

Public Engagement Summary

January 2021



TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	
PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES	3
Stakeholder Involvement Plan	
Branding	3
Website	4
Newsletter	4
Stakeholder Meetings	5
Public Engagement Period	6
Survey	6
Online Public Engagement Page	6
Social Media	7
Targeted Stakeholder Outreach	7
APPENDIX A	8
Stakeholder Involvement Plan	A-1
Branding Guidelines	A-2
Newsletters	A-3
Stakeholder Meetings	A-4
Survey One Results	A-5
Social Media Summary	A-6
Social Media Share Kits	A-7









INTRODUCTION

The Will County Division of Transportation is conducting a transportation mobility study to find strategies to better accommodate travel through eastern Will County while maintaining quality of life. This study is using the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) approach to assess options for improving mobility and safety for citizens and freight carriers.

This approach streamlines the subsequent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by incorporating outcomes of the PEL study into the NEPA review, rather than issuing standalone feasibility studies. A major component of the PEL process is early and frequent stakeholder engagement that builds interagency relationships that link planning and engineering while minimizing environmental impacts. Morreale Communications is managing public involvement for the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study that is assessing alternatives for improving mobility and safety for citizens and freight carriers in eastern Will County.

This document summarizes all public engagement activities implemented during the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study. This document will be updated after major public involvement milestones, as this study is still ongoing. Public involvement activities for this study are expected to be complete by late summer 2021.







Public Engagement Activities

Stakeholder Involvement Plan



A Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) was created to serve as a blueprint for defining methods and tools to educate and engage all stakeholders in this study's decision-making process. The SIP was designed to ensure that stakeholders are provided many opportunities to be informed and engaged as the project progresses. The SIP identified stakeholders and outlined the goals, activities, and timeline of stakeholder involvement activities. The SIP was approved in October 2020. See Appendix A-1 for the approved SIP.

Branding

Project branding consisting of a color palette, logo, and typography was established to create a consistent look across all project materials. Branding ensured that the study was easily identifiable to all stakeholders. A branding guidelines document was created containing information on how to use the branding across all project materials, including reports, websites, social media, and newsletters. The branding guidelines document can be found in Appendix A-2.



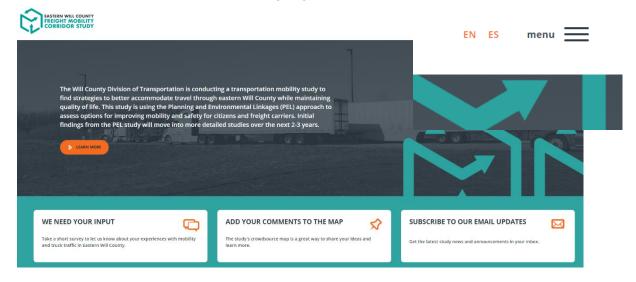






Website

A website (www.eastwillmobility.com) was created to be the central place for all study information for anyone interested in the project. The website serves as an easy-to-use and cost-effective way to find information and maintain the study's history. The website also serves as a primary way for stakeholders to engage with the study team through a public comment box that sends comments directly to the project team. The website is also available in Spanish. Visitors have the option to easily switch between languages.



Newsletter

Newsletters are sent through email to educate stakeholders about the study and to promote various stakeholder involvement activities. View the newsletters in Appendix A-3.

Date Sent	Subject/Objective	Number of Recipients
November 24, 2020	Project introduction	68
December 1, 2020	Survey promotion, PEL info	71
December 21, 2020	Survey reminder	81







Stakeholder Meetings

Small-group meetings were held with stakeholders to introduce the project and understand areas of opportunities and concern. View the summaries of the meetings in Appendix A-4.

Date	Attendees
September 19, 2020	Will County Division of Transportation: Christina Kupkowski WSP: Dave McGibbon, Jamy Lyne, Rick Powell, Jamie Bents Peotone: Peter March, President; Aimee Ingalls, Village Manager
September 22, 2020	Village of Monee: Jim Popp, Mayor; Dave Wallace, Village Administrator Village of Crete: Mike Einhorn, Mayor; Mike Smith, Village Manager Peotone: Peter March, President; Aimee Ingalls, Village Manager Village of University Park: No Attendance
December 8, 2020	Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC): Ralph Schultz, Andrew Hawkins Will County Division of Transportation: Christina Kupkowski WSP: Dave McGibbon, Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski
December 9, 2020	Will County Center for Economic Development (WCCED): Doug Prior Will County Division of Transportation: Christina Kupkowski WSP: Dave McGibbons, Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski
December 11, 2020	Will County Farm Bureau: Mark Schneidewind Will County Division of Transportation: Christina Kupkowski WSP: Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski
December 14, 2020	Will County Planning and Zoning Commission: Janine Farrell Will County Division of Transportation: Christina Kupkowski WSP: Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski
December 18, 2020	Crete Township: Michael Liccar, Tony Recupito Will County Division of Transportation: Christina Kupkowski WSP: Dave McGibbon, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski
January 6, 2021	South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association: Kristi DeLaurentiis, Leslie Phemister Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation: Reggie Greenwood Will County Division of Transportation: Christina Kupkowski WSP:Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski







Public Engagement Period

Due to the restrictions of in-person meetings, an online public engagement period was held in place of a traditional public meeting for the first phase of engagement. The online public engagement period was from December 1 through December 31, 2020. The goal of the first online public engagement period was to solicit feedback, create awareness, and to develop a purpose and need for the study, which is the first major milestone in the project development and PEL process.

Survey

A major component of the month-long online public engagement period was participation in an interactive survey created using MetroQuest. The survey was open from December 1 to December 31, 2020. The Morreale team collaborated with the other team members to develop the survey questions and recommend the structure of the survey. The project branding was applied to the survey to create a consistent look. Various successful promotion strategies were



implemented to receive 252 completed surveys during the online public engagement period. A summary of the survey responses can be found in Appendix A-5.

The survey promotion strategies are detailed below.

Online Public Engagement Page

A dedicated page on the study's website was created to serve as the central place for stakeholders to learn more about the online public engagement period and access the survey. The homepage of the website promoted the survey in the news sections. The promotion of the survey was in English and Spanish on the website.











Social Media

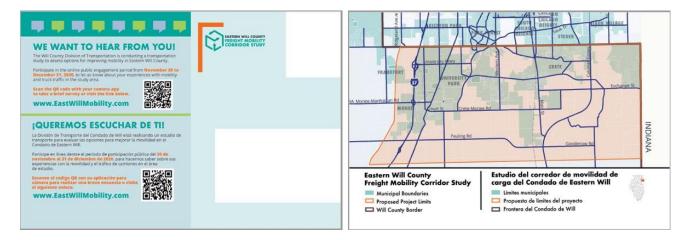
A social media campaign that used paid and organic posts was used to engage stakeholders and promote the survey. The social media posts were published on the Will County Executive Facebook page. The paid posts reached 6,095 people and made 9,202 impressions. This resulted in 471 post engagements. A detailed summary of the social media campaign can be found in Appendix A-6.

