



State of Illinois
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

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CONTACT:
Guy Tridgell 312.793.4199
Brian Williamsen 309.671.4854

Effingham I-57/70 Expansion and Safety Upgrades Complete

Project improved traffic flow, quality of life on crucial freight corridor for Illinois

EFFINGHAM – Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn was joined today by Effingham Mayor Jeff Bloemker and local officials to announce the completion of the Interstate 57/70 expansion in Effingham. The project started in 2010 and improved safety and traffic flow through Effingham, while rebuilding a key section of one the state’s major freight corridors.

“To understand why Illinois is the transportation hub of North America, you need to look no further than Effingham and this project,” Secretary Blankenhorn said. “We appreciate your patience while we delivered these improvements that will create economic development and enhance quality of life in one of our state’s great communities.”

The project rebuilt I-57/70 and added a third lane in each direction with a center median along six miles, from I-57 south of Effingham to I-57 northeast of the city. The interchanges at U.S. 45 and Fayette Avenue were reconstructed to further enhance traffic capacity. Thirteen bridges on I-57/70 were either rebuilt or rehabilitated.

A multimodal component involved building a bicycle and pedestrian bridge at Fayette Avenue to connect trails on both sides of the interstate.

Through Effingham, I-57/70 accommodates almost 40,000 vehicles a day, almost half of which are trucks, making it a critical interstate route for freight traffic.

To improve communication and safety in the work zone, a system involving digital message boards was used to relay information to motorists on backups and delays.

Some minor work on the \$170 million project remains, such as restriping lanes, completing traffic signal installation, finishing work to the turn lanes on the U.S. 45 and landscaping. Minimal traffic impacts should be anticipated for the next month.

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