Planning and Building
Or Rehabilitating Highways

Each year, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) develops a multi-year highway program which the governor presents to the General Assembly for approval. The program specifies improvements IDOT intends to make on the state highway system over a six-year period. The complexity and funding of individual improvements will determine the amount of time a project remains “in the stream” from conceptualization to the beginning of construction.

The funded highway project process can involve as many as 55 steps and take many years to finish. A major construction project involving a new highway, for instance, can take from five to 20 years to complete all the steps. (See example at right.) Rehabilitating a highway may take up to five years, or more. Completion of a project is dependent upon reviews by various federal, state and local governmental agencies, as well as public and private organizations, with which IDOT cooperates to complete various work phases.

The example on the other side of this brochure illustrates the process for completing a major highway rehabilitation project. Engineering work is produced by IDOT engineers or outside consultants. Actual construction is carried out by private construction companies, with oversight by IDOT engineers or consultants.

The publication of the highway program provides the public and media with the opportunity to review and respond to the listed projects. Illinois citizens can express their opinions about construction projects at public meetings and hearings or by submitting comments at other times to state officials. All public comments are taken into consideration and balanced with the need to improve safety, reduce congestion, support economic development and minimize adverse social, environmental and economic impacts.

TIME TO REHABILITATE OR BUILD AN ILLINOIS HIGHWAY
From Funding to Completion *

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<tr>
<th>MAJOR PHASES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE</td>
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<td>REPAIR, REPave, RECONSTRUCT (no bridges)</td>
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<td>REPAIR, REPave, RECONSTRUCT (with bridges)</td>
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<td>NEW CONSTRUCTION</td>
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* Simplified time frame. Actual completion time varies from project to project.

Facts and Figures

Illinois’ 145,000-mile network of state and local roads is the third largest in the nation. The state also has the third largest interstate highway system, including three of the nation’s five transcontinental routes that carry the most commercial vehicles.

The Illinois Department of Transportation is responsible for 16,000 miles of roads. The state also has over 26,000 bridges, and IDOT is responsible for nearly 8,000 of them. Although IDOT is responsible for 11 percent of the total highways and 29 percent of the bridges, those roads and bridges carry over 55 percent of the state’s traffic.

Contacting IDOT District Offices

For information on specific highway construction projects, call the IDOT district where the project is located.
# The Highway Rehabilitation Planning Process in Illinois

## Typical Funded Project: Pavement Reconstruction with Bridge Replacement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Preliminary Phase: Engineer Study, Environmental Study and Public Coordination (may take 1-3 years for completion)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Phase I Engineering</td>
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<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Phase I Environmental</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Phase II: Development of Final Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Phase II: Construction Contract Proposal and Advertising for Bids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 6+</td>
<td>Construction Continues</td>
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### Phase I: Engineer Study, Environmental Study and Public Coordination

- **Phase I Engineering**
  - Establish need
  - Scoping Survey
  - Estimate project’s initial cost
  - Submit project as candidate for multi-year highway program
  - Conduct survey of existing conditions
  - Develop a “Purpose and Need” for the improvement
  - Initiate early coordination with stakeholders and expand on the project scope
  - Work with public and private agencies to create alternatives
  - Conduct engineering studies in conjunction with environmental studies
  - Identify applicable criteria (e.g., new construction, reconstruction, or reusing/rehabilitating (SR))
  - In conjunction with stakeholders, identify a single alternative
  - Create preliminary Phase I plans for review
  - Prepare traffic control plans
  - Determine right-of-way needs
  - Resubmit Phase I plans for approval

### Phase I Environmental

- Conduct field inventories to identify social, environmental and economic resources
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- Coordinate with the following:
  - **State Agencies**
    - Natural Resources – for endangered species, wetlands, nature preserves, natural areas, wildlife habitats
    - Environmental Protection Agency – for air quality, contaminated properties, leaking underground tanks, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits
    - Agriculture – for farmland preservation
    - Historic Preservation Agency – for historic structures, archeological sites
  - **Federal Agencies**
    - Fish and Wildlife Service – for endangered species, wildlife habitats and wetlands
    - Corps of Engineers – for stream permits and navigable rivers
    - National Park Service - for park land conversion

### Phase II: Development of Final Plan

- Prepare a job site construction plan and develop construction material requirements used to prepare final contract to be bid on by contractors
- Begin preliminary contract plans
- Conduct geotechnical investigation
- Complete all bridge and pavement reconstruction reports

### Land Acquisition

- Conduct land surveys, appraise property, negotiate with landowners, notify Attorney General to appoint private attorney if court settlement is needed, relocation
- Complete preliminary contract plans
- Complete land acquisition

### Utility Relocations

- Prepare agreements with local agencies
- Complete final review of project’s plans
- Complete utility agreements with local agencies or private entities

### Local Agency Agreements

- Determine limits of local participation
- Prepare agreements with local agencies
- Make final construction plans
- Complete agreements with local agencies
- Complete PHASE II engineering

### Federal Highway Administration

- If federally funded, Federal Highway Administration authorizes federal funds

### Key

- **Agency or entity with which DOT works**
  - State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Public or private entities