In addition to the paid and organic posts on the Will County Executive Facebook page, social media share kits were created to maximize the reach of the social media campaign. Key stakeholders were identified as partners and were provided content to post on their social media pages to help promote the study and the survey. The social media share kit can be found in Appendix A-7.



Targeted Stakeholder Outreach

The project team made it a priority to ensure that Limited English Proficient (LEP) and low-income populations in the study area were given the opportunity to learn about the study and provide feedback. A postcard with messaging in English and Spanish was sent out to over 5,500 people to the identified population and encouraged them to scan a QR code to take the survey and learn more about the study.









Appendix A

Stakeholder Involvement Plan

Branding Guidelines

Newsletters

Stakeholder Meetings

Survey One Results

Social Media Summary

Social Media Share Kits









Stakeholder Involvement Plan

October 2020

Table of Contents

1.	Introd	uction	1
	1.1	Project Background	1
	1.2	Legal Requirements	1
	1.3	Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL)	1
	1.4	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	1
	1.5	Context Sensitive Solutions	1
2.	Goals	and Objectives	2
	2.1	Stakeholder Involvement Plan Goals	2
	2.2	Stakeholder Identification Procedures	3
	2.3	Stakeholder Involvement Ground Rules	3
3.	Stakel	nolder Group Organization	4
	3.1	Project Study Group (PSG)	4
	3.2	Elected Officials	4
	3.3	Implementation	4
	3.4	Stakeholder Involvement	5
4.	Tentat	ive Schedule of Project Development Activities and Stakeholder Involvement	5
	4.1	Stakeholder Identification, Development of SIP, Project Scoping	6
	4.2	Understanding of Project Purpose and Need	6
	4.3	Alternatives Development	7
	4.4	Alternatives Consideration	7
5.	Pub	lic Involvement Plan Activities	7
	5.1	Stakeholder List Development	7
	5.2	Outreach Meetings	8
	5.2.	1 Stakeholder Meetings	8
	5.2.	Public Meetings and Open Houses	8
	5.2.	3 Health precautions for in-person meetings	8
	5.3	Virtual Alternatives	8
	5.3.	1 Virtual Public Information Meetings	9
	5.3.	Public Engagement Period	9
	5.4	Small Community Events	9

	5.5	Digital Strategy9		
	5.5.			
	5.5.			
	5.5.	.3 Social Media	10	
	5.5.	.4 MetroQuest	10	
	5.6	Connecting with Diverse Stakeholder Groups	10	
	5.7	Public Response and Communication	10	
	5.8	Agency and Tribal Coordination	11	
ĵ.	. Plan A	Availability, Monitoring, and Updates	11	
	6.1	Availability of Stakeholder Involvement Plan	11	
	6.2	Modification of Stakeholder Involvement Plan	12	

List of Appendices

Appendix A

Table 3-1 Project Study Group (PSG)

Table 3-2 Elected Officials

Table 5-1 Local, State, and Federal Agencies

Table 7-1 Stakeholder Involvement Plan Revision History

Appendix B

Glossary

Acronyms

1. Introduction

1.1 Project Background

The Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study has been undertaken by the Will County Division of Transportation (WCDOT) for the purpose of alleviating traffic congestion and safety concerns associated with truck movements in the Eastern Will County area. The study will examine alternative options that could improve mobility and safety for roadway users and will involve input from stakeholders, assessment of environmental resources, traffic patterns, and travel demand, as well as the technical feasibility of identified alternative options. The study will be conducted following the Illinois Department of Transportation's guidance, as well as national best practices for a Planning and Environmental Linkage (PEL) study.

1.2 Legal Requirements

The study process for this project will meet state and federal requirements that require the assessment of the social, economic, and environmental impacts of the project and public involvement with opportunities to participate and comment. The study will use the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) approach that will flow into the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), provisions governing the Efficient Environmental Reviews for Project Decision-Making as specified in U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139 (23 U.S.C. 139), and the principles of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS).

1.3 Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL)

This project will be completed as a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) study. Developed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the PEL process is a "pre-National Environmental Policy Act" (NEPA) planning study method to streamline the subsequent NEPA process. Instead of issuing standalone feasibility studies that would otherwise need to be confirmed or reworked in the NEPA process, the PEL process allows more success in NEPA by developing the early stages of NEPA before the time-restricted NEPA process formally begins. Work completed in PEL carries over into NEPA, which provides additional time for Purpose and Need development, data collection, alternatives identification, alternatives assessment, and a longer period for agency and public involvement.

1.4 National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

The PEL informs the NEPA process as stated in Section 1.3 above. It is anticipated that the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Will County Division of Transportation, with the assistance of the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Bureau of Local Roads, will proceed with a formal NEPA study for the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study following or nearing completion of the PEL to satisfy NEPA requirements.

1.5 Context Sensitive Solutions

This project will use the principles of the IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) Policy and Procedural Memorandum 48-06. CSS is a collaborative approach that provides all stakeholders opportunities to participate and share comments or concerns about the study's objectives and the alternatives. A primary goal is to ensure the project fits its surroundings and preserves

scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources while maintaining safety and mobility. Early, frequent, and meaningful communication is essential to ensure the public involvement process seeks solutions, addresses all concerns, and takes into serious consideration the quality of life of stakeholders. The CSS approach will provide stakeholders the tools and information required to participate in the study process and information to understand how the PEL approach informs the subsequent NEPA process.

As identified in IDOT's CSS policies, stakeholder involvement is critical to project success. The CSS process strives to achieve the following:

- Understand stakeholder's key issues and concerns.
- Involve stakeholders in the decision-making process early and often.
- Establish an understanding of the stakeholder's role in the project.
- Address all modes of transportation.
- Set a project schedule.
- Apply flexibility and creativity in design to address stakeholders' concerns to shape effective transportation solutions while preserving and enhancing community and natural environments.
- Educate the public on the project goals and direction.
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of contexts.
- Foster continuing communication and collaboration to achieve consensus.

2. Goals and Objectives

The purpose of this Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP) is to provide a guide for implementing stakeholder involvement for the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study. The SIP will be used as a blueprint for defining methods and tools to educate and engage all stakeholders in this project's decision-making process. The SIP has been designed to ensure that stakeholders are provided a number of opportunities to be informed and engaged as the project progresses.

2.1 Stakeholder Involvement Plan Goals

The goal of the SIP is to actively seek the participation of communities, agencies, special interest groups, freight and trucking industry representatives, and the general public throughout the project development process. The SIP provides the framework for achieving consensus and communicating the decision-making process between the general public, public agencies, and governmental officials to identify transportation solutions for the project.

The SIP:

- Identifies stakeholders.
- Identifies Project Study Group (PSG).
- Establishes the timing and type of involvement activities with all stakeholders.
- Establishes stakeholder requirements for providing timely input to the project development process.

