

OPEN HOUSE PUBLIC MEETING

Illinois Route 3

From North Market Street to Vandebrook Drive

Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the public meeting for the improvement of Illinois Route 3 in Waterloo. Personnel from the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the consulting firm of Horner & Shifrin, Inc. are here to discuss the project, explain the proposed preferred design alternatives, answer your questions and receive your comments regarding the preferred 4 lane improvements being presented.

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 at the address on the front of this brochure by September 30, 2011. A comment form is provided in this handout for your use.

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of tonight’s meeting is to share with the public the preferred design alternative(s) for Illinois Route 3 that have been developed through public involvement efforts and the preliminary engineering studies. This project has been broken down into the following three major segments:

- North Segment – North Market Street to Illinois Avenue
- Central Segment – Illinois Avenue to South Library Street
- South Segment – South Library Street to Vandebrook Drive

Each of these segments is on display and clearly labeled for this meeting. Two alternatives are being shown for the South Segment, one for the Central Segment and one for the North Segment. Please feel free to comment on the individual segments or on the project as a whole.

PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT

The purpose of this project is to improve the capacity and safety of the Illinois Route 3 section from North Market Street to Vandebrook Drive. This is needed due to:

- Projected Increase in Traffic Volumes- *12,500 to 20,800 vehicles per day in 2010 are expected to increase to approximately 16,650 to 27,650 by the year 2034.*
- Frequency of Crashes - *A total of 348 crashes and 92 injuries were reported from 2003 through 2009.*

The problem, developed by IDOT and assisted by the Community Advisory Group (CAG), is that Illinois Route 3 has poor intersection performance and traffic congestion which will continue to worsen as the volumes increase. IDOT needs to make improvements to improve safety by reducing congestion and reducing the number of crashes.

PROJECT SCOPE

The projected (20 year) traffic dictates the need for additional lanes on Illinois Route 3. In addition, intersections will be improved and additional turn lanes may be provided where necessary to improve traffic mobility and safety. A new traffic signal will be provided at Illinois Avenue. Drainage will remain in open ditches for the majority of the project limits.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND CONTEXT SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS (CSS)

IDOT is applying its Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) policy to this project. The formal policy may be reviewed online at www.dot.state.il.us/css/home.html. CSS is an interdisciplinary approach that seeks to:

- Engage all stakeholders through early, frequent and meaningful communication in the project development process;
- Consider the “context” of the community when developing, building and maintaining roadway improvements; and
- Consider multi-modal solutions to transportation issues.

IDOT and the Project Study Team have endeavored to include all stakeholders in the development of alternatives for the Illinois Route 3 project. This process included:

- Individual stakeholder meetings
- Forming a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to serve as a line of communication between IDOT and the project stakeholders and community as a whole. It includes neighborhood organizations, commuters, business development organizations and the local government.
- Receiving input from the CAG to 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 “preferred” alternatives prepared and displayed at tonight’s meeting.

NOISE - A FACTOR TO CONSIDER

In the development of some projects, it is now necessary to analyze, identify, and evaluate the potential impacts the project will involve. There are procedures for these analyses that include determining if noise abatement (reduction) measures are possible and related coordination that are called out in IDOT’s Design and Environment Manual. These procedures are based on the noise abatement criteria dictated by Federal regulations. The Project Study Team will be investigating how this policy relates to the Illinois Route 3 project and more information will be coming soon.

THE DEPOT BUILDING IS BEING SAVED –*See the Central Segment Display for Details*

SHARED USE PATHS – Identified as a BLUE line on the aerial photography.

By law, when planning transportation improvements, IDOT must consider the travel needs of all users of a transportation corridor including bicyclists and pedestrians. As a result of IDOT's public outreach, the Waterloo community identified that accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians was of high importance. A shared use path has been included in each of the preferred alternates and the approximate proposed right-of-way limits shown are subject to change as the designs are refined.

VANDEBROOK DRIVE RECOMMENDED TO BE RELOCATED

The Project Study Team recommends improving Vandebrook Drive by relocating the street to the north to become the fourth leg of the existing South Market Street intersection. This option was developed in a meeting of a Technical Advisory Group (TAG) consisting of officials from IDOT, the City of Waterloo, Monroe County, the township and the affected property owners.

Features of the relocation are:

- Saves the cost of implementing the 4-lane improvement between South Market and existing Vandebrook Drive,
- Allows the residents of the Vandebrook subdivision to utilize the existing traffic signal at South Market Street
- Allows for future cross streets to tie into Relocated Vandebrook Drive.

See the South Segment displays for details.

