



Illinois Department of Transportation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Matt Vanover
Phone: (217) 558-0517

THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO PRESENT PRAIRIE PARKWAY TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES EVALUATION

Ottawa, Ill. – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will hold two public information meetings on May 10 and 11 to present the evaluation results of the potential alternatives to address the transportation challenges in northeastern Illinois. This is the latest step in the Prairie Parkway Preliminary Engineering Study. The meetings will be open house format, with a question and answer session at each meeting.

IDOT received approximately 150 transportation improvement suggestions during numerous meetings with the public, elected officials and stakeholder groups throughout the study area. These suggestions were used to develop a wide range of transportation alternatives, including the widening of existing arterial streets, new freeways, transit improvements, and smaller scale improvements, including traffic signal coordination and carpooling. At the May meetings, IDOT will present the initial evaluation results that assess how well they address the four main parts of the purpose and need statement:

- Improve regional mobility
- Address local system deficiencies
- Improve access from the study area to regional jobs
- Improve safety

In addition, IDOT has evaluated the potential environmental impacts of these transportation alternatives.

At these meetings, IDOT is seeking feedback from the public on the evaluation of these transportation alternatives. “This is a significant step in the Prairie Parkway Transportation Study,” said Gregg Mounts, IDOT’s Deputy Director of Highways. “The evaluations performed will enable people to judge for themselves which transportation alternatives seem to be the most effective. We are looking forward to hearing the public’s opinions on these alternatives, because it will help us take the next step to develop just a small set of recommended transportation improvements to study in more detail.”

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The Transportation System Performance Report released in March 2004 revealed that three counties in the study area are ranked on the list of 100 fastest growing counties in the United States from 2000 to 2003 according to the U.S. Census Bureau: Kendall (#10), Will (#33) and Kane (#75). By 2030, the population in the study area is expected to double. The entire Transportation System Performance Report is available for viewing at www.prairie-parkway.com.

“IDOT has performed a comprehensive, balanced analysis on these transportation concepts,” said Mounts. “Public involvement has been and will continue to be crucial to this process. We are evaluating the concepts that incorporate the ideas given to us at the public workshops and many stakeholder meetings. We now want to hear what the public says about the evaluation findings for their suggestions.”

The two public information meetings will be held at:

Date:	Tuesday, May 10, 2005	Wednesday, May 11, 2005
Time:	5:30 – 8:00 p.m.	5:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Location:	Kaneland John Shields Elementary School 85 South Main Street Sugar Grove, Illinois	White Oak Elementary School 2001 Dupont Avenue Morris, Illinois

The public is invited and encouraged to attend at any time during the public information meetings. In the open houses, the public will be able to watch a recorded presentation, review exhibits and discuss the study with representatives from IDOT. In addition, a presentation by IDOT representatives and a question and answer session will start at 6:30 p.m. each night.

Both public meeting sites are accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations are needed, please contact IDOT’s office at 815-434-8435, or TTY 815-434-8510.

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