2.2 Stakeholder Identification Procedures

Per IDOT's CSS procedures, a stakeholder is anyone who could be affected by the project and has a stake in its outcome. This includes property owners, business owners, state and local officials, special interest groups, and motorists who utilize the facility. Stakeholders for this project may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Residents
- Business Owners
- Elected/community officials
- Illinois Department of Transporation
- Will County Forest Preserve
- Will County Farm Bureau
- Will County Governmental League
- Will County Center for Economic Development
- Mobilization for Action Through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP)
- Churches and schools within the project limits
- Advocates for community and historic interests
- Advocates for environmental resources
- Other special interest groups
- Government and planning agencies
- Trucking Industry organizations
- Freight Industry organizations
- Farming and agriculture organizations
- Transportation system users and organizations
- Chambers of Commerce
- Neighborhood groups
- Utilities/Telecommunications
- Others outside the study area with an interest in the project

2.3 Stakeholder Involvement Ground Rules

The public outreach efforts identified in the SIP will be conducted based on a set of ground rules that forms the basis for the respectful interaction of all parties involved in this process. These ground rules will be established initially with the SIP, but must be agreed upon by the stakeholders and, therefore, may be modified based on stakeholder input.

These rules include the following:

- Input on the project from all stakeholders is duly considered to yield the best solutions to problems identified by the process.
- Input from all participants in the process is valued and considered.
- The list of stakeholders is subject to revisions/additions at any time as events warrant.
- All participants must keep an open mind and participate openly, honestly, and respectfully.
- All participants should work collaboratively and cooperatively to seek a consensus solution. Consensus is defined as "when a majority of the stakeholders agree on a

particular issue, while the remainder of stakeholders agrees its input has been heard and duly considered and that the process as a whole was fair."

- All participants in the process must treat each other with respect and dignity.
- The project must progress at a reasonable pace, based on the project schedule.
- IDOT and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will make final project decisions concerning the process and stakeholder input.
- To protect the health and safety of the project team and stakeholders, all public involvement activities will follow Will County and the State of Illinois public health and safety guidance.

3. Stakeholder Group Organization

3.1 Project Study Group (PSG)

The Project Study Group is the working group consisting of a multidisciplinary team of representatives from WCDOT, IDOT, FHWA, and the project consultant team and is tasked with determining the ultimate project recommendations and decisions on this project. Per IDOT's CSS procedures, WCDOT has formed the initial interdisciplinary PSG; however, to maintain an optimal multidisciplinary team, this membership may evolve as the study progresses, and the understanding of the project's context is clarified. Also, if recommended by the stakeholders and determined necessary by the PSG, additional project working groups may be formed in the future.

The PSG has primary responsibility for the project development process. This group will meet throughout the study process to provide technical oversight and expertise in key areas, including study process, agency procedures and standards, and technical approaches. The PSG also has primary responsibility for ensuring compliance with the SIP.

Other responsibilities of the PSG include the following:

- Expediting the project development process.
- Identifying and resolving project development issues.
- Promoting partnership with stakeholders to address identified project needs.
- Working to develop consensus among stakeholders.

The persons listed in Table 3-1, Appendix A will form the PSG for this project.

3.2 Elected Officials

Elected officials in the project study area must stay abreast of project development and be a part of the project development and information gathering process. Elected officials will be invited to small group stakeholder meetings and receive project briefings. Project summary materials will be prepared and made available at the meeting. A list of elected officials is in Table 3-2, Appendix A.

3.3 Implementation

This SIP serves as a guide for public involvement for the study, but the strategies included can be used throughout all phases, including construction. Implementation of this plan requires the commitment and efforts of all involved parties. As an implementation guide, this plan links specific strategies to the study schedule and identifies the audience that each strategy is

intended to reach. Implementation of this plan requires the commitment and efforts of all study participants and includes the expected actions, responsibilities, and timing. The PSG will be responsible for the overall development, implementation, and coordination of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan.

3.4 Stakeholder Involvement

Any person or group who shows interest in the project will be added to the stakeholder list, which will be used for all stakeholder engagement activities. The PSG will also be available to meet with stakeholder groups on a one-on-one basis throughout the project, if deemed necessary. In addition, stakeholders will be informed about the project website where they can access up-to-date information and submit comments that will be included in the project record.

4. Tentative Schedule of Project Development Activities and Stakeholder Involvement

This section describes the general project development process, project activities, and associated stakeholder involvement activities. It is anticipated that some meetings and activities will be conducted online or over the phone in accordance with public health requirements and stakeholder preferences.



4.1 Stakeholder Identification, Development of SIP, Project Scoping

This stage of the project development process begins the CSS process with various agency notifications, project organizational activities, and scoping activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Assemble and organize the PSG.
- Identify project cooperating and participating agencies
- Develop and make the SIP available.
- Develop the stakeholder contact list.
- Organize and hold one-on-one meetings with stakeholders.
- Conduct regulatory/resource agency PEL scoping activities.
- Organize and hold the public kick-off meeting to inform stakeholders of the project process, defined study area, project history, identify study area issues/concerns, and solicit participation.

4.2 Understanding of Project Purpose and Need

The objective of this stage is to further clarify the transportation problems in the study area and utilize the goals and objectives to develop the project problem statement. Project purpose discussions will focus on providing stakeholders with background on known issues, such as traffic safety and congestion/operational concerns, traffic forecasts, freight and trucking challenges, and their prospective effects on future traffic conditions. Issues raised by the project stakeholders during scoping will also be discussed. This will set the stage for meaningful discussions about potential solutions.

The information presented and collected will be used as the basis for the development of the project Purpose and Need statement. Activities in this stage include the following:

- Commence with an informational meeting of the PSG and stakeholders to present the ground rules and gather input towards developing a clear statement of the transportation problems to address by the project.
- Organize small and medium-sized group meetings with stakeholders.
- Achieve stakeholder consensus on the problem statement.
- Develop a project Purpose and Need statement; opportunities for stakeholder review will be provided.
- Organize and hold a public meeting to present the known corridor issues and deficiencies and the draft Problem Statement for comment. Discuss and solicit potential alternatives that could address the Purpose and Need, and present the next steps of the study.
- Publish the website and use it as a main resource for stakeholders looking for project information.

4.3 Alternatives Development

A range of project alternatives will be considered to address the project Purpose and Need. The alternatives development process will be iterative in nature, providing progressively greater detail. Numerous opportunities will be provided for stakeholder input to the development and evaluation of alternatives. Steps in the alternatives development process include the following:

- Identification of alternative development procedures, planning and design guidelines, and alternative evaluation procedures. This information will serve as the general guidance for the alternatives development and evaluation process.
- Organize small and medium-sized group meetings with stakeholders.

4.4 Alternatives Consideration

This milestone of the project consists of screening the long list of suggested alternatives to identify those alternatives that meet the project Purpose and Need. This milestone is intended to conclude with alternatives to be carried forward to the NEPA phase.

- Evaluation of the initial alternatives.
- Organize and hold multiple PSG meetings to discuss alternatives that meet Purpose and Need.
- Organize small and medium-sized group meetings with stakeholders.
- Evaluation of alternatives carried forward to project NEPA phase.
- Achieve stakeholder consensus on the alternatives.
- Organize and hold public a meeting to present the alternatives to be carried forward and the screening methods.
- Identification of alternatives to be carried forward to project NEPA phase.

