

Comments from Previous Public Meetings



How will the I-55 and IL 59 interchange address connectivity?

The preferred alternative will address connectivity by converting the existing partial access interchange to a full access interchange with new access to and from the north. The preferred alternative includes extending IL 59 south of Seil Road and crossing over I-55 with a diverging diamond interchange to improve traffic operations. Two new ramps at the southbound exit and northbound entrance will be added between I-55 and IL 59. The preferred alternative also includes the construction of an auxiliary lane in each direction on I-55 between US 52 and the new diverging diamond interchange to allow for enhanced traffic operations and weaving between vehicles entering and exiting the expressway.



Does the study take pedestrian safety into consideration?

Based on input and IDOT's Complete Streets policy, improvements will include the opportunity for accommodating continuous 10 foot wide shared-use paths along IL 59 and its extension across I-55, Olympic Boulevard and its extension west, Seil Road, and US 52. The US 52 shared-use path will connect to adjacent existing Forest Preserve District trails, and the Olympic Boulevard shared-use path will connect to future City of Joliet shared use paths along Houbolt Road.



Will transit infrastructure, specifically for buses, be considered in the plan?

The project study team coordinated with Pace during the study process. At this time no additional service is anticipated along I-55; however, there is a long term plan to extend I-55 service south of I-80. Pace may also potentially expand the existing bus routes along Olympic Boulevard servicing Joliet Junior College on the new roadway network should a logical destination be present in the future.



Will there be a road through the Fen?

Many comments by the community have been received regarding the sensitivity of the Fen and the ecosystem that surrounds Joliet Junior College. Through this study, potential impacts were evaluated for each alternative with respect to each environmental resource, including those at Joliet Junior College. The four preferred alternatives will have no impact on the Fen.



I-55 at IL 59 Access Project

VIRTUAL PUBLIC OUTREACH

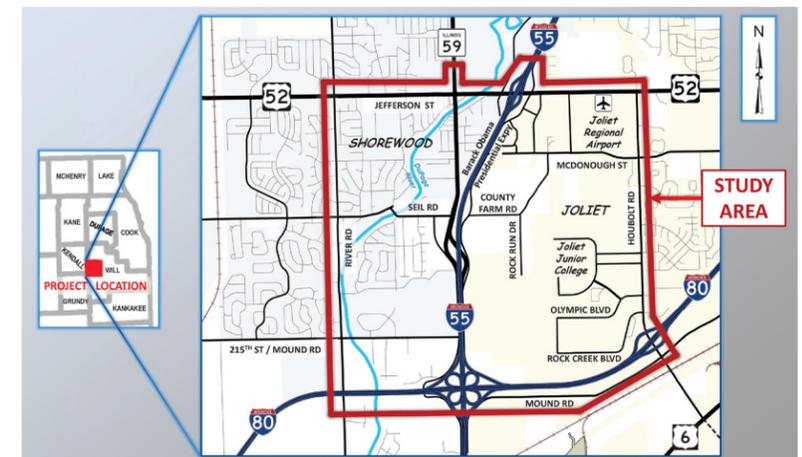
Please visit the project website to participate in the virtual public outreach!

The virtual public outreach website is available for viewing and comments and will remain active until the closure of the public comment period on August 4, 2020.

Directions to access the virtual public outreach website are available on the project website at www.i55atil59accessproject.org. This will be made accessible to people with disabilities. Additionally, anyone needing special assistance or requesting hard copies of materials should contact Jessica Feliciano at (847) 705-4087. TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864 or 771; and Telebraille (877) 526-6670 at least five (5) days prior to the closure of the public comment period on August 4, 2020.

The Purpose of the Virtual Public Outreach:

- To present the preferred alternative for each of four independent projects identified by the I-55 Access Study
 - US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road
 - I-55 from I-80 to US 52
 - Olympic Boulevard from I-55 East Frontage Road to Houbolt Road
 - Seil Road from Raven Road to IL 59
- Provide a status update for each of the projects
- Discuss the next steps of the project study





