



Illinois Route 3 Connector Project Public Informational Meeting



Illinois Department of Transportation

September 2, 2015

Governor Bruce Rauner

Purpose of Tonight's Public Meeting

Thank you for attending tonight's public meeting for the Illinois Route 3 Connector Project. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is holding this meeting tonight to:

- Bring you up to date on the study's progress
- Explain the process of developing alternatives
- Show you the study alternatives being carried forward
- Give you an opportunity to provide your feedback on the alternatives being carried forward for further study to identify a preferred alternative

There are four alternatives – A, C, E and G – that IDOT carried forward for further study, in addition to the no-build alternative. These alternatives were developed to serve three primary purposes:

1. Improve accessibility within the study area and between IL Route 3 and IL Route 203
2. Eliminate reliance on circuitous local roads and short trips on Interstate System
3. Improve travel time consistency

In addition, improving connections may also enhance economic development opportunities for existing and new businesses in the study area.

The recommendation of alternatives to be carried forward has been approved by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

All of the alternatives shown on the following pages are available for your review on display boards at tonight's public meeting. IDOT representatives and consultant team members are here to discuss the project with you and answer your questions.

Your comments are important! Please fill out a comment form before you leave or mail it to the address shown on the form. All comments will be considered by the study team as the project continues to be developed. Comments received by September 16 will become part of the public meeting record.

What is IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Process?

Though implementation of CSS, IDOT seeks to:

- Involve stakeholders early and continuously
- Include frequent and meaningful communication
- Develop, build, and maintain cost-effective transportation facilities
- Balance mobility, community needs and the environment while focusing on safety
- Emphasize developing and building projects that reflect their surroundings or "context"
- Preserve and enhance community features



Community Advisory Group

The Community Advisory Group (CAG) is one of the public outreach tools utilized by IDOT to identify the views of the public and the issues that are important to the project



stakeholders. This feedback is used by the project team, along with the engineering and environmental evaluation, in order to develop and refine solutions that address the project's need. For this study, IDOT has been working with a group of approximately 15 individuals covering a broad cross-section of the St. Clair and Madison county communities.

These individuals include community leaders,

residents, business owners, emergency responders, and representatives of other local organizations.

As of November 2006, seven CAG meetings have taken place. Key activities at these meetings have included:

- Completion of Context Audit by each member, to help IDOT gain an understanding of community resources and values
- Development of the study's Problem Statement
- Discussion of CAG member perspectives on concepts and alternatives developed that address the project's purpose in the overall study area
- Future CAG meetings will be scheduled as needed by the study team.

Why is the Illinois Route 3 Connector Project Needed?

IDOT is considering transportation improvements by constructing a connector between IL Route 3 and IL Route 203, with a connection to Collinsville Road in St. Clair County to address these issues of concern:

- Safety concerns resulting from truck traffic using local roads
- Lengthy emergency vehicle response times due to excessive delays due to at-grade railroad crossings and lack of alternate routes
- Improved access to area services such as businesses (jobs), shopping, recreation, and social services
- Safety and delay concerns with at-grade railroad crossings on IL Route 3, Exchange Ave., and Industrial Ave.
- Accommodating future development in vacant properties north of IL Route 3, between Industrial Ave and Collinsville Road

Alternatives Carried Forward for Further Study

Each of the four alternatives currently proposed features a roadway connection between IL Route 3 and IL Route 203, with a connection to Collinsville Road along an improved Exchange Avenue.