*Please note that per the IDOT BDE Manual, the Project Purpose and Need and Alternatives to be Carried Forward are referred to as "coordination points." Also note that a preferred alternative will not be identified during the PEL study phase of the project. A list of pros and cons of each corridor will be created based on what is examined from the environmental, traffic, travel demand, engineering, and stakeholder involvement perspective. A preferred alternative will be identified in the next project study phase as part of the NEPA process and the preliminary engineering process.

5. Public Involvement Plan Activities

The following activities are proposed as apart of the public involvement plan to take place during the study. Unless noted, the PSG is the responsible party for activities and coordination. All activities will be reviewed and approved by IDOT before proceeding. All public involvement activities will comply with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

5.1 Stakeholder List Development

Given the large footprint of the study area, a thorough stakeholder list was developed using Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). The list includes property owners, business owners, state and local officials, community groups, and motorists and non-motorists who utilize the current roadways and proposed alternatives. Any stakeholder who expresses interest in learning more

about the project and attending events will be added to a stakeholder list that will include them as recipients of project newsletters and meeting invitations.

5.2 Outreach Meetings

5.2.1 Stakeholder Meetings

The project team will seek stakeholder input throughout the study. Stakeholder meetings ranging from small meetings with 1-4 attendees to medium-sized group meetings with 5-12 attendees will be coordinated to engage stakeholders. The meeting objectives are to engage stakeholders by sharing project information, addressing potential project issues and concerns, and provide groups specialized discussions about the project. The meeting attendees could include local agencies and organizations, elected officials, members of the business community, and affected property owners. Meeting invitations will be sent to stakeholders both digitally and printed. Will County policy requires meeting invitations and information to be sent to elected officials using letters and to the public using postcards. Materials for the meeting will be developed, including exhibit boards, presentations, and distributed project information one-pagers. All materials can be presented digitally if a virtual meeting is required.

5.2.2 Public Meetings and Open Houses

As part of the PEL process, there will be two public meetings that will be open to the broader public to solicit feedback and create awareness of the project. Opportunities for public comments, both verbally and through written comment cards, will be available at both public meetings. All public comments made at the public meeting will be documented and made available on the project website. Meeting invitations will be sent to stakeholders either digitally or printed. Materials for the meeting will be developed, including exhibit boards, presentations, and distributed project information one-pagers. All materials can be presented digitally if a virtual meeting is required. A summary and all materials will be available on the project website after the meeting.

5.2.3 Health precautions for in-person meetings

Will County and the State of Illinois public health and safety guidelines will be followed if public meetings are held. Precautions include limiting the number of people in the meeting area, requiring masks, availability of hand sanitizer, social distancing guidelines, hand washing guidelines, and the option to attend meetings virtually. The meetings will have posted signs and adequate supplies such as masks, hand sanitizer, hand soap, and disinfectant wipes to promote adherence to the health and safety precautions.

5.3 Virtual Alternatives

On March 12, 2020, Governor JB Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the proclamation, further restrictions have been put in place across the State to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus. Some of the State's recommendations have been to wear face coverings over a person's nose and mouth physically distancing one's self to 6 feet from another person and limiting gatherings to small groups; the amounts vary at

certain phases of the project. Due to the limitations of the pandemic, virtual alternatives to inperson meetings are being explored to continue the progress of the project study.

5.3.1 Virtual Public Information Meetings

Virtual public information meetings are becoming more familiar to stakeholders. To continue educating stakeholders on the project and to solicit valuable feedback, a virtual public information meeting can be held online using a meeting tool such as WebEx or Zoom. This option makes meetings increasingly more accessible to stakeholders who are able to use their laptops and desktop computers, tablets and phones to participate in the meeting. Using these tools the information and opportunity to participate in the meeting is a similar experience as an in-person meeting.

5.3.2 Public Engagement Period

A Public Engagement Period can be used instead of live public meetings and give stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the project and give feedback online. The Public Engagement Period can be a designated amount of time for stakeholders to engage in a self-guided presentation that acts similar to an open house that is hosted on the project website.

5.4 Small Community Events

Active outreach to targeted stakeholder groups who may have limited access to the internet or language barriers will be conducted at small community events. The small community events will coincide with the public engagement periods and give the hard to reach communities opportunities to provide feedback and ask questions about the project. Promotion of the community events will be through posters displayed throughout the communities and direct mailers to the targeted stakeholder groups. Promotional and project materials will be available in Spanish and English.

5.5 Digital Strategy

It is important to leverage a combination of digital tactics at different phases of the study to continually provide stakeholders full transparency about the project throughout the project life cycle. Content will be disseminated across these different channels to assure that key messages reach the stakeholders while also offering opportunities for two-way dialogue.

5.5.1 E-Newsletter

A project e-newsletters will be developed with project information and progress to coincide with project milestones. Project stakeholders will receive the newsletter through email in a format that can be printed, and anyone interested in the project can sign up to become a subscriber. The project team will ensure that the correct and consistent information is relayed in response to questions and inquiries.

5.5.2 Website

As more people seek and expect information online, a project website has become an important piece in effective public involvement. The project website will be the central

place for all project information available to anyone interested in the project. All project information will be on the website providing an easy-to-use and cost-effective way to maintain the history of the project. The website will host a variety of information about the project, including project history, study process and information, maps, photos, status updates, and newsletters.

The website will also provide opportunities for stakeholders to communicate directly with the project team through email and public comment. The Public Engagement Period will be hosted on the website and will act as a virtual open house for the project and is another opportunity for stakeholders to provide public comments.

5.5.3 Social Media

Social media posts will be created to share project information and updates online and be posted through the Will County Facebook page to reach a broader audience. The posts may include text, graphics, and links to useful information and will give stakeholders the opportunity to share the posts and start discussions surrounding the project.

5.5.4 MetroQuest

MetroQuest is an online public engagement tool that broadens outreach by providing a user-friendly, interactive survey platform. Surveys will be leveraged to educate the public and stakeholders and to gather their valued input. Four MetroQuest surveys will be deployed to coincide with key project phases and will be used to identify public preferences, pinpoint problem locations, present alternatives, gather input on a preferred alternative, and present a final project plan for comment. Results will be used for project analysis and shared on the website.

5.6 Connecting with Diverse Stakeholder Groups

The project team will ensure inclusive and diverse participation for all public involvement activities by implementing various communication strategies to engage in harder-to-reach communities. This includes identifying and partnering with key leaders in the communities, developing bilingual promotional materials, and focusing on popular community areas where the target audiences gather regularly. The project website, where stakeholders can learn more about the project, leave comments, and ask questions, will have a feature that users can toggle between English and Spanish languages. At public meetings, Spanish translated materials will be available.

5.7 Public Response and Communication

Throughout this study, both direct and indirect public comment is anticipated. Direct public comment will come as email (by a direct link from the website), surveys, and comment forms issued at meetings. Indirect public comment will come through the media, non-agency sponsored meetings, and third-party websites. It is important to address both direct and indirect

public comments to ensure the public that its concerns and opinions are being recognized and to respond to potentially problematic issues such as misinformation.

Email responses offer the opportunity to develop a personalized response, yet timeliness is important. The desired time-frame to develop, edit, approve, and send a response is one week once the PSG receives it.

