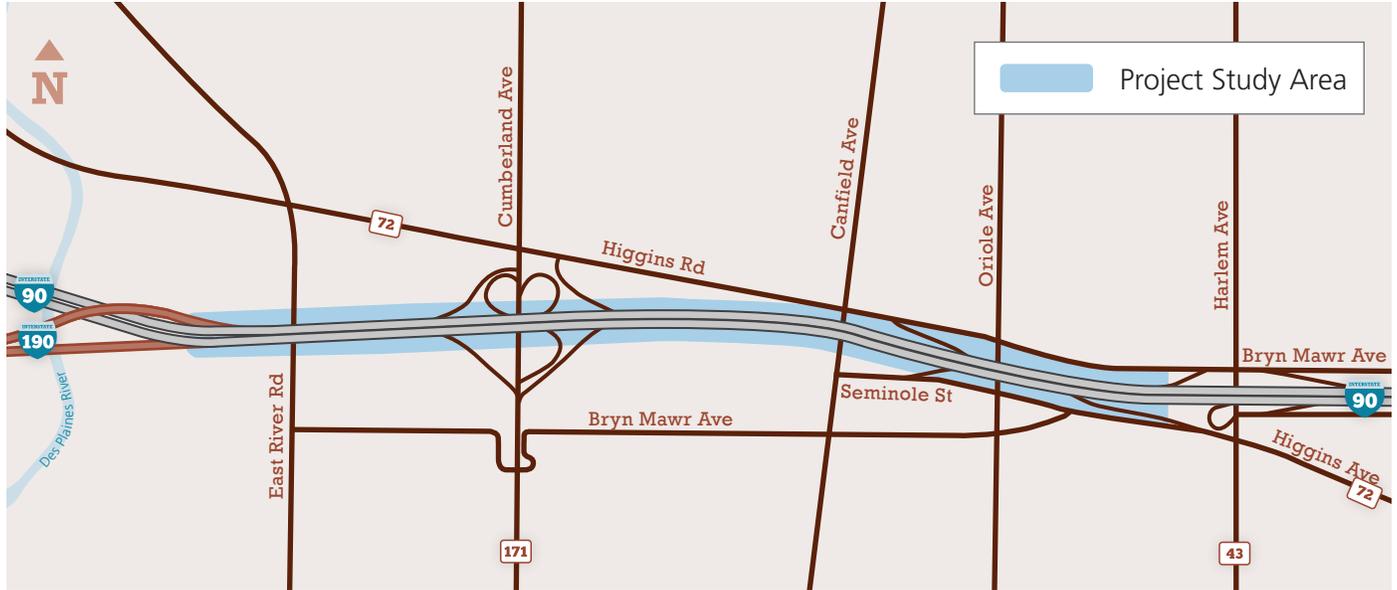


Project Information

Brochure



The project study area stretches approximately 2 miles in length along I-90 from I-190 to IL 43 (Harlem Avenue).

What is the I-90 improvements study?

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is studying potential highway improvements to Interstate 90 (I-90) between Interstate 190 (I-190) and Illinois Route 43 (Harlem Avenue) in Cook County. The study is being led by IDOT in close coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). As the joint lead agencies, IDOT and FHWA are the decision-makers for the I-90 improvements project.

The focus of the study is to identify and evaluate solutions to improve safety and traffic operations within the 2-mile study area, as well as provide an appropriate transition between the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway and the Kennedy Expressway. The study area experiences major congestion due to the merging and diverging of two major highways (I-90 and I-190) and the presence of a busy interchange at Illinois Route 171 (Cumberland Avenue). The study area also contains two multi-modal transit hubs at Cumberland Avenue and at Harlem Avenue. The eastern end of the project, Harlem Avenue, is a major traffic generator which contributes to congested conditions.