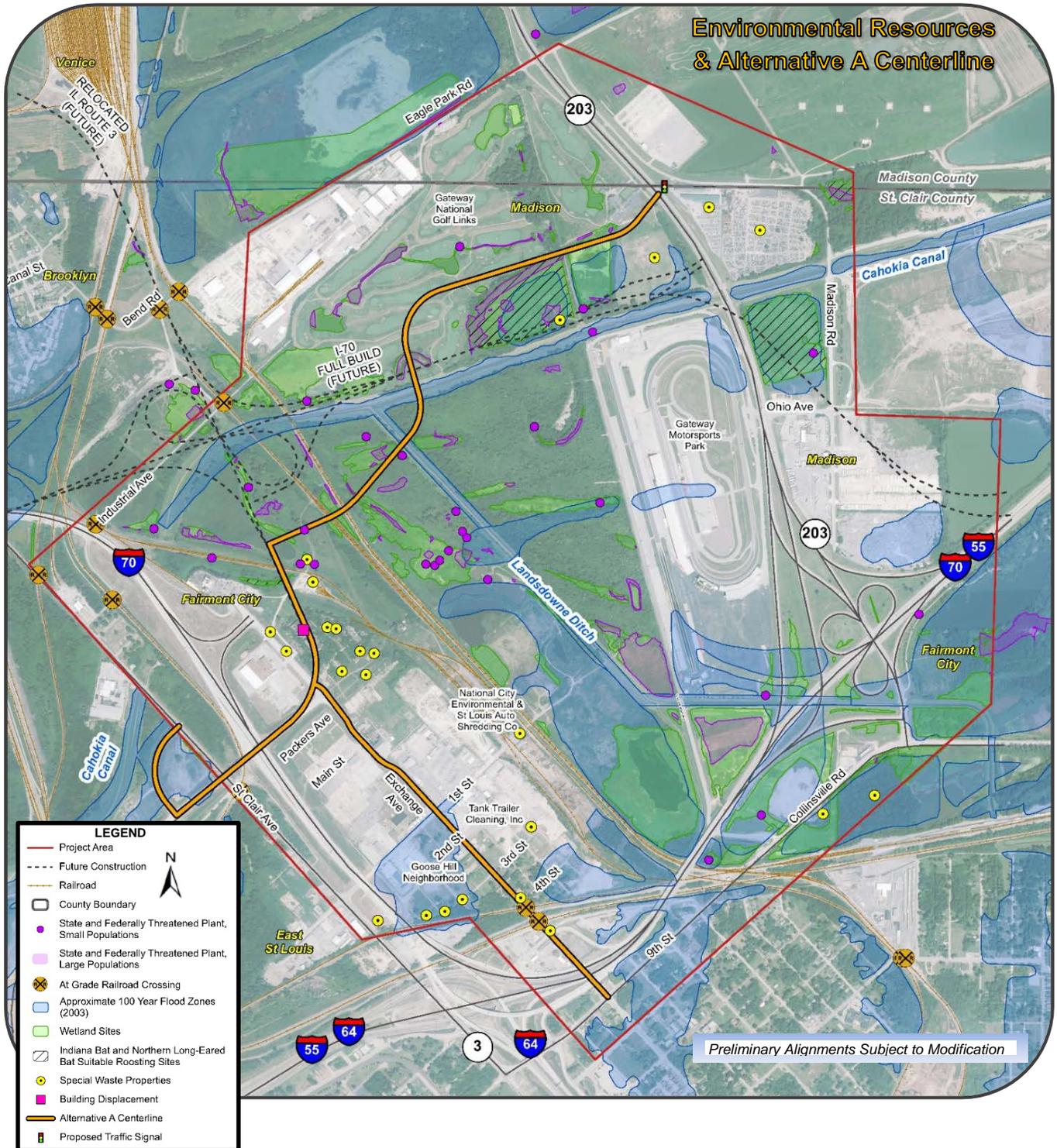
In addition, IDOT is considering bicycle and pedestrian accommodations along the proposed improved routes in accordance with the state's Complete Streets legislation. Providing the bike or pedestrian accommodation requires participation in the cost by a local agency (municipality, county, etc.). If there is no local cost participation, the sidewalk/bike lane will not be included, although some right of way may be provided for future use. IDOT will coordinate with local agencies to offer the opportunity to partner in providing these accommodations with this project. The type and width of proposed bicycle and pedestrian accommodations will be determined following the identification of a potential Preferred Alternative. Until that time, the consideration of these accommodations for this project is represented in the typical section with 5-foot separated sidewalks and a 6-foot bike lane on each side of the roadway.