A centralized comment response management system will be implemented. The goal of this system is to provide a centralized, secure, and electronically accessible repository for comments. It will be capable of categorizing the comment types and issues, tracking the status of comment responses, and maintaining a comment record for the environmental documentation. The system will also collect and maintain stakeholder contact information for mailing list automation.

Monitoring third-party meetings, activities, websites, and media reports related to the project will continue throughout the study. Reports on third-party activity will be detailed and stored as they occur.

5.8 Agency and Tribal Coordination

The NEPA document developed for the next phase of this study requires compliance with local, state, tribal, and federal rules, regulations, and laws. Compliance requires coordination with government and tribal entities throughout the study process. This PEL study is "pre-NEPA," and is not held to the same legal requirements as the subsequent NEPA document. However, FHWA developed the PEL approach to improve interagency communication throughout the planning process, and agency and tribal coordination during PEL allows these conversations to evolve with the project planning process.

Coordination with various local, state, and federal agencies will occur during the PEL and continue into NEPA, as identified in Table 5-1.

Coordination with tribes outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding among FHWA, the Illinois State Historic Preservation Officer, the Illinois Department of Transportation, and federally recognized tribes interested in Illinois lands (2011) will occur through FHWA during the PEL, at FHWA's discretion.

6. Plan Availability, Monitoring, and Updates

The SIP is a dynamic document that will be available to stakeholders and updated throughout each phase of the project study. This section describes the SIP availability, opportunity for review and plan update procedures.

6.1 Availability of Stakeholder Involvement Plan

The PSG will make the SIP available to stakeholders for review at public events and on the project website (www.EastWillMobility.com). The stakeholder review period for the SIP will be 30 days from date of release. As the project progresses, the PSG will update the SIP on a regular basis. When an update SIP is released, stakeholders will be notified of updates on the project website, social media, and through the project newsletter.

6.2 Modification of Stakeholder Involvement Plan

Throughout the project study, there will be opportunities to review and update the SIP. Potential updates to the plan include:

- Updating and maintaining the list of project stakeholders.
- Maintaining a public involvement record that includes records of stakeholder communications, meeting summaries, and written or typed comments.
- Updating public involvement tactics to adjust to updated safety measures as required by the State of Illinois during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Revisions to this SIP may be necessary through all phases of the project. The PSG will
 provide updated versions of the SIP to stakeholders and all agencies involved, as
 necessary. Plan updates will be tracked in Table 7-1 in Appendix A.

Appendix A

Tables

Table 3-1 Project Study Group (PSG) Members		
Agency	Contact Person/Title	Email & Mailing Address
Will County Division of	Christina Kupkowski, P.E.	ckupkowski@willcountyillinois.com
Transportation		16841 Laraway Road, Joliet, IL
		60432
Illinois Department of	Kevin Stallworth	kevin.stallworth@illinois.gov
Transportation		
Federal Highway	TBD	
Administration		
WSP USA	Dave McGibbon, P.E.,	dave.mcgibbon@wsp.com
	Senior Engineering	jamy.lyne@wsp.com
	Manager	
	Jamy Lyne, Planning and	
	Environment Manager	

Table 3-2	
Elected Officials	
Name	Representing
President Michael Einhorn	Village of Crete
President Greg Szymanski	Village of Beecher
Mayor Jim Holland	Village of Frankfort
Mayor James Popp	Village of Monee
Mayor Jonathan Vanderbilt	Village of Park Forest
President Peter March	Village of Peotone
President Kenneth Peterson	Village of Steger
Mayor Joseph Roudez	Village of University Park
Denise Winfrey	County Executive
Judy Ogalla	County Board District #1
Sheri Newquist	County Board District #1
Joe Van Duyne	Public Works & Transportation Committee Chair
Michael Liccar	Crete Township
Tony Recupito	Crete Township Highway Commissioner
Donna Dettbarn	Monee Township
David Deutsche	Monee Township Highway Commissioner

Table 5-1
Local, State, and Federal Agencies
NEPA/404 Merger Agencies:
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Army Corps of Engineers
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
Stakeholders as identified in Section 2.2

Table 7-1		
Stakeholder Involvement Plan Revision History		
Version	Date	Version Description
1	October 2020	Original

Appendix B

Glossary	Glossary	
Alternative	One of a number of specific transportation improvement proposals, alignments, options, design choices, etc. in a study. Following detailed analysis, one improvement alternative is chosen for implementation.	
Consensus	When a majority agrees upon a particular issue, while the dissenting remainder agrees that their input has been heard and duly considered and that the process as a whole was fair.	
Context Sensitive	Balance between mobility, community needs and the environment while	
Solutions	developing transportation projects. This is achieved through involving	
	stakeholders early and continuously, addressing all modes of	
	transportation, applying flexibility in the design, and incorporating	
	aesthetics to the overall project.his	
Medium sized	A meeting attended by five to 12 people.	
group meeting		

National Environmental Policy Act	The federal law that requires the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Environmental Assessment (EA), or Categorical Exclusion (CE).
Problem	A concise narrative, prepared as part of a project, needs study, defining
Statement	the fundamental situation or circumstance to be solved. A problem statement will generally describe a particular situation in which an expected level of performance is not being achieved and will list one or more important factors which cause or contribute to the unacceptable performance.
Small group meeting	A meeting attended by one to four people.
Stakeholder Involvement	A process that will facilitate effective identification and understanding of the Plan (SIP) concerns and values of all stakeholders as an integral part of the project development process. It includes a formal written plan explaining how public input and comments will be obtained.

Acronyms	
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
23. U.S.C 139	U.S. Code Title 23, Section 139
CSS	Context Sensitive Solutions
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
IDOT	Illinois Department of Transportation
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
PEL	Planning and Environmental Linkages
PSG	Project Study Group
SIP	Stakeholder Involvement Plan
WCDOT	Will County Division of Transportation



BRANDING GUIDELINES

Contents

KEY MESSAGES TYPOGRAPHY LOGO ICONS COLORS APPLICATION

Key Messages

The Will County Division of Transportation is conducting a transportation study to find strategies to foster economic growth and to better accommodate travel through the county.

The study's goal will be to find strategies that can improve safety, congestion and reliability, connectivity and efficiency, and quality of life.

Logo

The logo consists of a primary and secondary mark.

The primary mark should be used primarily on all printed material and as the main logo on the web.

The secondary mark can be used ONLY for branding graphics, social media purposes, or as a design element.

Logo can vary in sizes, but should not be smaller than 0.50 inches in height.

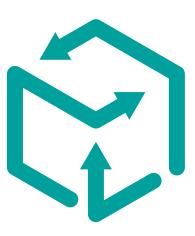


Minimum size 0.50 inches in height

Primary Mark



Secondary Mark



Full Color

Logo

The logo should not be used in no other color variation.



White Black





Logo

Clear space around logo

A fixed space cannot be applied (such as a defined measurement in inches or millimeters), as the logo will be used in a variety of sizes. Maintaining a proportional space (height of 50% of logo mark) will ensure that the proper area will remain clear, regardless of the sizing of the logo.



