

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Public Information Meetings

June 11, 2003
Henry-Senachwine High School
1023 College Street
Henry, Illinois

June 12, 2003
Three Sisters Park - The Pavilion
17201 North State Route 29
Chillicothe, Illinois

The meeting format is open house.

Please stop in any time between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.



Illinois Department of Transportation

Division of Highways/District 4
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois / 61602

29 update

The Illinois Route 29 Design Study

This is the first issue of **29 update**, a newsletter prepared by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and CH2M HILL to provide information regarding the IL 29 Design Study. A total of four newsletters will be published during the course of the study.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Preliminary Alignments to be Presented at Public Meetings
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- Description of Alignment Alternatives
- Opportunities for Public Participation
- Meeting Dates and Locations

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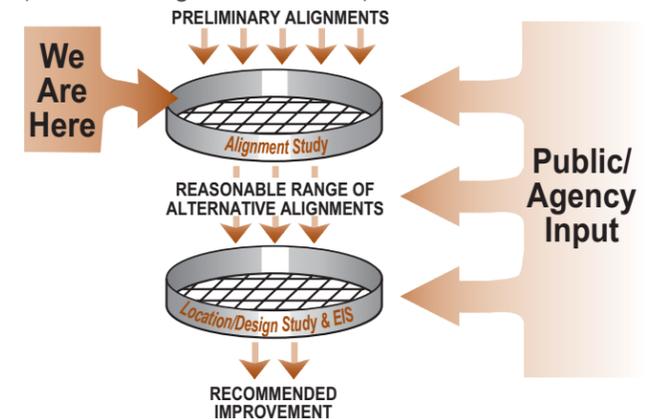
PRELIMINARY ALIGNMENTS TO BE PRESENTED AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is studying alternatives to enhance continuity and to improve safety and efficiency in the Illinois Route 29 (IL 29) corridor from IL 6 near Mossville in Peoria County to the I-180 interchange in Bureau County (see Figure 1 on page 3). The purpose of the study is to identify alternatives that would improve the continuity between the freeway stubs at IL 6 and I-180 and address the efficiency of traffic movement along existing IL 29. Existing traffic volumes between IL 6 and Sparland meet IDOT's threshold for expanding from two to four lanes. Crash rates in portions of the corridor exceed the statewide average for similar highways. As traffic volumes, including truck traffic, increase throughout the study area, congestion and safety problems would be expected to increase as well.

For several months, a study team composed of IDOT and consultant engineers has been examining potential alternative alignments for an improved Illinois Route 29. The results of this undertaking will be displayed at public information meetings scheduled for June 11 in Henry, and June 12 in Chillicothe. (See the back page of this newsletter for locations and times.)

The alternative alignments will be presented at the public meetings for public review and comment. The public's input will be considered in connection with other information to select alignments for more detailed study. At the meeting, the public will have an opportunity to discuss the various alignments with members of the study team, offer comments about the concepts presented, and suggest consideration of additional options.

Following the public meetings and after consideration of public input, a decision will be reached as to which of the alternative alignments will be developed in more detail and analyzed in the project's Environmental Impact Statement. The results of these further studies will be presented at subsequent public meetings as well as at a public hearing, now tentatively scheduled for 2004 and early 2006.



Alignment Screening Process

DESCRIPTION OF ALIGNMENT ALTERNATIVES

The project team has developed a number of preliminary alignment alternatives to address deficiencies along IL 29. The full range of these alternatives will be presented at the June 11 and 12 public meetings. After an initial analysis, the alternatives described below and shown on the facing page appear to have the best ability to address IL 29 deficiencies while minimizing overall impacts. These alignments may be altered or added to based on public/agency input. For ease of analysis, the IL 29 corridor was divided into three segments.

- South Segment – From IL 6/IL 29 near Mossville to approximately Hart Lane north of Chillicothe.
- Central Segment – From north of Chillicothe to south of Henry.
- North Segment – From south of Henry to I-180 in Bureau County.

South Segment

In the south segment, there are two options shown to bypass Chillicothe on the west. Both cross diagonally between the Mossville Caterpillar facilities with an interchange at Cedar Hills Drive/Old Galena Road. Each also interchanges with Truitt Road west of Chillicothe. Alignment S-4 is located approximately one-half mile east of Krause Road, and Alignment S-5 is approximately one-quarter mile farther east. Both alignments cross the BNSF railroad tracks west of Chillicothe and then proceed northeast along the north side of the Chillicothe Recreational Area.

Central Segment

Alternative alignments in the central segment either bypass Hopewell and Sparland on the west or generally follow the present route of IL 29 with a reduced median. The Hopewell/Sparland bypass alignment approximately follows Hardscrabble Road extended, returning to existing IL 29 north of Sparland near Camp Grove Road. This alignment is referred to as C-2.

At present, there is a jog in the alignment of IL 17 between Ferry Street and Hilltop Drive in Sparland. With Alignments C-3 or C-3A, this discontinuity would be removed by re-aligning IL 17 as shown in Figure 1. Alignment C-3 follows the present route of IL 29 through Sparland. Another option in Sparland (C-3A) relocates the Iowa Interstate Railroad tracks to the east, thereby allowing a more easterly alignment of IL 29 with fewer impacts to existing residential properties.