Your input is valuable. As you review the alternatives, please consider:

- *If there are any defects (fatal flaws) to an alternative?*
- *Do you like or dislike any of the alternatives? Why?*
- *Do you have a suggested revision to an Alternative?*

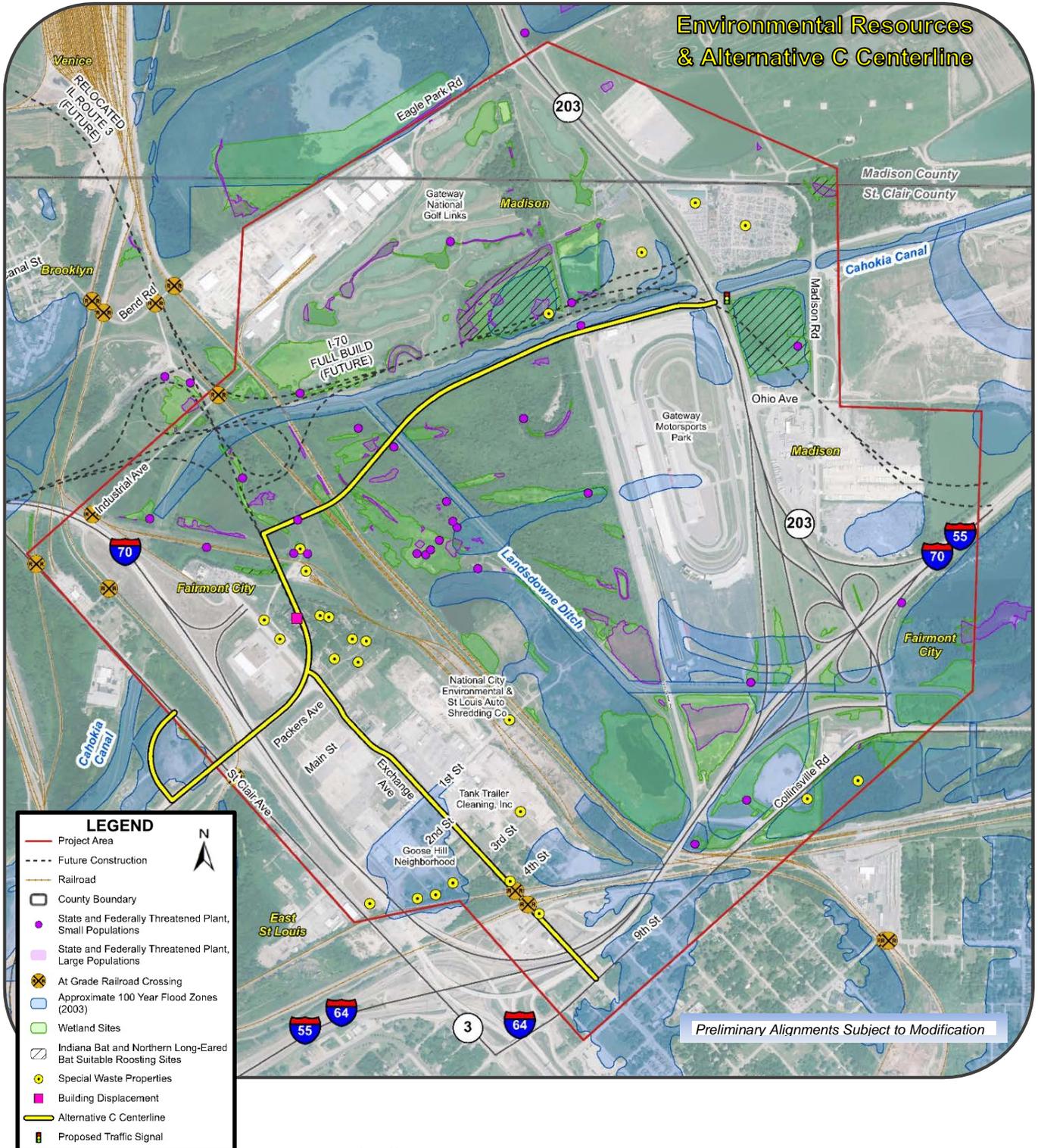
Alternative A:

- Begins at the Relocated IL Route 3 intersection with Packers Avenue south of I-70
- Follows the proposed Relocated IL Route 3 alignment to the north to connect with IL Route 3
- Connects to IL Route 203 near Gateway National Golf Links
- Connects to Collinsville Road using an improved Exchange Avenue
- Cost: \$47 million
- Travels through Gateway National Golf Links
- Building Displacements: 1
- Wetlands impacted: 6 acres



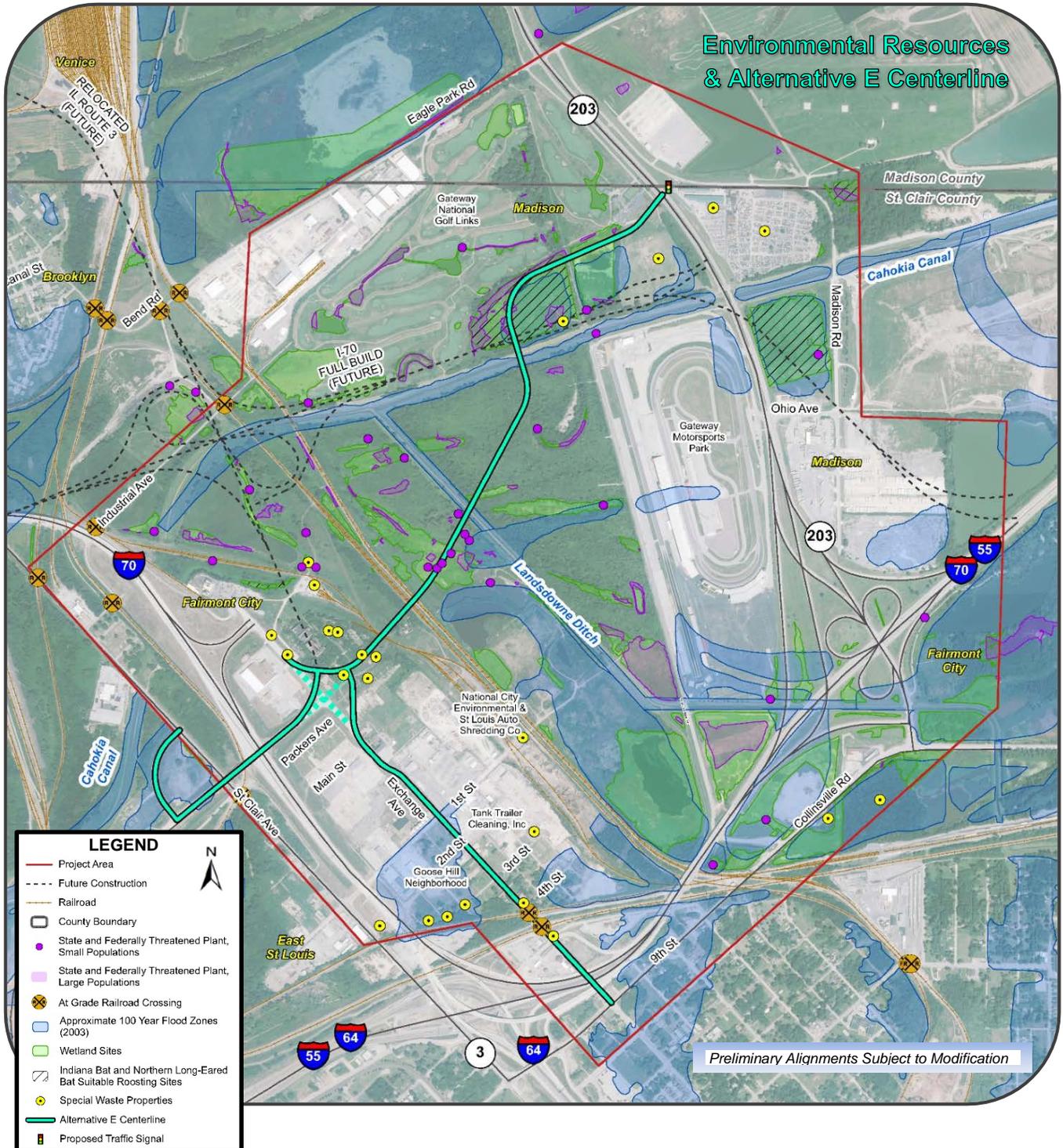
Alternative C:

- Begins at the Relocated IL Route 3 intersection with Packers Avenue south of I-70
- Follows the proposed Relocated IL Route 3 alignment to connect with IL Route 3
- Connects with Illinois Route 203 just south of the Cahokia Canal
- Connects to Collinsville Road using an improved Exchange Avenue
- Cost: \$38 million
- Building Displacements: 1
- Wetlands impacted: 3 acres



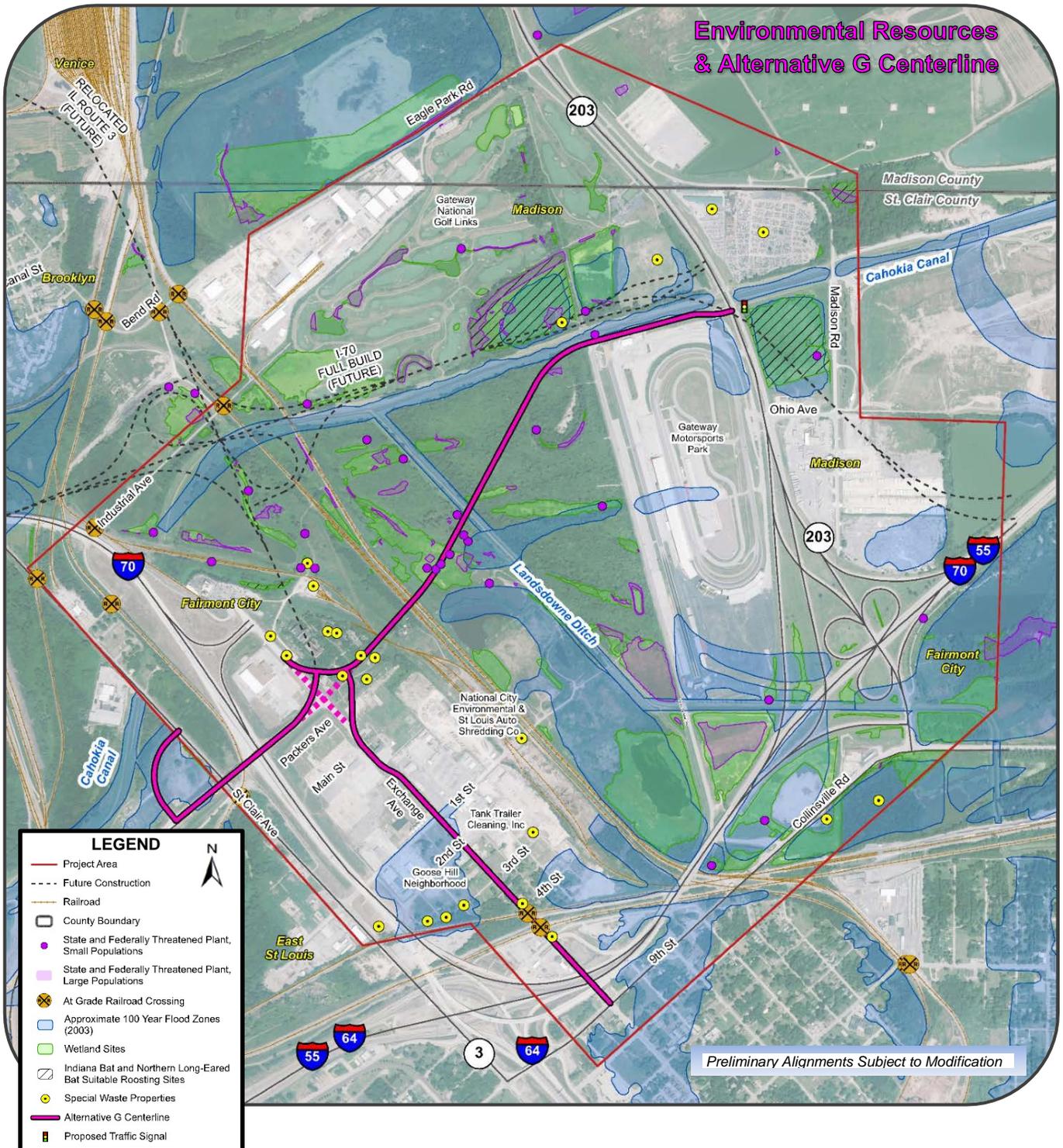
Alternative E:

- Begins at the Relocated IL Route 3 intersection with Packers Avenue south of I-70
- Follows the proposed Relocated IL Route 3 alignment north to connect with IL Route 3
- Connects with Illinois Route 203 near Gateway National Golf Links
- Connects to Collinsville Road via an improved Exchange Avenue
- Cost: \$35 million
- Building Displacements: 0
- Wetlands impacted: 13 acres



Alternative G:

- Begins at the Relocated IL Route 3 intersection with Packers Avenue south of I-70
- Follows the proposed Relocated IL Route 3 alignment north to connect with IL Route 3
- Parallels the Cahokia Canal just north of Raceway Boulevard
- Connects with IL Route 203 just south of the Cahokia Canal
- Connects to Collinsville Road using an improved Exchange Avenue
- Cost: \$29 million
- Building Displacements: 0
- Wetlands impacted: 4 acres



Environmental Screening

Each alternative being carried forward for further study impacts key resources including wetlands, floodplains, and small and large populations of *Boltonia decurrens*. In addition, all alternatives require a crossing of Landsdowne Ditch, and either crossing or encroaching the Cahokia Canal. The table below summarizes the impacts for each Alternatives Being Carried Forward for Further Study.

Environmental Screening Summary Comparison

RESOURCES	Alternative A	Alternative C	Alternative E	Alternative G
<i>Building Displacements (#)</i>	1	1	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>
<i>Threatened & Endangered Plant Impacts (acres of plants)</i>	2	<1	3	<1
<i>Canal/Ditch Crossings (#)</i>	2	<i>1</i>	2	<i>1</i>
<i>Floodplains (#)</i>	3	4	4	4
<i>Hazardous Waste Sites (#)</i>	2	2	5	5
<i>Potential Archaeological Sites (acres)</i>	19.2	18.8	25.0	25.0
<i>Wetlands (acres)</i>	6	3	13	4
<i>High Quality Wetlands (acres)</i>	<1	<1	3	3

Greatest # of impacts are in Bold; Least # of impacts are italicized

What Happens Next?