Unacceptable logo usage



Do not stretch/distort



Do not change colors



Do not outline



Do not rotate

Primary Colors

These colors should be carried throughout all digital and printed materials.

They should be used as the lead colors to design elements such as colored backgrounds, headlines & titles, and covers.

Colors can be tinted up to 20% opacity for full color background usage.

CMYK 80, 15, 44, 0 RGB 0, 161, 156 HEX #00a19c PANTONE 3217 C



CMYK 79, 64, 52, 44 RGB 49, 62, 72 HEX #313e48 PANTONE 432 C



Secondary Colors

Secondary colors are used to accentuate or create contrast with the primary colors.

They should be used sparingly throughout digital and printed materials. Example of usage for secondary colors: call out text, data points, spotlight content, or in illustrations.

CMYK 100, 96, 11,4 RGB 43, 52, 132 HEX #2b3483 PANTONE 2746 C



CMYK 41, 0, 82, 0 RGB 161,206,94 HEX #a1ce5e PANTONE 367 C



CMYK 0,72,106,0 RGB 243, 108, 33 HEX #f36c21 PANTONE 1505 C



CMYK 51, 69, 61, 45 RGB 89,61,61 HEX #593d3d PANTONE 7617 C



CMYK 34, 19, 6, 0 RGB 167, 187, 213 HEX #a7bbd5 PANTONE 651 C

Typography

Font sizes and weights will vary in size depending on layout and format.

Future Bold Condensed

Futura Condensed should be used primarily for titles, headlines, or decorative purposes. Futura Condensed should never be used as body copy.

Future Bold

Futura is the primary font for headlines and small quantities of text.

Open Sans Light
Open Sans Light Italic
Open Sans Regular
Open Sans Regular Italic
Open Sans Semibold
Open Sans Semibold Italic
Open Sans Bold
Open Sans Bold Italic
Open Sans Extra Bold
Open Sans Extra Bold Italic

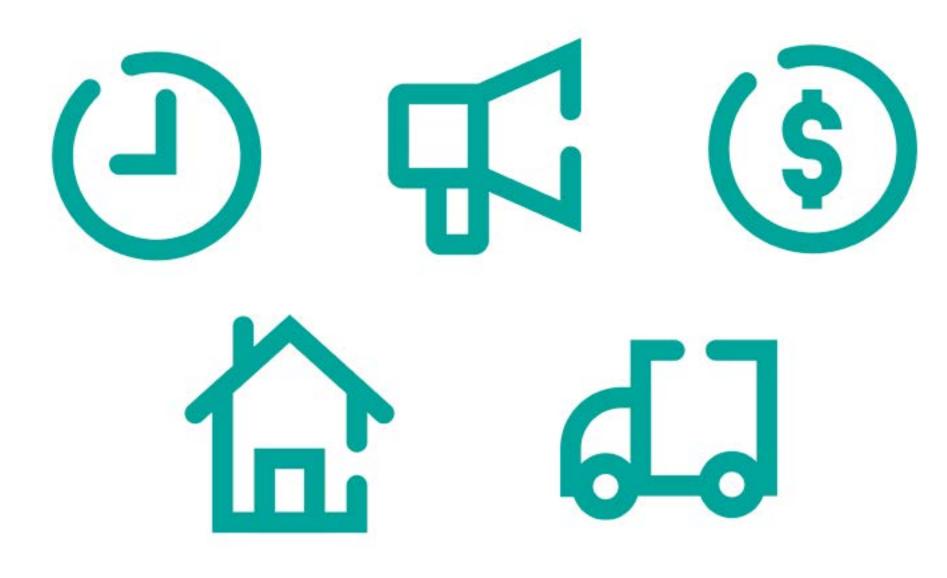
Open Sans should be used primarily for body copy and large quantities of text, but can also be used for headlines.

Icons

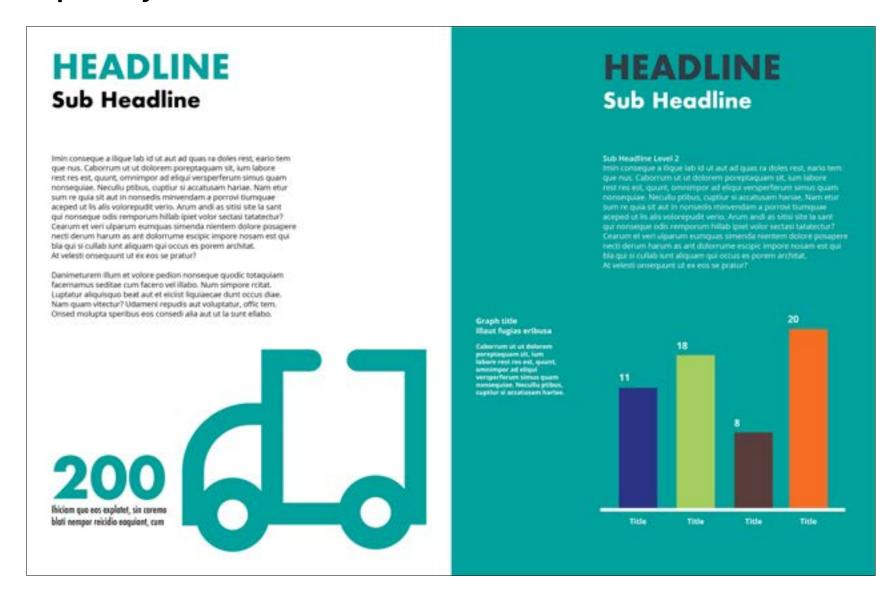
Icons are used to communicate key messages and important topics.

Icons should have an even point (pt.) stroke width. Icons can vary in sizes and stroke width, but should be no smaller than 0.75 inches with a 6 pt stroke width.





