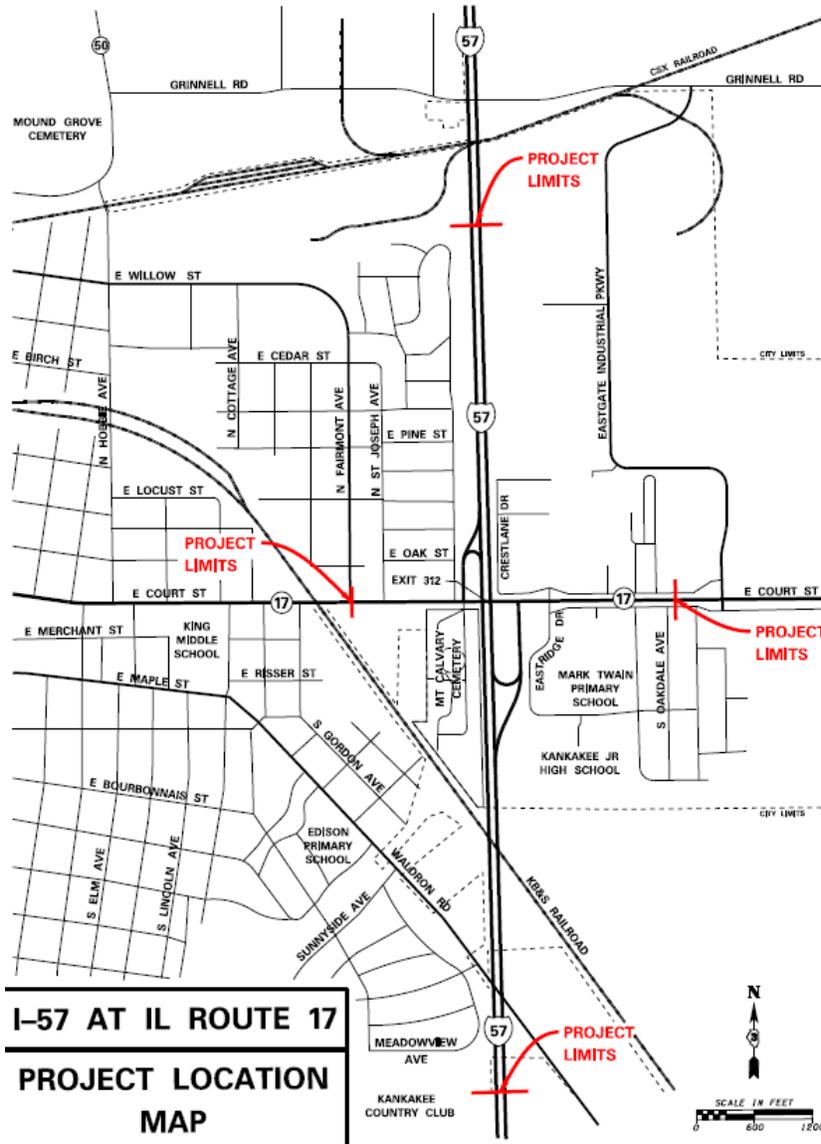




FINAL PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

I-57 and Illinois Route 17 Interchange Kankakee County, Illinois

October 1-31, 2020



~ All Comments Accepted ~



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**
Division of Highways/District 3
700 East Norris Drive
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

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PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The purpose of this meeting is to present the preferred alternative of safety and mobility improvements for the I-57 and Illinois Route 17 interchange. The Project Study Team will be answering questions and addressing the public's concerns. The Project website will be used to explain the procedures for land acquisition and address questions from the public. Included on this site is a comment form that can be submitted electronically or there are other ways to submit comments listed at the end of this handout. We hope that you will take the time to express your comments and concerns on improvements to the I-57 and Illinois Route 17 interchange.

PROJECT NEED

The purpose of this project is to consider improvements that will improve the safety and mobility of the I-57 and Illinois Route 17 interchange. Improvements are needed to address the existing ramp interchange geometry, which does not meet the current design policies. The vertical clearance of IL 17 under I-57 is 14'-2", which is less than desired (16'-6"), but does accommodate the legal road height (13'-6") and meets the policy to remain in place (14'-0").