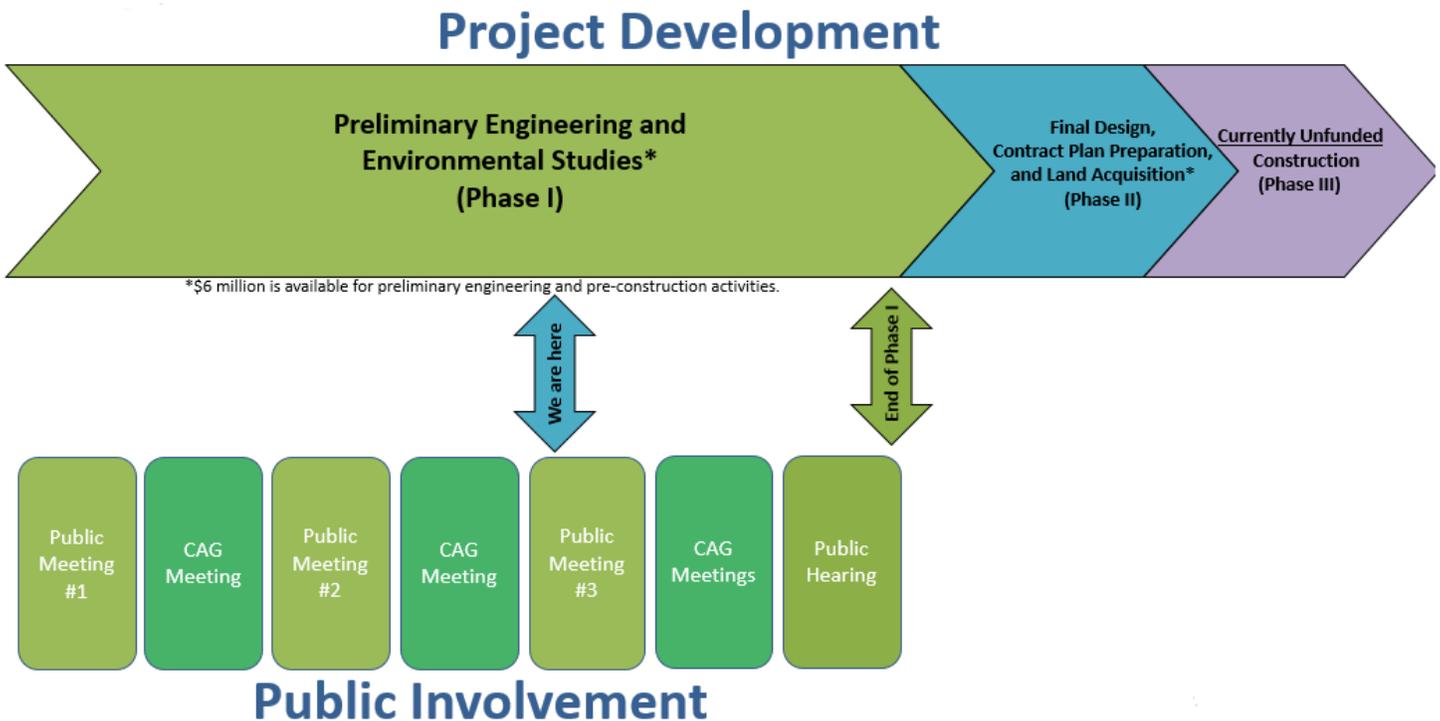
Currently, the project is in the development stage (see schedule, below). Although \$6 million has been made available for preliminary engineering and pre-construction activities (Phases I and II), construction (Phase III) is not funded in IDOT's Multi-Modal, Multi-Year Program (MYP).

These alternatives are still preliminary. Although they all meet the study's purpose and need, the project team will continue to evaluate and refine the alternatives, which will include reviewing input from tonight's meeting.

Engineering and environmental studies will continue, such as surveying, stream and wetland evaluations, drainage studies, bicycle and pedestrian evaluations, and pavement and bridge design.

The team will continue assembling the environmental assessment, or EA, document. The EA is a comprehensive summary of how the study team developed and evaluated the corridors and alternatives, and shows that potential impacts to the natural environment, people, and historic areas, for example, were considered and assessed in accordance with Illinois and federal requirements. Based on this information, IDOT will make their determination of a Preferred Alternative. The Preferred Alternative must be approved by the Federal Highway Administration and environmental resource agencies and will be shared with the public at a Public Hearing.

We will also continue to encourage your feedback and comments as part of the overall public involvement process.



Let Us Hear From You

Before you leave tonight, please fill out a comment form or mail it to the address shown on the form so that it may be considered by the study team as the project continues to be developed. Comments received by September 16 will become part of the public meeting record.

Have a question or want to talk about the project?

Annie Prothro
IDOT Project Manager
Illinois Department of Transportation
1102 Eastport Plaza Drive
Collinsville, IL 62234
618-346-3161
annie.prothro@illinois.gov

Buddy Desai, P.E.
CH2M Project Manager
314-335-3011
Buddy.desai@ch2m.com

Learn more!

Visit our project website: www.idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL-3-Connector-Project, where you can:

- Get project updates
- Sign up for the mailing list to receive future newsletters
- Send your comments and questions to the project team

We encourage you to stay involved by signing up for future newsletters, visiting the project website, attending future public meetings, and providing us with your feedback.

IDOT appreciates your attendance tonight and your interest in the Illinois Route 3 Connector Project.