Report Layout

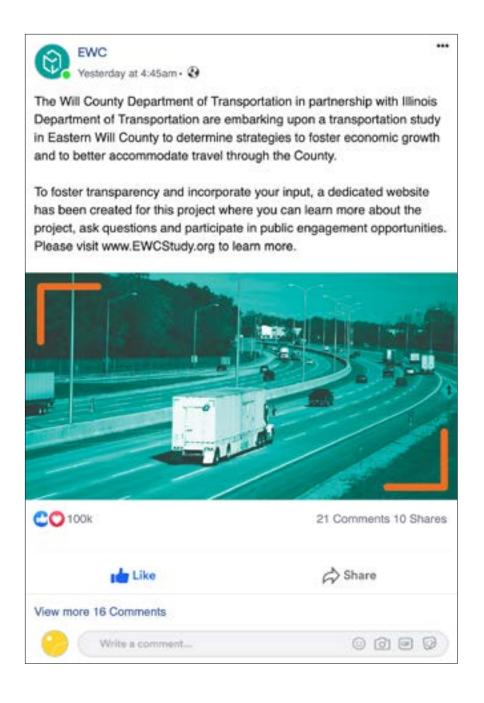


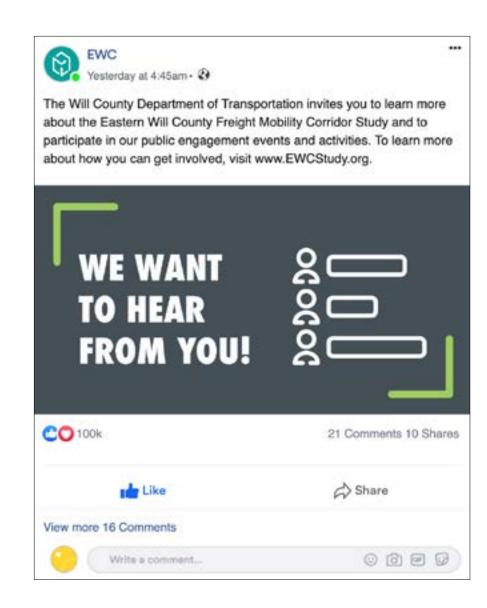
Social Media Post - Instagram





Social Media Posts - Facebook





Newsletter



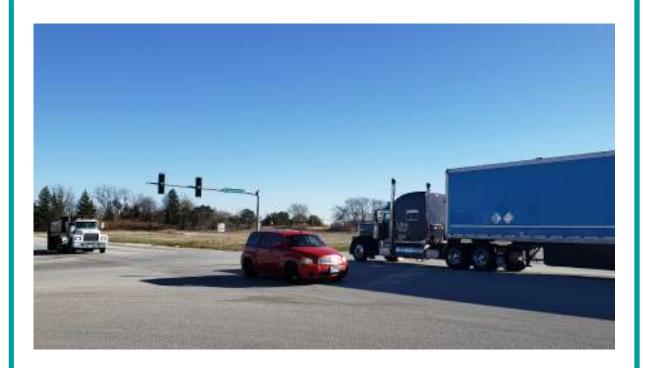


Issue 1

November 24, 2020



Welcome



Thank you for your interest in the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study! We look forward to providing you with timely information and hope to hear your feedback as the study progresses.

Project Update

What is the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility



Corridor Study?

The Will County Division of Transportation is conducting a transportation mobility study using the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) approach to assess options for improving mobility in Eastern Will County.

Read More »



We Need Your Input!

Will County has been experiencing a tremendous amount of freight-related growth and development that is impacting mobility, land use, and safety. We want to hear from you about your experiences with mobility and truck traffic in the study area. This study will utilize stakeholder input to develop a range of alternatives for improving passenger and freight mobility in Eastern Will County.

Read More »



Upcoming Online Public Engagement Period

From November 30 to December 31, 2020, an online public engagement period will take the place of a traditional in-person public meeting due to Covid-19. The Will County Division of Transportation wants to ensure that the public can participate in the project in a meaningful way while following the State of Illinois public health and safety guidelines.

Read More »

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Issue 2

December 1, 2020



Welcome



Thank you for your interest in the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study! We look forward to providing you with timely information and hope to hear your feedback as the study progresses.

About

The Will County Division of Transportation is conducting a transportation study to assess options for improving mobility in Eastern Will County. The intent of the study is to move initial findings into more detailed studies over the next 2-3 years to identify an alternative or option to alleviate truck traffic congestion and improve mobility and safety in Eastern Will County.

Project Updates





We want to hear from you about your experiences with mobility and truck traffic in the study area. Your survey response will help us determine the study's purpose and need, the first major milestone in the Planning and Environmental

Linkages (PEL) process. The survey will be open until December 31, 2020, as part of the month-long online public engagement period taking the place of a traditional in-person public meeting.

Take Survey Here »

What is a PEL?



The study will use the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) approach to streamline the project development and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. A PEL is a collaborative approach that involves local and State DOTs, federal agencies, and resource agencies that links transportation planning to the environmental review process.

Read More »

Visit the website

Visit <u>www.EastWillMobility.com</u> to learn more about the project, stay up to date, and provide your feedback.



Issue 3

December 21, 2020



Welcome



Thank you for your interest in the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study. We look forward to providing you with timely information and hope to hear your feedback as the study progresses.

About

The Will County Division of Transportation is conducting a transportation mobility study to find strategies to better accommodate travel through eastern Will County while maintaining quality of life. This study is using the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) approach to assess options for improving mobility and safety for citizens and freight carriers. Initial findings from the PEL study will move into more detailed studies over the next 2-3 years.

Project Updates



Take the Survey

The first online public engagement period for the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study is ending on December 31st. We want to hear about your experiences with mobility and truck traffic in eastern Will County. Your survey response will help us determine the study's purpose and need, the first major milestone in the Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) process.

Take the survey here »



Help Us Share the Survey

Please consider helping us promote the survey to your friends, family, and neighbors by posting to your social media page using this recommended content:

The Will County Division of Transportation wants to know about your experiences with mobility and truck traffic in eastern Will County. Make your voice heard by taking this short survey by December 31: https://bit.ly/3lpvddw



Visit the Website

Visit <u>www.EastWillMobility.com</u> to learn more about the project, stay up to date, and provide your feedback.

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Forest Preserve District of Will County Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC)— Ralph Schultz, Andrew Hawkins Will County Division of Transportation — Christina Kupkowski WSP USA — Dave McGibbon, Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski

Time:

Tuesday, December 8, 2020, 11:00 PM

Below are the notes gathered from the meeting with the attendees listed above. These notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the information obtained through the meeting.

Forest Preserve District of Will County Assets and the District's Policies

The items below outline the information gathered during the meeting.

Black Walnut Creek Preserve

The FPDWC owns the Black Walnut Creek Preserve which is located along both sides of Crete-Monee road. FPDWC currently has active acquisition to expand the preserve, mainly to the north. Likewise, there are parcels along Crete-Monee road that the FPDWC is considering.

Racoon Grove Nature Preserve

The FPDWC owns the Racoon Grove Nature Preserve, it is important to note that the preserve is also dedicated as an Illinois Nature Preserve. Due to this designation, any action with regards to the preserve would also require the Illinois Nature Preserve Commission to weigh in. This would make any action with regards to the preserve more difficult due to the commission needing to provide input if any 4(f) impacts were proposed as part of an alternative.

Thorn Creek Headwaters Preserve

FPDWC owns the Thorn Creek Headwaters Preserve, the preserve has become a wetland mitigation area for district. The preserve is the most southern termini for the Lake Michigan Watershed. FPDWC has been contacted by many units of government and firms which have interest in conducting wetland mitigation in the preserve. The southern end of the site is not a critical mitigation property at this point. However, over time, the entire site is a potential wetland mitigation area due to its groundwater characteristics.



Thorn Creek Headwaters Preserve (Cont.)

Both the FPDWC and other entities have already conducted wetland mitigation in the preserve and the Army Corps of Engineers has designated as a certified wetland. IDOT has used the site for wetland mitigation for many projects including the Stuenkel Road interchange project.

Plum Valley and Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve

The FPDWC has been looking at connecting the two preserves. There is one main landowner who owns the property who is currently unwilling to sell the property. The land owner is in the process of estate planning and has indicated his intentions are to pass the land to his children. FPDWC's goal is to connect the individual trails on the east side of Plum Creek to create a physical trail connection in the neighborhood east of Goodenow Grove. The connection would not be directly adjacent to IL-394.

