

# Alton-Godfrey

# TRANSPORTATION STUDY

Illinois Department of Transportation

Public Meeting #1 Factsheet

May 3, 2012

## Transportation Study Begins

Will Help to Identify Alternatives to Handle Growth, Connectivity, and Circulation

**T**hank you for attending tonight's public informational meeting for the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has initiated this planning study to evaluate traffic growth, connectivity, circulation, and safety conditions in the Alton and Godfrey area.

IDOT scheduled this public meeting to:

- Introduce the study to the public
- Gather public comments and feedback about the area's transportation system and transportation needs
- Provide information on traffic and safety conditions and environmental features of the area
- Show overview of environmental study and public involvement processes
- Solicit volunteers for Community Advisory Group (CAG)

This is an open-house public meeting – no formal presentations will be made. There are a variety of display boards available for you to examine, and IDOT and their consultant team members are on hand to answer your questions, discuss the study, and listen to your comments and concerns. Comment forms are available for you to fill out at tonight's meeting or return by mail.

### Why is IDOT Conducting This Study?

**T**he purpose of this approximately four-year study is to identify options that could improve transportation mobility and safety in the area, and address the project's problem statement. It is anticipated that with the completion of IL Route 255, traffic patterns may change and development may occur. How these changes may affect existing routes in the future will be evaluated by this study.

IDOT and its engineering consultant team, aided by input from the public, will inventory existing conditions (such as traffic data and crash history), identify and document environmental constraints, and develop and refine improvement options ("alternatives"). The result of the study will be a preferred alternative that addresses identified transportation issues and serves the area's future needs.

The study will focus on an area bounded roughly by IL Route 3/IL Route 111 (Homer Adams Parkway) on the south, Seminary Road on the east, IL Route 255 and Seiler Road on the north, and US 67 and Godfrey Road on the west (see map on page 3).

### Message from the Region 5 Engineer

*The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) appreciates your interest in this transportation study for the Alton-Godfrey area. Your active participation in the project will help us identify how the local and regional roadway network may be improved to best serve your future needs. The comments and feedback we receive from stakeholders like you will help make this project a success. We encourage you to stay informed by registering for the project mailing list and visiting the project website for updates and information.*

*Omer Osman, P.E.  
Deputy Director of Highways,  
Region 5 Engineer*

### Get Involved and Stay Informed!

The success of this study depends on your participation and input.

Visit our project website, [www.dot.il.gov/altongodfrey/home.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/altongodfrey/home.html), where you can:

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

## *This Study is a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Project*

**A**n inclusive, responsive public involvement program will be an essential part of this IDOT study, and will be implemented using IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process.

CSS is an approach to transportation project development that engages stakeholders early and often, especially before major decisions are made. The goal of CSS is to create transportation projects that not only address safety and mobility, but that also seek to preserve or enhance an area's scenic, economic, historic, and natural characteristics – in other words, “quality of life” issues.

CSS seeks to gain input from a diversity of community voices, from the planning stages of a project all the way through construction. The information and input gained from partnering with stakeholders is used by IDOT to develop an informed solution to the transportation issue.

IDOT is experienced in identifying the visible elements of an area, such as environmental or historic resources; by listening to the people who live and work in an area, we can gain an understanding of the intangibles, such as community values, traditions, and expectations. The result is a project – developed by IDOT through continuous partnership with stakeholders – that “fits” into its surroundings, or context.

The communities of Alton and Godfrey, Madison County, area businesses, residents, elected officials, travelers, and many others are all stakeholders in this study. IDOT will utilize the CSS process to educate stakeholders about the study and the study process, and to receive input and feedback from stakeholders for the study's duration. IDOT's goal for this study is to understand stakeholder needs for, and concerns about, transportation and mobility in the Alton-Godfrey area.

For further information on the CSS process, please visit the IDOT website at [www.dot.il.gov/css/home.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/css/home.html).

## *NEPA Process*

**T**his study will be prepared following the requirements of the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

NEPA requires that on projects of this nature, proposed actions are carefully analyzed for all impacts to natural and cultural resources and to the human environment. This analysis must be documented and made available for public review and comment near the end of the study.

Because transportation projects vary in type, size, complexity, and potential to affect the environment, NEPA encompasses three levels of documentation:

- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – for projects where it is known that the action will have a significant effect on the environment.
- Environmental Assessment (EA) – for actions in which the significance of the environmental impact is not clearly established.
- Categorical Exclusion (CE) – for actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment.

