

## Next Steps

After the 30-day comment period closes for the Final EIS on June 22, 2009, IDOT will prepare the project's Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD, which will explain the reasons IDOT selected the preferred alternative described in the Final EIS, will conclude the project's environmental study phase. The ROD will be posted on IDOT's website ([www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/env.html](http://www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/env.html)). The project's Combined Design Report, which explains the design parameters used on this project and documents the various design decisions that have been made, is expected to be completed in the Summer of 2009. The completion of the Combined Design Report will conclude the project's study phase.

The next phase of the IL 29 project will be the final design of the portion of the South Section between the IL 6 interchange and the proposed Cedar Hills Drive interchange. The 2 to 3 year design phase is expected to begin in Winter 2010. There is currently no funding available for any design work north of the Cedar Hills Drive interchange nor is there funding for construction of any part of the IL 29 Project.



**Illinois Department  
of Transportation**

Gary Hannig, Secretary

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# 29 update

The Illinois Route 29 Design Study

This is the fourth and final issue of  update, a newsletter prepared by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and CH2M HILL to provide information regarding the IL 29 Design Study.

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## IL 29 Final Environmental Impact Statement Signed

In April 2009, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) signed the Illinois Route 29 (IL 29) Study Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Final EIS summarizes the public and agency comments on the Draft EIS and the responses to those comments, and it describes coordination with agencies and local governments since the June 2006 public hearing. The Final EIS also describes the preferred alternative and important project changes since the public hearing. The Final EIS is available for public review and comment at IDOT's website ([www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/env.html](http://www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/env.html)) and at the locations listed on page 2 of this newsletter. Comments received on or before June 22, 2009 will be included in the official record.

### Overview of Changes to the Preferred Alternative

In response to comments on the Draft EIS and additional design work, there have been a number of changes to the preferred alternative described in the Draft EIS. The more notable changes are listed below by project section.

#### South Section

At the Cedar Hills Drive interchange, the loop ramp has been pulled slightly to the south and west to provide better sight distance. As a result, the intersection with Ivy Lake Road and the access road connecting Mossville Road and Cedar Hills Drive has been shifted slightly to the west.

Knox Street east of IL 29 will be reconstructed within existing right of way to align better with the Knox Street intersection improvements west of IL 29.

#### Central Section

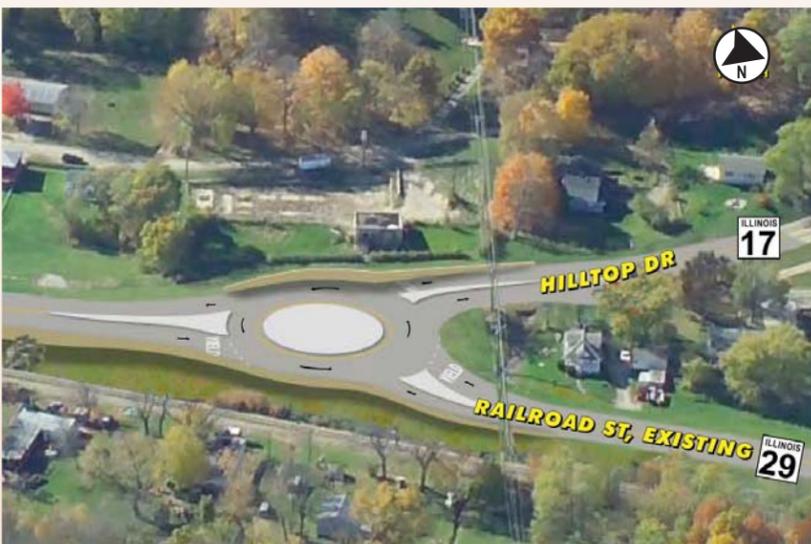
The major changes to the proposed improvements in the Central Section are concentrated in the Sparland area. Computer enhanced photos of the Sparland improvements described below are included in this newsletter to help explain the proposed changes in that community.

The intersection of IL 29 and IL 17 (south leg) will have two westbound to southbound left-turn lanes. The dual left turn lanes will

require widening IL 29 and the Gimlet Creek bridge and in the process displace the residence at the southwest corner of IL 29 and Ferry Street.



Corner of IL 29 and Ferry Street



IL 17 (north leg) Roundabout



IL 29 mainline and southbound exit ramp

The intersection of existing IL 29 and IL 17 (north leg) will be reconfigured as a roundabout. The roundabout allows southbound traffic from the north half of the Sparland interchange to make a U-Turn and access Thenius Street. Under the proposed plan access to Thenius Street is not possible from the IL 29 exit ramp. The roundabout also allows southbound traffic that just exited IL 29 to make a U-turn and get back on IL 29 (northbound). Access from existing IL 29 to the properties on the west side of existing IL 29 between the roundabout and Thenius Creek would be replaced with access from Marshall Street.

**North Section**

To limit wetland and floodplain impacts west of IL 29, retaining walls, guardrail, and steeper side slopes will be used in the Crow Creek area near its north crossing of IL 29. North of the Western Avenue interchange, a cattle underpass was added to allow access to both sides of property divided by the proposed highway.

A diamond interchange is planned at Western Avenue, about 0.5 mile west of Henry. In the Draft EIS, the proposed plan was to have Western Avenue pass over proposed IL 29. The current plan is to have IL 29 pass over Western Avenue. This change does not alter the footprint of the interchange or the properties affected within the interchange.