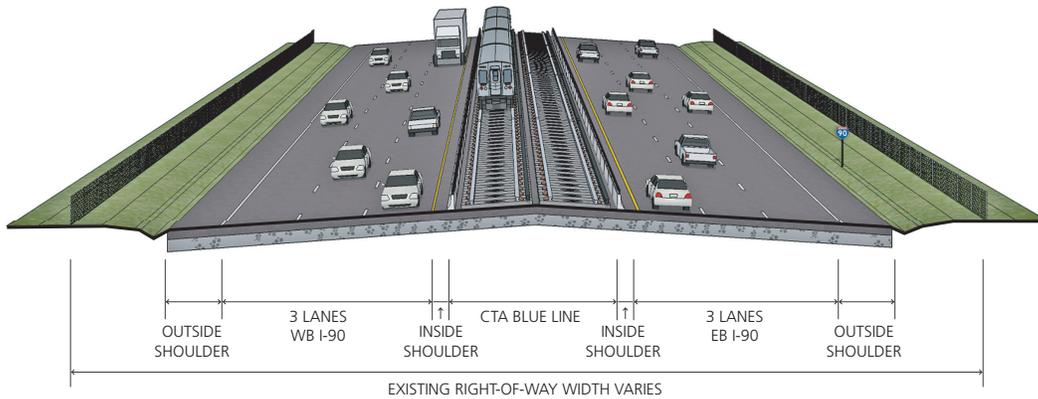
In addition to these issues, the Illinois Tollway (Tollway) is adding capacity to I-90 northwest of the project area. The additional capacity could increase traffic volumes on the Tollway portion of I-90, which could worsen congestion in the study area. Therefore, there is a need to identify solutions that will address existing issues in the study area while planning for future conditions such as the planned Tollway project.

YOU'RE INVITED

IDOT will host a kick-off public meeting on March 26, 2013. The meeting will be held at the Holiday Inn Chicago O'Hare.

Please see page 4 for more details.

What improvements are being considered?



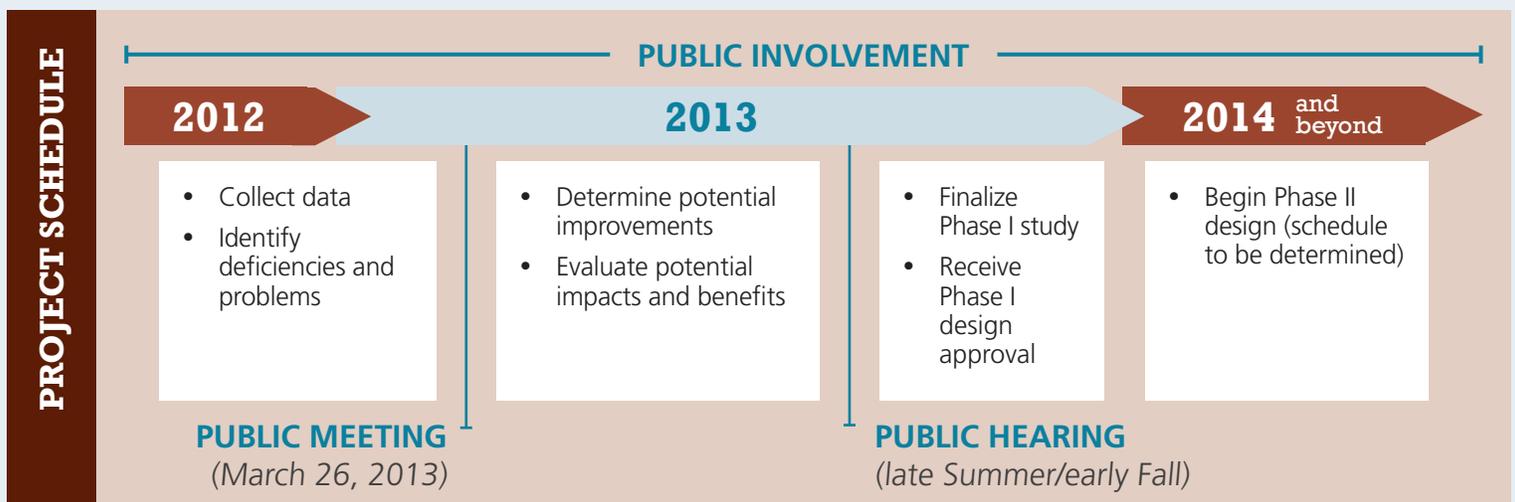
I-90 within the study area currently consists of three travel lanes in each direction between Cumberland Avenue and Harlem Avenue. Four lanes currently exist westbound between I-190 and Cumberland Avenue and five lanes exist eastbound between I-190 and the Cumberland Road southbound ramp. Any identified improvements to I-90 would be planned and designed to work in coordination with other projects, such as IDOT's Cumberland fly-over project and the Tollway's add-lanes project, to enhance traffic operations and safety.