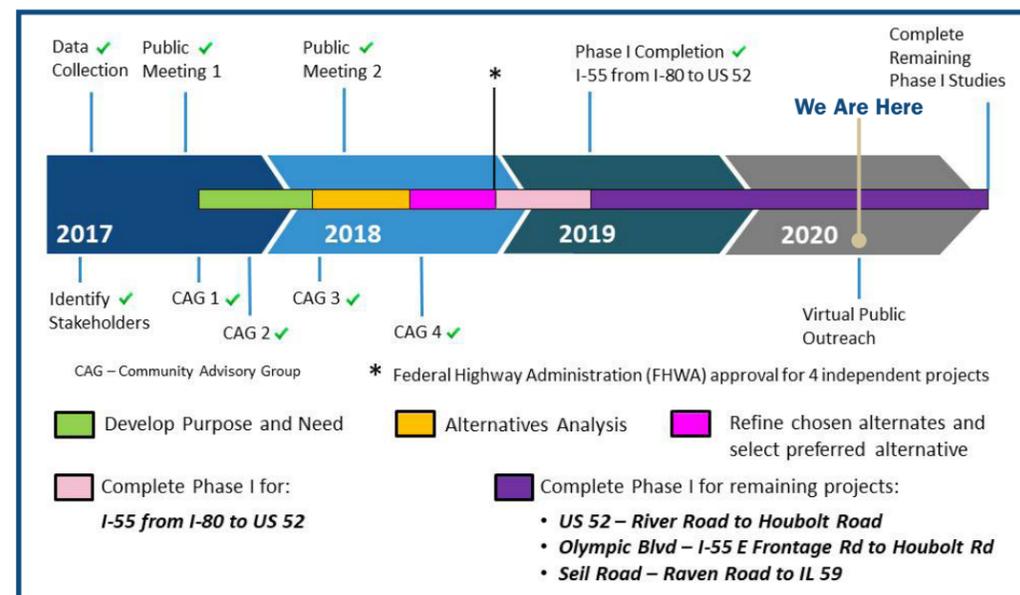
Where Are We Now? Project Status

During the planning phase of the I-55 at IL 59 Access Project, multiple alternatives were developed with the goal of improving local connectivity, regional mobility and pedestrian safety. This process included engineering and environmental studies, public meetings and discussions with the community and elected officials.

In 2017, a community advisory group (CAG) was created to provide volunteers and stakeholders a chance to learn about the project study and offer feedback throughout the process. In addition to the CAG, a project study team was created to provide stakeholder feedback and technical expertise. A total of four CAG meetings and two public meetings were held over a two-year period to discuss the project's process, schedule and alternatives and provide an opportunity for community input. This process included the presentation of all alternatives at public meeting #2 (April 2018) and a preferred alternative at CAG meeting #4 (July 2018).

Based on study findings and community input, a recommended preferred alternative was developed and discussed at CAG Meeting #4. The preferred alternative received concurrence from the Federal Highway Administration on September 13, 2018 and includes four independent improvements.

Phase I Project Schedule



Project Purpose

The purpose of the I-55 at IL 59 Access Project is to provide safe and efficient transportation for both interstate travel along I-55, and for the regional and local roadway networks to address existing and future transportation needs. Solutions were required to consider the quality of life and community character as well as minimize impacts to sensitive environmental resources. Coordination among adjacent communities and governing bodies is also essential to the project development process.

The four improvement projects are:

- Capacity Improvement Projects:
US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road
Seil Road from Raven Road to IL 59
- Interchange Improvement:
I-55 from I-80 to US 52
- East-West Connector:
Olympic Boulevard from I-55 East Frontage Road to Houbolt Road