Although the level of environmental documentation for the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study has not yet been determined, IDOT is following the requirements for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in case that level of documentation is needed.

## *Community Advisory Group (CAG)*

**A**n important part of the Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study and CSS is extensive participation of the public in the study process. One highlight of our public involvement program is the creation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG).

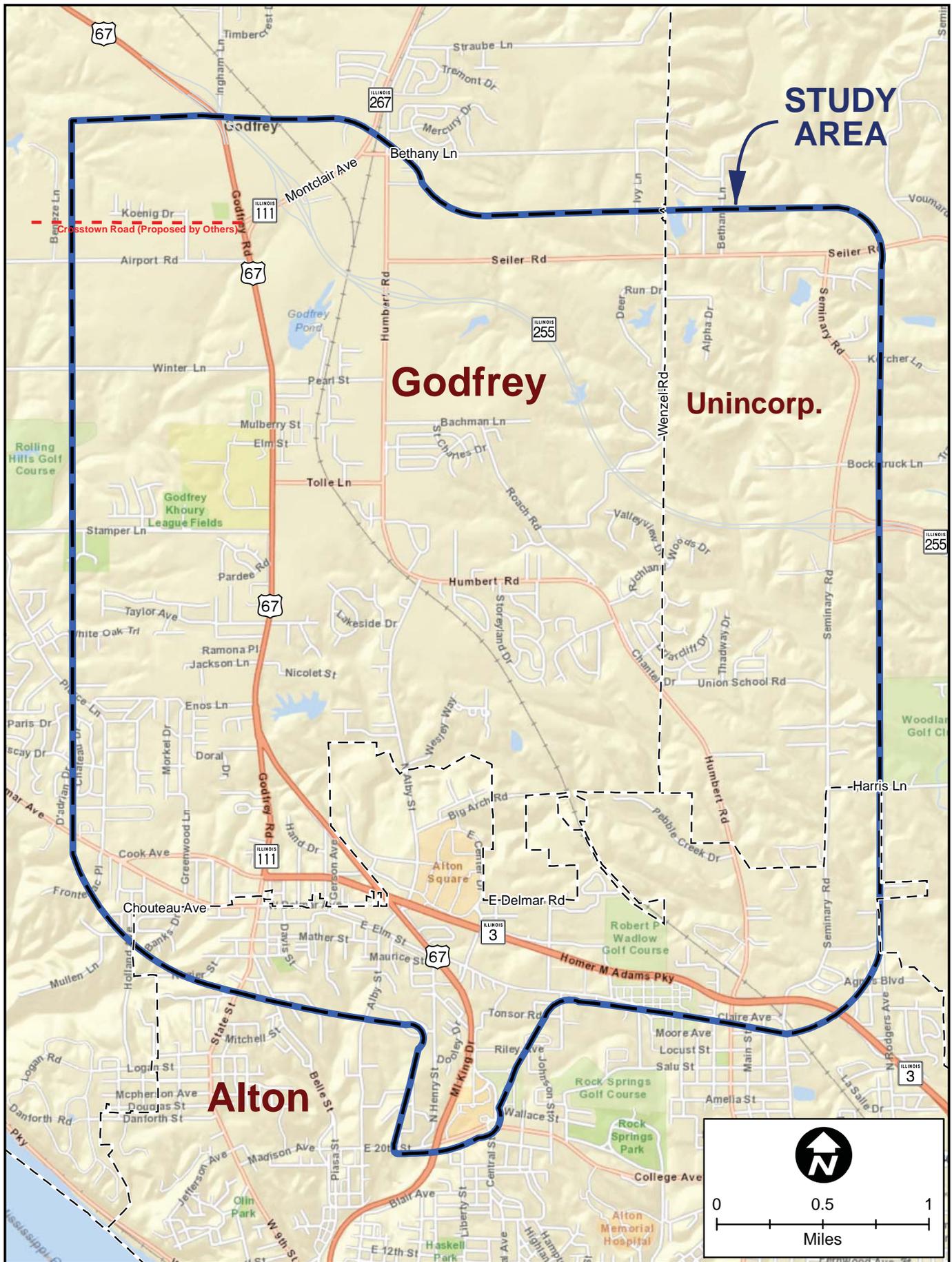
The purpose of the CAG is to provide input to the Project Study Group (PSG) on various elements of the study, including developing a problem statement, identifying issues important to the community, and providing feedback on alternatives. The PSG uses this input along with an analysis of engineering and environmental elements as it makes project decisions.

