

Questions & Answers

**Q.** Why is this project needed?

**A.** The improvement is proposed to address several needs: to close a significant part of the gap in the National Highway System of four-lane highways between the major population centers in southern Illinois and the St. Louis metropolitan area, thereby improving the region's economic development potential; to improve highway safety by correcting existing roadway deficiencies and by reducing the potential for head-on, rear-end and turning-movement collisions and the conflicts associated with the mixing of farm vehicles and automobile and truck traffic; and to improve traffic flow in downtown Pinckneyville.

**Q.** How would a bypass help traffic congestion in downtown Pinckneyville?

**A.** It would take away much of the through-traffic from the downtown area and greatly reduce the number of large-truck turning movements downtown.

**Q.** Why didn't this study for upgrading Illinois 13 and Illinois 127 extend all the way to Nashville and I-64?

**A.** The study was mandated and funded as part of the Transportation Efficiency Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), a federal act, which stated the limits of the study - Murphysboro to Pinckneyville.

**Q.** Will the study be extended at some future time?

**A.** Any future study would be dependent on administrative, political and financial support. Such a study is not in IDOT's current multi-year program.

**Q.** Are funds available to construct this project?

**A.** No. Not at this time.

**Q.** How well will this project serve Pyramid State Park and its potential for increased recreational activity?

**A.** Very well. Not only will the proposed four-lane facility provide better access to this area, but the proposed interchanges at Illinois Route 152 on the east side of the Park and at Illinois 154 north of the Park will allow flexibility in addressing traffic needs for serving any future park development.



Illinois Department of Transportation

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# Newsletter

## Illinois 13/127 Four-Lane Study Murphysboro to Pinckneyville

Issue 1

September 2007

### IDOT Sets Public Hearing on Illinois Route 13/127

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will hold a final public hearing to obtain citizen comments on the proposed upgrade of Illinois Route 13/127 from two to four lanes between Murphysboro and Pinckneyville, according to IDOT Region 5 Deputy Director Mary Lamie.

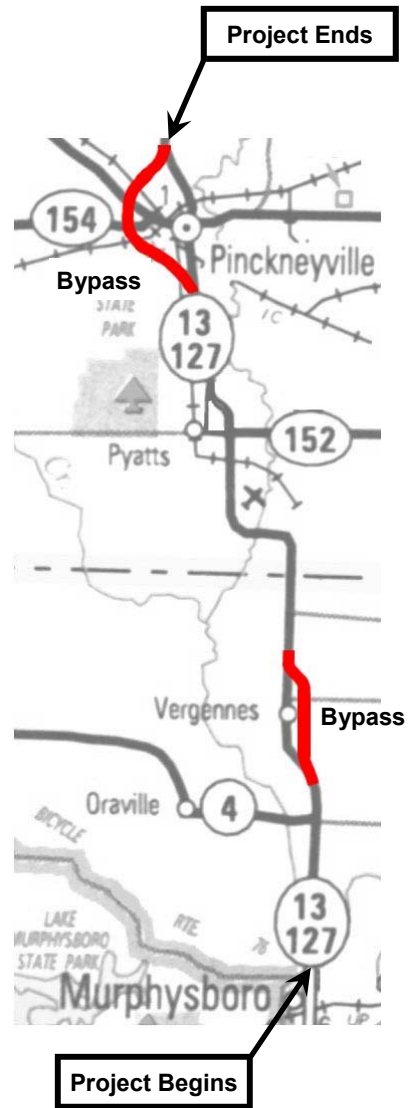
The open-house public hearing will be held from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Pinckneyville Junior High School, 700 East Water Street (Illinois 154) in Pinckneyville, on Thursday, October 11, 2007. The public will be able to review maps and displays of the alternatives studied, including IDOT's preferred alternative, as well as the results of the project's Environmental Assessment.

According to IDOT Program Development Engineer Carrie Nelsen, the open-house format allows individuals to attend at any time during the public meeting hours to obtain information and to provide comments. "In this format, people can come and go to fit their own schedules," she said.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the proposed project has been signed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and is available for public review. (See related article on page 3.) The EA contains the results of technical reports, socio-economic studies and impact analyses for the highway alternatives studied by IDOT. The EA also incorporates the findings and recommendations of the Pinckneyville Area Citizens Advisory Council.

Included in the public hearing information and displays will be a Corridor Protection Map for the proposed bypass of Pinckneyville. (See related article on page 2.) Also included at the hearing will be information and displays regarding road closures in both Jackson and Perry Counties, as well as the proposed project's effects on the Pinckneyville-Du Quoin Airport and Pyramid State Park.

