public meeting for the improvement of Illinois Route 159 from South Morrison Avenue to Belt Line Road in Collinsville. Personnel from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the consulting firms of Volkert & Associates and Bernardin, Lochmueller & Associates are here to discuss the project, explain the proposed preliminary design alternatives, and answer your questions and receive your comments regarding the proposed improvements.

AGENDA

This meeting is being held in an “open house” format to allow informal discussions between the public and study team members throughout the session. Participants are also encouraged to submit written comments about the project. Written statements may be given to us today or may be mailed to the Project Study Team within 10 days of this meeting. A comment form is provided in this handout for your use. Also, a tape recorder is available for oral comments.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of tonight’s meeting is to share with the public the preliminary design alternatives for Illinois Route 159 that have been developed through public involvement efforts and the preliminary engineering and environmental studies. This project has been broken down into the following three major segments:

- SOUTH SEGMENT – South Morrison Avenue to Church Street
- CENTER SEGMENT – Church Street to Park Avenue/Spring Avenue
- NORTH SEGMENT – Park Avenue/Spring Avenue to Belt Line Road

Each of these segments is on display and clearly labeled for this meeting. Three alternatives are being shown for the South Segment, one for the Center Segment, and two for the North Segment. A number of “sub-alternates” are also being presented to address some areas of local concern within the segments. Please feel free to comment on the individual segments or on the project as a whole.

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to improve the capacity and safety of the section of Illinois Route 159 from South Morrison Avenue to Belt Line Road (approximately 2.7 miles). Traffic volumes along this section of Illinois Route 159 ranged from 17,500 to 20,900 vehicles per day in 2005 and are expected to increase by approximately 50% by the year 2032. The community is already experiencing congestion and this problem will continue to worsen as the volumes increase. Safety is also a major concern for this section of roadway. 369 crashes and 155 injuries were reported from 2004 through 2006. IDOT needs to make improvements to reduce congestion and to reduce the number of crashes.

The scope of this project will be to widen and resurface Illinois Route 159 along its existing alignment. In addition to adding a through lane in each direction, intersections will be improved, additional turn lanes will be provided where necessary, and entrances will be closed where feasible to improve traffic mobility and safety. It is anticipated that drainage will be enclosed in storm sewer where feasible. Existing sidewalks will be replaced and IDOT will work with the City of Collinsville to determine possible locations for new sidewalk. Some intersections will be studied to determine if additional traffic signals are required. The construction cost for this project, excluding right of way acquisition and utility relocation, is estimated at \$20 million.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS

IDOT has taken a “new” approach to the Illinois Route 159 project. IDOT is applying its Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) policy to this project. The formal policy may be reviewed online at <http://www.dot.state.il.us/css/home.html>. The basic tenets of the CSS policy require that IDOT:

- Involve all stakeholders early and often in the project development process
- Consider the “context” of the community when making roadway improvements
- Consider multi-modal solutions to transportation problems

IDOT has worked very hard to identify and include all of the stakeholders in the development of alternatives for the Illinois Route 159 project. IDOT started this process by identifying stakeholders at the beginning of the project and conducting meetings with these organizations to inform them about the project and obtain input from them. This process continued through the first public involvement meeting conducted in February of 2006. In May of 2006, IDOT formed the Community Advisory Group (CAG) from the stakeholder organizations to serve as a line of communication between IDOT and the community as a whole. This group is formed from organizations with an interest in the project and includes neighborhood organizations, business development organizations, churches, and the local government. The CAG worked with the Project Study Team to help define the community’s context, to communicate the community’s various perspectives on proposed alternatives, and to help prioritize the community’s needs. The CAG’s efforts were critical in the development of the alternatives prepared for tonight’s meeting.

Members of the Community Advisory Group (CAG) have volunteered to be available at tonight’s meeting to answer your questions regarding their role and their input in the project development process. Please feel free to ask them questions or thank them for the time and effort that they have volunteered to serve the community. The CAG members are at the table marked “Community Advisory Group”.

WHAT’S NEXT?

The Illinois Route 159 project is in the middle of the Location and Environment Study (Phase I). This phase of the project includes the engineering and environmental study of potential alternatives to address traffic congestion and safety within the Illinois Route 159 corridor. The alternatives presented tonight will be evaluated based on how well it meets the project purpose and need, its potential affect on the environment, residences and businesses, how it improves the transportation system with regard to safety and mobility, and feedback from the public. At the conclusion of this phase, the Project Study team will have completed the necessary engineering and environmental studies to select the “preferred” alternative.

It is anticipated that the Project Study Team will be presenting the “preferred” alternative at another public involvement meeting in 2008.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FUNDING

IDOT plans, designs and constructs projects in three phases. Phase I is the preliminary engineering and environmental study of the project, Phase II is the preparation of the final design and construction documents and right-of-way acquisition, and Phase III is the actual construction of the project. The Project Study Team’s goal is to complete Phase I by 2008. It is estimated that Phase II will require approximately 24 months, and Phase III will require approximately 36 months. The relocation of utilities required for the construction of this project may affect the length of time required to complete this project.

Land acquisition can begin after Phase I is completed, but no funding is available at this time. Construction (Phase III) is not currently funded in the Department’s FY 08-13 Proposed Highway Improvement Program and cannot begin until that funding is in place.