The CAG will function as a liaison between IDOT and the community as a whole, and will help generate interest in and knowledge about the study. This will help ensure opinions, values, and concerns of the community are shared with the study team, and that information developed by the team is distributed to the broader public.

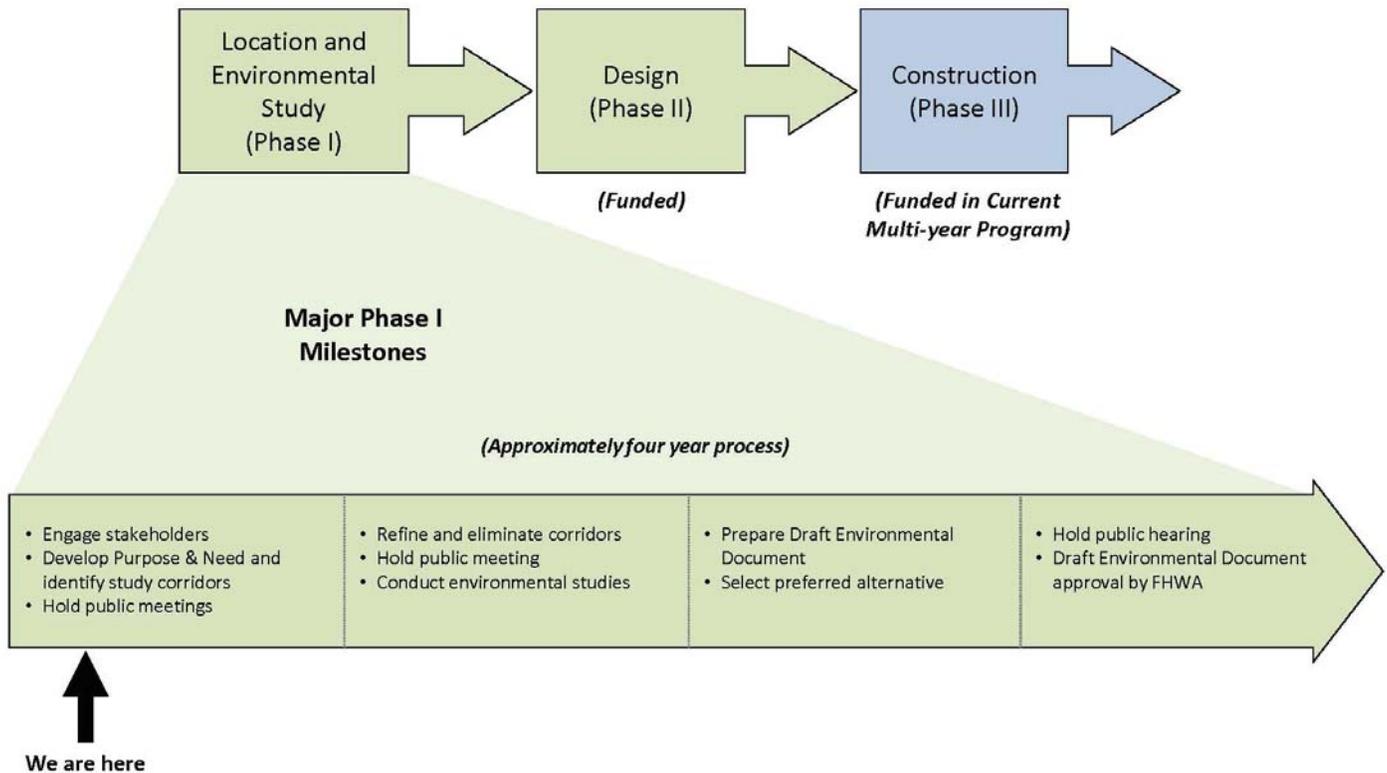
It is important that the CAG be representative of all the varied interests and viewpoints that exist within the study area. The CAG is expected to be comprised of volunteers who represent a wide variety of local interests, such as elected leaders, police and fire officials, schools, hospitals, residents, businesses, and others with a stake in the study's outcome.

The CAG will be limited to approximately 30 members, which is an effective working group size. To complete the CAG, we are looking for eight to 10 volunteers.

If you are interested in being a CAG member, please fill out the application tonight, contact us at the address shown on page 4, or visit the study website, [www.dot.il.gov/altongodfrey/home.html](http://www.dot.il.gov/altongodfrey/home.html). Please note that depending on the level of response, not all who volunteer may be selected as CAG members.



## Alton-Godfrey Transportation Study Project Timeline



### Have a question or need specific information?

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