PROJECT SCHEDULE AND FUNDING

IDOT plans, designs and constructs projects in three phases. Phase I is the preliminary engineering and environmental analyses 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 Spring, 2012. It is estimated that Phase II could take approximately 24 months and Phase III could take approximately 24 to 36 months to complete. The relocation of utilities required for the construction of this project may affect the length of time required to complete this project.

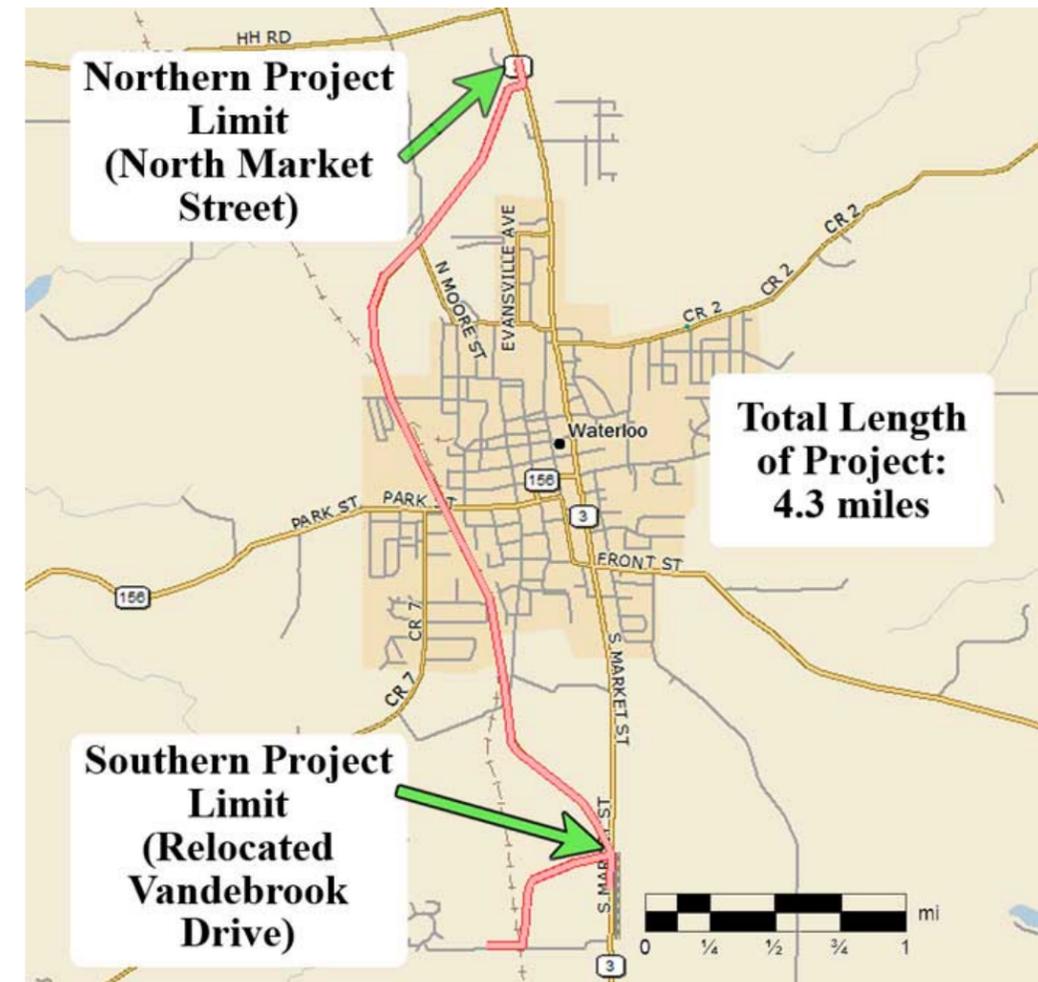
The investment regarding the engineering, land acquisition and construction is estimated to cost \$27 million and is included in the Department's FY 2012-2017 Proposed Highway Improvement Program.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The Illinois Route 3 project is toward the end of the Location and Environmental Study (Phase I). This phase of the project includes the engineering and environmental analyses of potential alternatives to address traffic congestion and safety within the Illinois Route 3 corridor. The comments received from the public tonight will be used to evaluate the preferred alternative presented based on how well it meets the project purpose, its potential effect on the environment, residences and businesses, and how it improves the transportation system with regard to safety and capacity. Your comments will also help the Project Study Team and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) to further refine the preferred alternative which will be presented as the final improvement at a fourth public involvement meeting in early 2012.

“OPEN HOUSE” PUBLIC MEETING

Illinois Route 3
From North Market Street to Vandebrook Drive
Waterloo, Monroe County, Illinois
Waterloo Senior High School, September 15, 2011
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



Mr. Omer M. Osman, P.E.
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