

# Identify Alternatives

*The primary needs include improving the following areas: regional mobility, deficiencies in the local roads, accessibility to jobs, and safety.*

continued on page 1

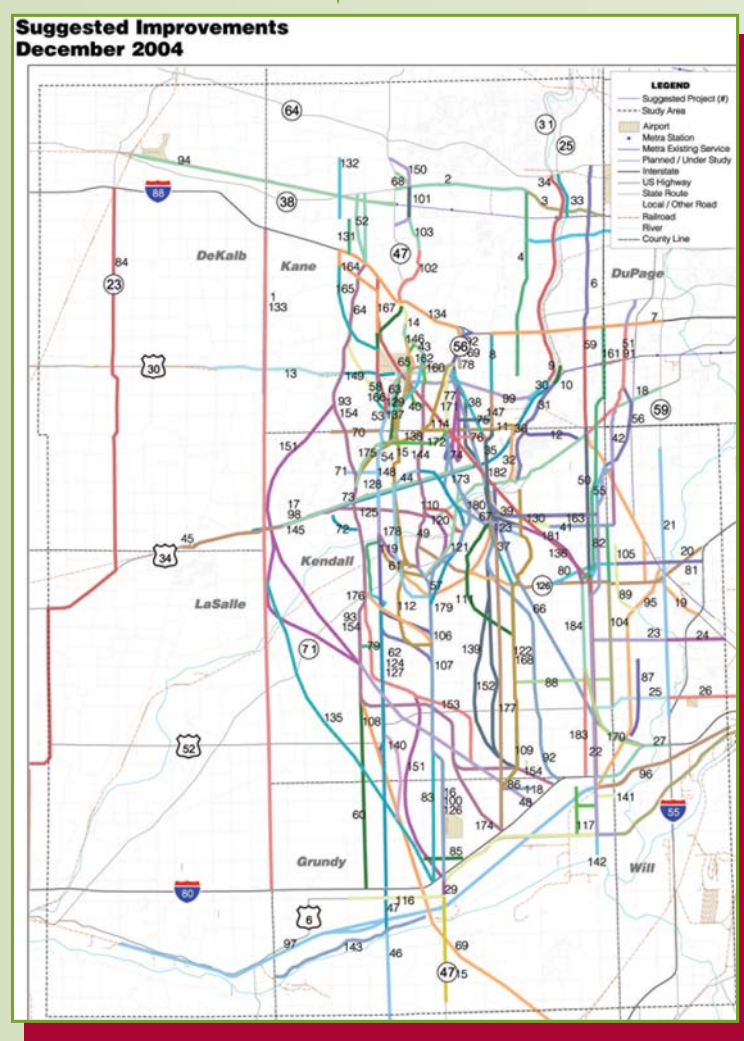
Part B began with two public workshops held in June of 2004 and continued with over 35 stakeholder meetings to identify potential transportation improvements for the study area. This was a great example of IDOT applying their principles of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) as the public took colored markers in hand and drew up suggestions for improvements. From these meetings and the needs identified in Part A, more than 150 improvement ideas were suggested. These ideas ranged from local improvements, to widening study area arterial roads, to new multi-county freeways, and to transit suggestions.

The study team combined this wide variety of ideas into four types of regional improvement concepts to meet the purpose of the study: transit, traffic management techniques, arterial road widening and extensions, and new freeways. These concepts were developed to address the regional travel needs of the study area and focused on the project purpose of improving north-south travel. The resulting concepts incorporated most of the public suggestions, and provided an array of concepts covering the study area.

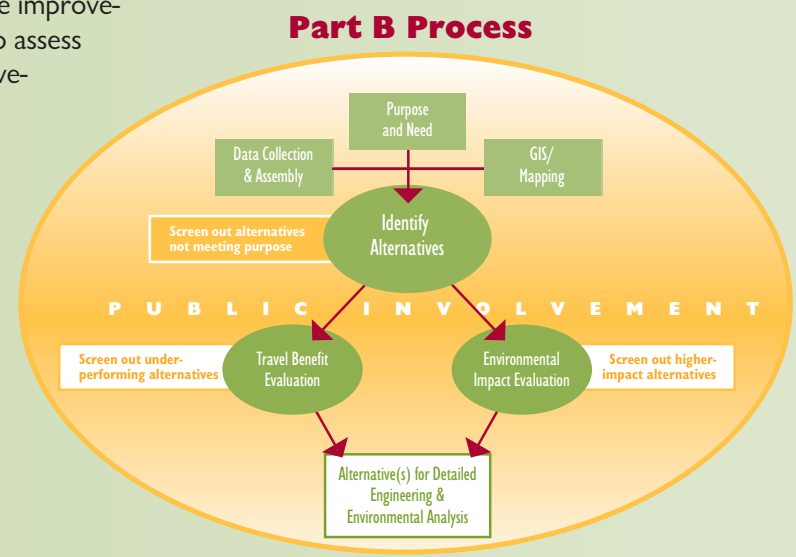
For convenience, each alternative is referred to by a symbol that simply reflects a tie-in point at I-88 (Letters A-N) and I-80 (Numbers 1 to 5). For example, an arterial road widening that extends from location "J" at I-88 to location "1" at I-80 is referred to as alternative "J1". The exhibit shows a general location of the corridors; however the locations can move several miles without significantly affecting the results of this evaluation. The purpose at this point in the study is to identify the most effective corridors. Later studies will refine the alignments to make more specific adjustments using updated and refined information.