North Segment

Two options for bypassing Henry on the west (H-3 and H-4) are currently under consideration. Either bypass alignment would avoid the disruption resulting from an alignment along existing IL 29 through Henry.

North of Henry, one alternative alignment (N-4) crosses the railroad and proceeds north to I-180 on the east side of the tracks, bypassing Putnam.

Also north of Henry, Alignment N-2 follows the present route of IL 29 with a reduced median in some sections to avoid impacts. Alignment N-2A is similar except that the existing railroad tracks would be relocated eastward to allow additional width for the highway.

Please Note: These alignments may be altered or added to through public/agency input.

PARTICIPATION

IDOT invites public participation in the process of studying the improvement of Illinois Route 29. IDOT will be seeking input from representatives of communities, agencies, businesses, and the general public. Several specific activities will provide opportunities for you to contribute to the project:

- This is the inaugural issue of a series of **informational newsletters**. Like this newsletter, future publications will provide a detachable **comment form** on which you may offer ideas, comments, or opinions.
- At open-house **public information meetings** to be held in June and again later in the study process, the project staff will display exhibits, provide information and solicit input on the study.
- When the preliminary Environmental Impact Statement and Combined Design Report have been completed and circulated for review, a **public hearing** will be held to inform the public of the study findings and again solicit input. These documents will result in alignments and right-of-way requirements, NOT construction plans.
- In addition, IDOT will hold **individual meetings** with representatives of local units of government, interest groups, civic groups and industries to discuss and address specific interests and concerns.

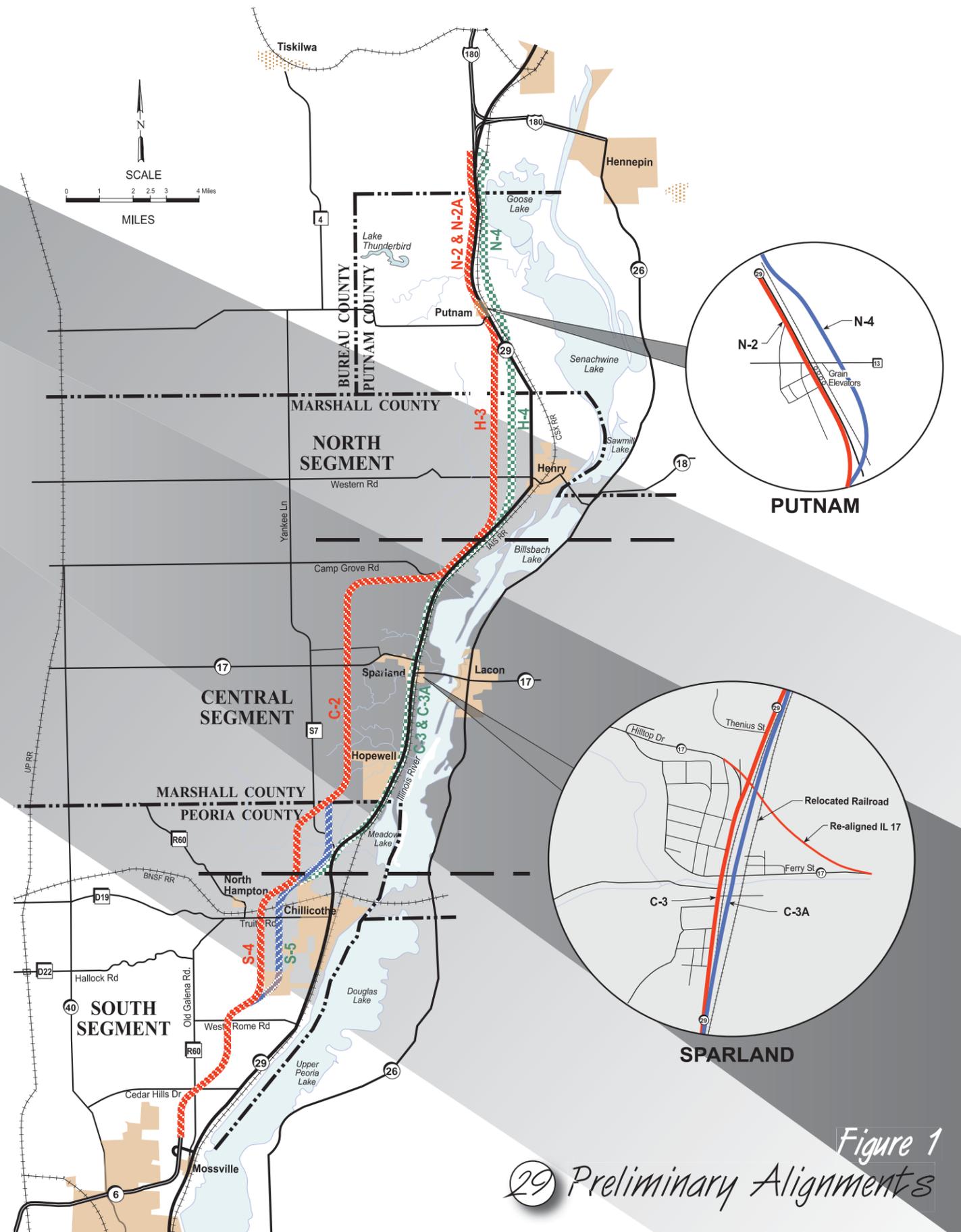


Figure 1
29 Preliminary Alignments