*Opportunities for Public Participation*

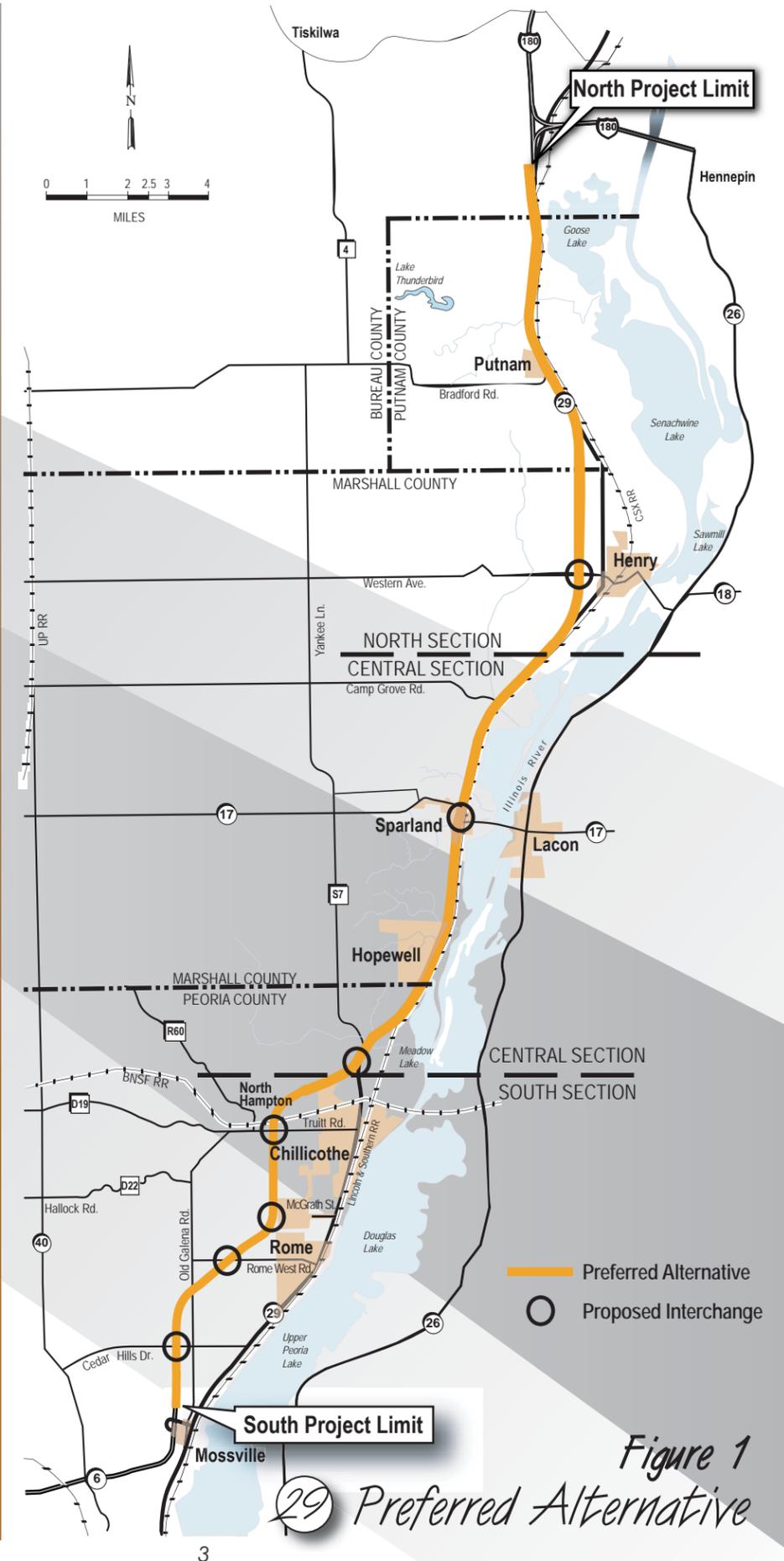
IDOT continues to seek input from representatives of communities, agencies, businesses and the general public on the IL 29 Study. Opportunities for you to contribute to the project and provide input to the process include:

- Send comments or opinions on the Final EIS or the project in general to IDOT. IDOT's address is noted on the front page of this newsletter. Comments must be mailed to IDOT on or before June 22, 2009 to be included in the official record.
- Visit the IL 29 Website to offer your comments and to learn more about the project. The Website address is [www.dot.il.gov/IL29/default.aspx](http://www.dot.il.gov/IL29/default.aspx)

*The IL Route 29 Final Environmental Impact Statement is available for public review and comment at [www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/env.html](http://www.dot.state.il.us/desenv/env.html) or at the following libraries:*

- Peoria Public Library**  
107 NE Monroe  
Peoria, IL
- Lacon Public Library**  
205 6th Street  
Lacon, IL
- Henry Public Library**  
702 Front Street  
Henry, IL
- Chillicothe Public Library**  
430 N. Bradley Avenue  
Chillicothe, IL

**Comments on the Final EIS are due on or before June 22, 2009, and should be sent to Eric Therkildsen, P.E. at the address listed on page 1 of this newsletter.**



*Figure 1 Preferred Alternative*