



# Prairie Parkway Study

## Welcome to the first Public Information Meeting for the Prairie Parkway Study.

This public information meeting is being held so that the Illinois Department of Transportation can initiate and present information about the Prairie Parkway Study and hear your questions and comments.

These public information meetings are being held in an open-house format to provide an opportunity for all interested parties to review the Study approach, ask questions, and make comments.

An earlier corridor protection study, completed in 2002, protected a corridor for a potential transportation improvement. Corridor protection is a common planning tool used in Northeastern Illinois and the country. Corridor protection doesn't necessarily indicate a current need for an improvement. The new study, however, will assess if the region's transportation system can handle the future growth. The new study is independent of the corridor protection and will take a new, comprehensive look at the general study area.

**We want to hear from you. Please feel free to ask questions and express your opinions.**

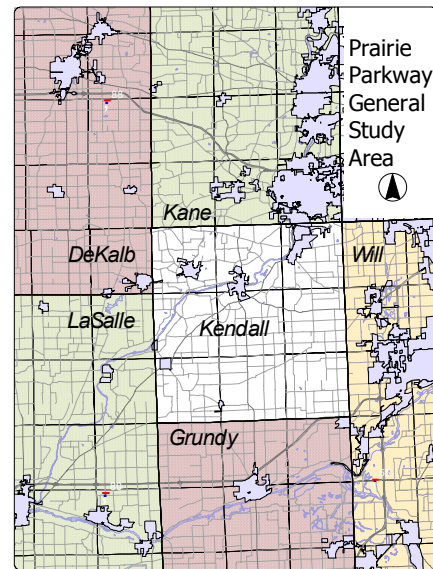
### Purpose

The Prairie Parkway Study will evaluate the need for future transportation improvements in Northeastern Illinois. The general study area includes Kane,

Kendall, Grundy, DeKalb, LaSalle and Will counties.

### Process

The Study will take an in-depth look at current and future transportation needs in an area that is experiencing growing regional development demand and increasing traffic congestion. The Study has been segmented into a number of study components. Only Part A, which analyzes the transportation needs in the region, is underway. Depending on the findings of the transportation needs analysis, additional study work, such as the identification of new alternatives to address those needs, and the analysis of both engineering and environmental impacts, may be done over the next five years.



### Part A

Part A of the Study will focus on identifying and documenting:

- Current and future population and employment levels and trends.



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- Current and future transportation conditions.
- Current and future local and regional transportation system needs.

The first step in Part A consists of data collection, resulting in an extensive information database. Next, population and employment forecasts will be developed, considering current land use, future plans, and development trends. The population and employment forecasts will be used as the basis for estimating future travel demand. This travel demand forecast will be overlaid on the transportation system to identify transportation system deficiencies and needs.

The Part A report will discuss the results of the transportation needs analysis and will direct future study, if needed. Part A is expected to take about one year.

## **Organization**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) - District 3 is leading the Prairie Parkway Study. IDOT has responsibility for planning, construction and maintenance of Illinois' extensive transportation network, which encompasses, highways and bridges, airports, public transit, rail freight and rail passenger systems. The mission of IDOT is to provide safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois in ways that enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity, and demonstrate respect for the environment.

The planning and engineering firm of Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade and Douglas,

Inc (PB) is the primary consultant for the Preliminary Engineering Study.

## **Public Participation**

Public participation in the study is a key component. Part A public participation activities include:

- Public information meetings, with extensive opportunities for questions and comments
- Comment forms for written input and follow-up responses
- Group presentations
- A public opinion survey
- Focus groups
- Newsletters
- An interactive Website, [www.Prairie-Parkway.com](http://www.Prairie-Parkway.com), with periodic updates.

Because your input is important, there are several ways to comment on the project.

- Personnel from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the consultant are present to answer your questions and receive your comments.
- A tape recorder is available to record your comments.
- Use the provided comment form and drop it in the comment box or seal and mail to us.
- You may send comments to us by fax at (815) 434-8553, by e-mail to: [info@Prairie-Parkway.com](mailto:info@Prairie-Parkway.com), or by mail to: Diane O'Keefe, District Engineer Illinois Department of Transportation 700 East Norris Drive Ottawa, Illinois 61350

**Thank you for attending this public information meeting and for your interest in the study.**