What is the project schedule?

IDOT's project development process consists of three phases:

- Phase I – Preliminary engineering and environmental studies
- Phase II – Final design, preparation of construction contract documents, and right-of-way acquisition (if required)
- Phase III – Construction

The I-90 improvements study is in the initial stages of Phase I. The project is currently funded through Phase II (final design), but funding has not yet been identified for Phase III (construction).



What is the Phase I project process?

IDOT's Phase I study process generally uses the following steps to identify and develop solutions to transportation problems. Stakeholder involvement will be conducted throughout the project process, as described in the following steps:

STEP 1: Analyze Existing Conditions – The study team will evaluate existing conditions in the corridor to identify deficiencies and problems. Meetings will be held with representatives of the communities in the study area to gather information on their issues and concerns within the project corridor. IDOT will also hold a Public Meeting on March 26, 2013 to present the identified issues, concerns and transportation needs to project stakeholders as well as solicit feedback about the project.

STEP 2: Develop Purpose and Need Statement – Using the information obtained in Step 1, IDOT will develop a Problem Statement and a Purpose and Need Statement. The Problem Statement summarizes the identified issues and concerns for the project. It will guide the development of the Purpose and Need for the project, which is an explanation of why the project is needed. IDOT will hold a meeting with the Project Working Group (PWG), which will be comprised of mayors or other representatives of the communities, to aid in developing the Problem Statement and the Purpose and Need.

STEP 3: Develop and Analyze Potential Improvements – The third step in the study process involves the identification of possible improvements and development of the criteria to evaluate those improvements. IDOT anticipates holding the second meeting with the PWG during this step. Preliminary engineering design will also occur during this step. A recommended set of improvements will be identified using the evaluation criteria, as well as feedback from the PWG.

STEP 4: Evaluate Potential Impacts and Benefits – Once the recommended improvements have been identified, the potential impacts and benefits will be evaluated. The findings of this analysis will be presented and discussed with the PWG during the final meeting with the group, documented in the Phase I engineering report, and presented for review and comment at the Public Hearing. This report will also include the environmental analysis required by state and federal laws. IDOT will consider the findings of the technical analyses, as well as all public and stakeholder input collected throughout the Phase I study, as it makes the final decision on the project. IDOT anticipates holding the public hearing in late summer or early fall of 2013.

How will the public and stakeholder input be considered as part of the study?

IDOT understands the importance of the I-90 corridor to the region and the surrounding communities. As a result, public and stakeholder input will be important to helping shape the project and the public involvement program will be conducted in accordance with the principles of IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process. Using these principles, IDOT hopes to:

- Understand stakeholder issues and concerns;
- Involve stakeholders in the decision-making process early and often; and
- Design a project that fits better with its surroundings.



A public meeting is scheduled for March 26, 2013

Details of the meeting are as follows:

Holiday Inn Chicago O'Hare
5615 N. Cumberland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60631
(entrance on Bryn Mawr Avenue)
4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

The purpose of the meeting will be to:

- Introduce the project and the study team;
- Explain the study process and schedule;
- Present issues, concerns and transportation needs for the corridor; and
- Discuss next steps of the project.

The public meeting will include opportunities to view a presentation and exhibits containing project-related information, talk to IDOT and consultant staff about the project, and to write down comments about the project. Comments will be made a part of the project record.

Who do I contact with any other questions?

The main point of contact for additional questions or submittal of project-related comments is:

Marie Glynn, P.E.

IDOT District 1
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196

Email:

Marie.Glynn@illinois.gov

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847-705-4073



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You're Invited to a **PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING**