The existing interchange bridges were constructed in 1955, rehabilitated in 1989 and are being repaired as part of an ongoing resurfacing project in the area. Both are in acceptable conditions and continue to be monitored for needed repairs.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project limits along I-57 begin just south of the structure carrying I-57 over the Norfolk Southern Railroad and extends to almost 0.25 miles south of Waldron Road, for about 1.87 miles. On Illinois Route 17, the project limits include 0.75 miles from North Fairmont Avenue east to Eastgate Industrial Parkway.

The proposed improvements include reconstructing the existing interchange using a Single Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) that will be compatible with future expansion of I-57 to six lanes. For more information on the preferred alternative and what a SPUI is, please visit the project website at:
<http://www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/i57-interchange-at-il17>

Improvements also include reconstruction of Interstate 57 pavement and shifting east to avoid impacts to the Mt. Calvary Cemetery. Illinois 17 will be reconstructed and provide the necessary turn lanes at the interchange. The existing traffic signals will be maintained or upgraded. Safety and drainage will be improved as needed. Noise barrier walls may be constructed in various locations along I-57 and retaining walls are proposed in several locations. These locations can be seen in the aerial exhibits. The bridges over I-57 at Waldron Road and KB&S Railroad are to be replaced. Permanent and temporary closure or relocation of some local streets and entrances will be necessary to accommodate the new interchange and maintain traffic flow. Hammes Avenue will be closed at IL Route 17 as part of the East Court Street Gateway Signage Project by the City of Kankakee. The North Frontage Road along IL 17 will be closed at North Eastridge Avenue and a cul-de-sac will be constructed.

HISTORY

This project was initiated as a result of the findings of a feasibility study performed by IDOT in July 2007. A feasibility study is conducted to determine if a highway improvement warrants further study. The I-57 Six-Lane Feasibility Study was conducted to determine the requirements needed to satisfy the safety and mobility needs of future traffic along the majority of the I-57 corridor. The I-57 Six-Lane Feasibility Study recommended that improvements along the I-57 corridor be consistent with the future widening of I-57 to six-lanes.

In November of 2008, an Interchange Type Study was performed for the I-57 and Illinois Route 17 Interchange. The Interchange Type Study evaluated several interchange configurations to determine the design that would best address the safety and mobility needs of the area while also addressing the deficiencies of the current interchange. The Interchange Type Study analyzed four interchange types that included a Conventional Diamond Interchange, Partial Cloverleaf Interchange, Single-Point Urban Interchange (SPUI) and a Single Point Urban Interchange with a modified I-57 alignment. The Interchange Type Study reviewed the four types of interchanges to determine which interchange was a best-fit solution for this area. This included review of several design factors including mobility, safety, constructability, and right-of-way requirements. The Interchange Type Study recommended the Single Point Urban Interchange with a modified I-57 alignment to be studied further through a Location and Environment (Phase I) Study. To see a drawing of each alternative reviewed in the Type Study please visit the project website at: <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/i57-interchange-at-il17>

WHAT'S NEXT?

The I-57 and Illinois Route 17 interchange project is currently finalizing the preliminary engineering study phase, which should be completed in the fall of 2020. Following the public involvement, IDOT will consider comments received as the Phase I preliminary engineering study is completed.

There is currently funding for the design plans, however, land acquisition and construction of the interchange are currently unfunded in the Department's Fiscal Year 2021-2026 Proposed Highway Improvement Program.

The Waldron Road overpass structure is programmed for improvement in the Department's Fiscal Year 2021-2026 Proposed Highway Improvement Program.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

Should you have any additional questions, you may contact Mr. David Alexander of IDOT at 815-434-8468 or by e-mail at David.S.Alexander@illinois.gov

Comments for this project can be submitted electronically, or by mail using the comment sheet found on the project website. Mailed comments should be sent to the I-57 and Illinois Route 17 Interchange Project Study Team, IDOT District 3, 700 East Norris Drive, Ottawa, Illinois 61350. All comments should be submitted to the Project Study Team by October 31, 2020. For more information on the project or to submit comments visit <http://www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/i57-interchange-at-il17>