Traffic Noise Study

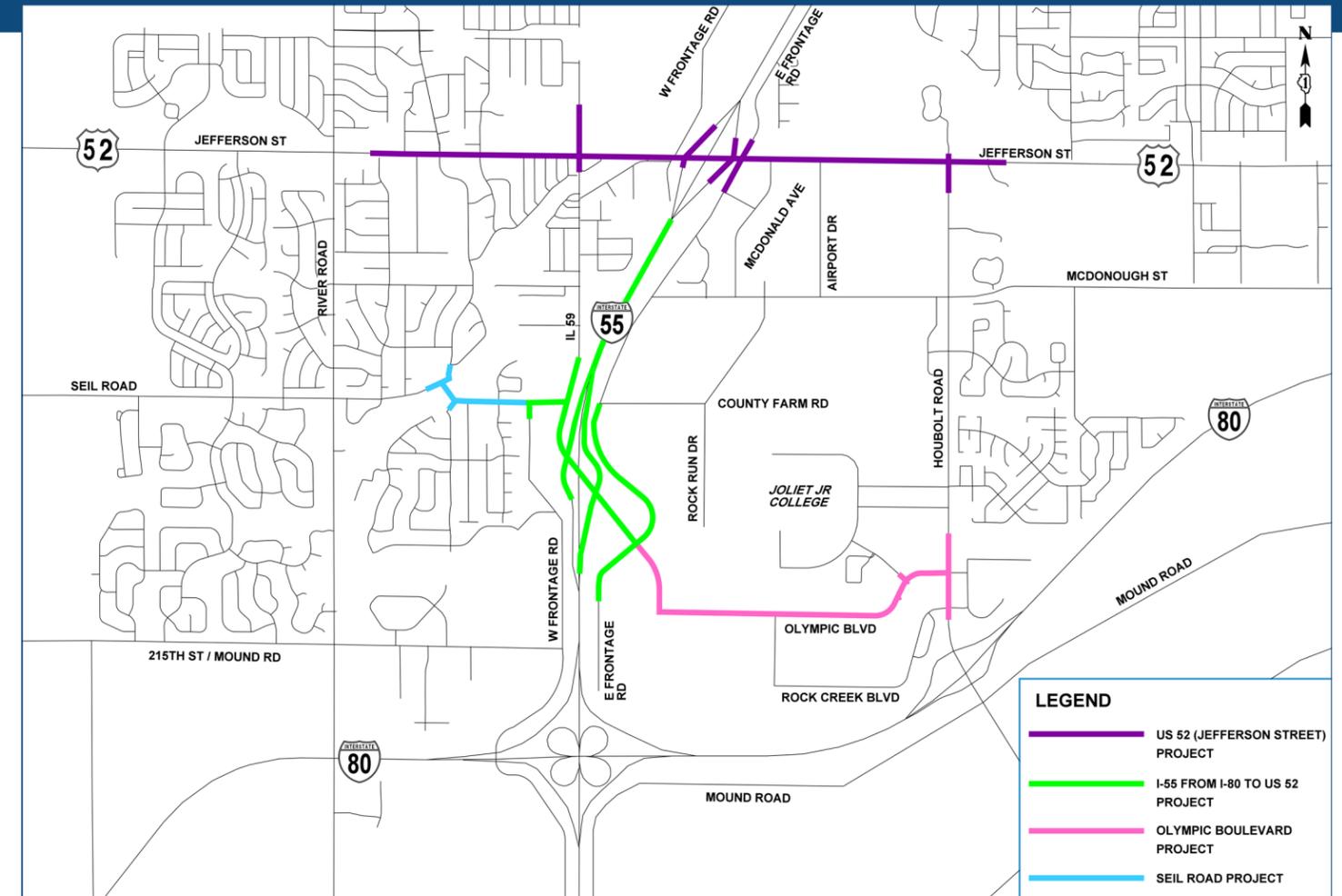
A separate noise study will be conducted for each of the four projects, where applicable, in accordance with IDOT and federal policy. These studies will compare noise at today's levels and in 2050. The study will compare noise levels with and without the proposed improvements.

The noise study for the I-55 from I-80 to US 52 project has been completed. The study found that two noise abatement walls would benefit 116 receptors, along I-55 between IL 59 and US 52. Implementation of the noise walls will be determined by a majority vote of benefited residents. The traffic noise evaluation for the Olympic Boulevard from I-55 East Frontage Road to Houbolt Road project has been completed. Results found that there are no noise impacts anticipated to sensitive receptors along the route.

Project Phases[^]

- Phase I**
Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study
- Phase II**
Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition
- Phase III**
Construction

[^]The phases shown refer to the IDOT project phases and should not be confused with the Restore Illinois Phases associated with COVID-19.



I-55 from I-80 to US 52

The interchange project includes the conversion of the existing partial interchange at IL 59 and I-55 to a full access diverging diamond interchange also known as a DDI. These improvements are intended to improve connectivity, safety, capacity and system linkage between the existing roadway network and interstate system.

Olympic Boulevard from I-55 East Frontage Road to Houbolt Road

The east-west connector project includes the extension of Olympic Boulevard west to East Frontage Road. These improvements are intended to improve east-west connectivity and provide better interstate system linkage in the surrounding communities of Shorewood and Joliet.

Funding & Schedule

US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road and I-55 from I-80 to US 52 are included in the Department's FY 2021-2026 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Current engineering efforts are targeted to enable contract lettings in the later years and early years respectively, contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through future annual legislative appropriations. The subsequent phases for the improvements of Olympic Boulevard and Seil Road are anticipated to be locally led by the City of Joliet and the Village of Shorewood, respectively.

US 52 from River Road to Houbolt Road

Seil Road from Raven Road to IL 59

Two capacity improvement projects are proposed along US 52 and Seil Road. These improvements are intended to add capacity, mitigate traffic congestion and improve safety.

Stay Connected!

For more information about the project study, or to join our mailing list, please visit the project website or contact Jessica A. Feliciano:
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