At the hearing, the public will be able to ask questions of staff from IDOT and the consulting firm,



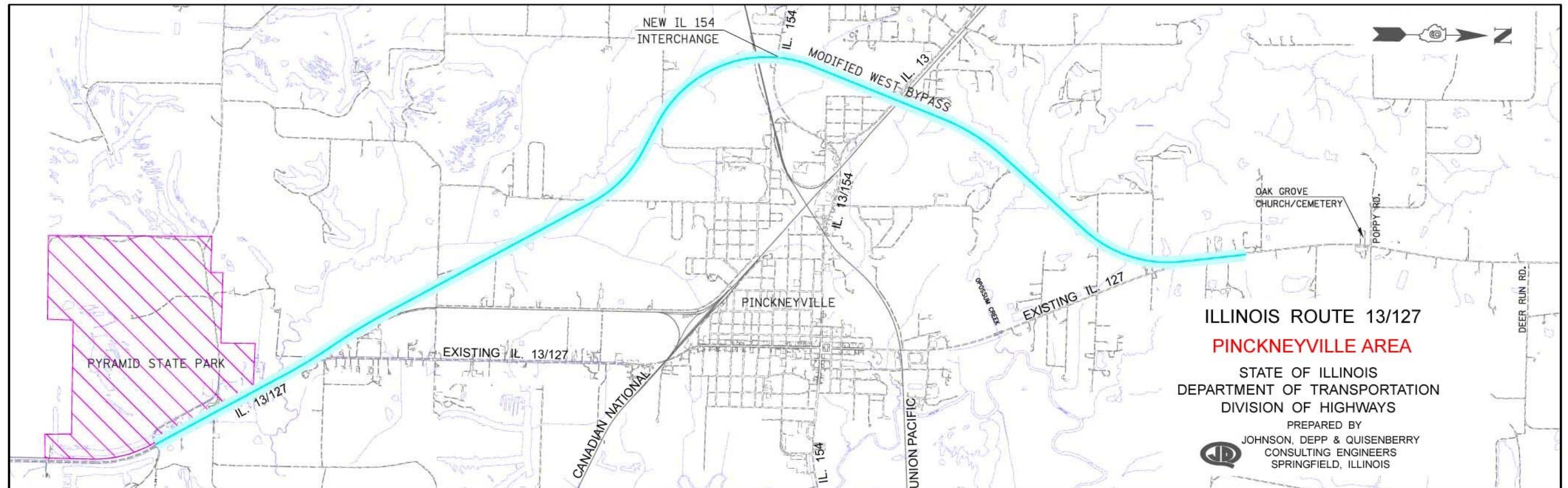
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Johnson, Depp & Quisenberry. FHWA officials also will be in attendance. Individuals can visit anytime during open-house hours to make written or oral comments about the project.



### IDOT Selects Preferred Alternative

After years of engineering and environmental surveys and studies, as well as coordination with federal, state and local officials and the public, IDOT has chosen its preferred alternative for upgrading Illinois 13/127 from two to four lanes between Murphysboro and Pinckneyville.

In the 17-miles long rural area south of Pinckneyville, the pro-

posed improvement generally consists of adding a 50' wide earth median and two additional lanes on the left (west) side of the existing pavement. An exception to this general approach is a 2.77-miles long four-lane bypass on the east side of Vergennes. In addition, an interchange is proposed at Illinois 152 to replace the existing intersection.

In the Pinckneyville area, a six-miles long four-lane bypass with an interchange at Illinois 154 is proposed. This "Modified West Bypass" is a modification of a previously eliminated West Bypass of Pinckneyville. The Pinckneyville Area Citizens Advisory Council, formed to obtain local input, recommended a modification of the previously identified West Bypass alignment.

### Corridor Protection Proposed for the Pinckneyville Bypass

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has developed a Corridor Protection Map for the proposed bypass of Pinckneyville. This map will be on display at the October 11th Public Hearing. Interested persons will have the opportunity to make written or recorded comments.

Corridor protection is allowed under Section 4-510 of the Illinois Highway Code (605 ILCS 5/4-510). Following the public hearing, a final Corridor Protection Map will be filed in the Perry County Recorder's Office. This filing provides a means of protecting the needed right of

way (ROW) from development prior to IDOT acquiring the property.

The Map will show the approximate an ROW limits that are anticipated to be needed for the planned bypass. Property owners planning to make an improvement within the corridor

should contact IDOT no less than sixty (60) days prior to starting construction. IDOT will have forty-five (45) days to decide whether or not

to acquire the right of way in question.

Land acquisition personnel will be on hand at the hearing to discuss corri-

dor protection, as well as other property acquisition matters.

### Environmental Assessment Available for Comment

The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Illinois 13/127 project is complete and will be available for review and comment by September 20th. There are several ways the public can view a copy of this document.

**Public Libraries.** A copy of the EA will be available for review at the following public libraries:

- ◀ Carbondale  
(405 West Main Street)
- ◀ Murphysboro  
(1808 Walnut Street)
- ◀ Du Quoin  
(28 South Washington Street)

◀ Pinckneyville  
(312 South Walnut Street)

**IDOT District Office.** Individuals may visit the IDOT District 9 Office at 2801 West Murphysboro Road (Old Route 13 West) in Carbondale, Illinois, where a copy of the EA will be available for review.

**Electronic.** Individuals may obtain an electronic version of the EA on compact disc (CD) at the IDOT District Office in Carbondale. Contact Carrie Nelsen at the address shown above or by phone at (618) 549-2171.

**Online.** IDOT is providing access

to the EA on the Internet. Individuals can log on to IDOT's website at [www.dot.state.il.us](http://www.dot.state.il.us) and click on "Environmental Issues" along the left side of the page. Once on the "Environmental Issues" page, click on "Environmental Documents" along the right side of the page. After reaching the "Environmental Documents" page, click on "Illinois 13/127 Environmental Assessment" to view the EA.

Comments on the EA should be submitted to Carrie Nelsen at the IDOT District Office by October 26, 2007.