After the wide range of possible alternatives was defined, the Study team began the process of evaluating the concepts. This included a Travel Benefit Evaluation of the possible improvements, and an Environmental Impact Evaluation to assess the potential impacts of the transportation improvements on the natural and man-made environment.

The findings of these evaluation steps are discussed in detail in this issue of *Directions*. Please keep in mind that **no decisions have been made as to which improvements will proceed for additional study and review**. IDOT is simply asking for public review and comments on these findings at this point in the study.

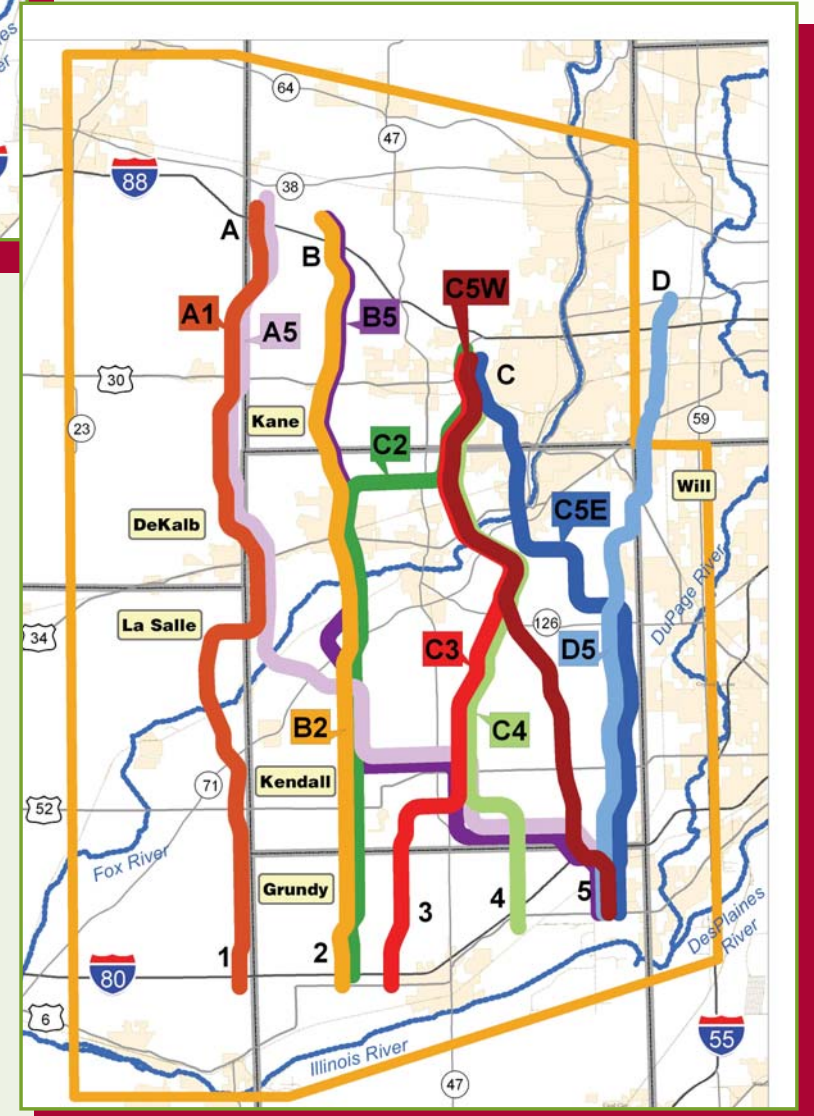


Community members 150 suggested improvements to the region.



### Arterial Road Alternatives

*Nearly all ideas merge together into regional concepts.*



### Freeway Alternatives