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Intersection Improvements at Illinois 53 and Strip Mine Road, Part of High-Speed Rail Program

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) announced that closures will take place near the intersection of Illinois 53 and Strip Mine Road, in Wilmington, for an intersection improvement project, beginning, weather permitting, Monday, October 3. The improvements are part of the Chicago-to-St. Louis high-speed rail program.

In order to complete the work, daily lane closures will take place on Illinois 53, reducing the roadway to one lane with flaggers while construction activities are in progress. The northbound Illinois 53 shoulder also will be closed in order to construct temporary pavement.

A new traffic pattern is scheduled for later this Fall. The overall project is expected to be completed in Spring 2017.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time for trips through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and be on the alert for workers and equipment.

The upgrades are part of the high-speed rail program to accommodate passenger service between Chicago and St. Louis at speeds up to 110 mph, reducing the length of the trip by one hour. The entire corridor is tentatively scheduled to be complete by the end of 2017. Approximately 150 crossings along the route will be improved to include additional safety features.

For details on other upcoming closures and additional information on the high-speed rail program, visit www.idothsr.org.

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