Divestment Rights

FPDWC as an organization are not able to divest rights, but can give long term licenses to roadway entities, and that there are issues with federal funding. Federal funds cannot be used without certain property rights held by the owner. Christina Kupkowski added that on past projects, the amount of non-participation was not a problem as it was minimal in comparison to the project as a whole.

Forest Preserve District of Will County Questions to the Will County Division of Transportation and WSP.

Question from Andrew Hawkins: Asked about projects like the Beecher Bypass, the Illiana and the interchange at IL 394 and Exchange, and how it plays in with the future long-term east-west trucking. Is it part of a greater plan forward for the future?

Answer from Christina Kupowski: there has been an explosion in traffic, and we need to plan where to put the trucks we have right now. If the Illiana comes in the future, it will help. But we need to plan for the existing problems. There is currently no timeline for the Illiana project, and trucks are a problem that has to be addressed now.

Dave McGibbon's Addition: Additionally, the Illiana alignment in the Record of Decision is further south, and the need is still there to the north, near the Eastern Will Freight Mobility Study area. A. Hawkins asked if the project is a 10-year fix or more of a long-range scenario. A response was given that it is a fix for existing issues. He also recommended adding Will County Historic Preservation as a stakeholder and including them early. He also discussed the history of the IL 394 widening and sound barrier. He doesn't know how favorable another take would be in that area due to Nature Preserve Commission involvement. He asked about addressing mitigation in the PEL, or at a later project stage. J. Bents said that mitigation will ultimately be addressed in the future when a preferred alternative is selected (in NEPA studies), but the PEL study will establish the context and need for mitigation. A. Hawkins replied



that the FPDWC will request that any mitigation that may be needed. Be done within Will County and not elsewhere in the region.





Question Dave McGibbons: Dave asked that the FPDWC to share the survey with their staff.

Answer Andrew Hawkins: Andrew indicated he will be the point-of-contact for the FPDWC and he that C. Novander will be involved in land acquisition issues. Generally speaking, FPDWC staff does not participate in general public comment as an agency. Individual staff members may participate. It is usually FPDWC's role to get involved when issues directly impact their properties and to limit impact to FPDWC resources and taxpayers. Usually, the FPDWC will submit a forms! letter with their official stance on such matters.





Will County Center for Economic Development Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Will County Center for Economic Development (WCCED)— Doug Prior
Will County Division of Transportation — Christina Kupkowski
WSP USA — Dave McGibbons, Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski

Time:

Tuesday, December 9, 2020, 11:00 PM

Below are the notes gathered from the meeting with the attendees listed above. These notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the information obtained through the meeting.

New and Potential Freight Generators

Amazon Fulfillment Center University Park

The amazon fulfillment center in University park is scheduled to be delivered in 2021. The facility will be fairly busy and will be similar to the one that's in Channahon along I-55. If you want to estimate its impact, you should look at how the facility in Channahon has impacted traffic.

TIF 7 in University Park

Currently, Venture One is developing a million-square foot building within the TIF district and has additional clients in their pipeline. They are planning on developing an additional 1-2 million square feet in the near future. The developer may be willing to discuss their developments and WCCED can assist with making that connection. University Park has a high property tax levy as is seen throughout southern cook county, the property tax rate is nearly 30%. Any development that happens in University Park will only happen in the TIF district.

IL-50 and Stuenkel Road Development

On the northeast corner of IL-50 and Stuenkel road, west of the Union Pacific Metra Station there is a site that will be developed. The site is 100 acres and will be an industrial park with a development that is more of a maintenance type facility and not warehouse. The facility will generate some truck traffic but not as much as a typical warehouse. There is roughly 70% change that development begins this spring.



Monee Small Industrial Development

South of Manhattan-Monee Road there is a small industrial development along Industrial Drive. Some land south along Industrial Drive is still eligible for further development. There aren't concert plans on what will be developed there, however it will be similar to what's already along Industrial Drive.

Monee West of I-57 Development

In Monee, west of I-57 along Ridgeland Avenue, traveling north there is an 850,000 square foot spec building. A TIF exists or can be extended all the way to Stuenkel Road. Frankfort, Monee, University Park all are eyeing annexation, but Monee can best serve because their utilities are closest. The existing building will likely need to be occupied before additional development comes. The village of Frankfort is only a parcel away from I-57 and potentially looking at annexation to be right on I-57. Christina indicated that Mr. Wallace with the Village of Monee is a good contact to provide further information.

CSX Intermodal Facility

Since the CEO passed away there hasn't been much momentum to develop the site. The land has been marketed and then not, Doug does not foresee CSX developing the site. There was thought that they would develop the site because CSX doubled the track from Savanna to Illinois and they do not have the ability to expand their existing intermodal yards in Chicago. Other developers have looked at the site, however there hasn't been any movement. One of the big reasons the site is not being developed is the lack of east-west connection.

Beecher Industrial Area

There is a decent sized industrial area specifically for food production. The east-west connection has been an issue there as well, Dixy highway cannot handle the traffic.

South Suburban Airport

In regards to the airport link that has been proposed, there have been many inquiries from proponents on what will happen if that roadway gets put in. There is a challenge with that site, in that its not within any local community's jurisdiction. It will be extremely expensive to get utilities to the site and no developer will want to go in there with just septic and well water. Without major investment, there is little potential for the corridor to be industrialized. However, if the airport gets developed that changes the entire situation.

Peotone and Manteno Overview

Peotone proper does not have much activity due to how far south it is. Additionally, Manteno has seen activity pick up, but that's because of Kmart pulling out of location and there being cheap space available.



General Comments and Questions

Crete-Monee Corridor

Doug Prior Comment: There is a big challenge passing through the Village of Monee, specifically through the downtown by the village hall.

Rick Powell Response: We are obligated to look at all alternatives. The village of Monee does not want trucks going through their downtown and have posted a 4 ton weight limit.

Christina Kupowski Response: We've known about this since the development of the 2040 countywide plan. Monee has the jurisdiction of Court street in their downtown. They have the ability to allow or not allow trucks on the street. We understand that the only way to utilize the road as a corridor is to bypass Monee. Within the 2040 plan there is an unconstrained project calling for a bypass of Monee road. The bypass would either need to be north or south of the village, however after discussions with the forest preserve it looks as though the route to the south will be better.

Annual Investor Meeting

Doug Prior Comment: Doug mentioned he will plug this study at the annual investor meeting the coming Friday. He will share the website and encourage individuals participate in the survey.



Will County Farm Bureau Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Will County Farm Bureau - Mark Schneidewind
Will County Division of Transportation – Christina Kupkowski
WSP USA – Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski

Time:

Tuesday, December 11, 2020, 3:00 PM

Below are the notes gathered from the meeting with the attendees listed above. These notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the information obtained through the meeting.

Jamy Lyne Question: Have you received the website and public engagement comment, and have you heard from the Will County Farm Bureau Members about the study?

Mark Schneidewind Answer: I haven't heard much from my members about the study. However, many members of the agricultural communities may have other priorities like getting done with the harvest and dealing with wet conditions.

Mark Schneidewind Comment: In regards to field tiles, new road projects often cause problems. Consider a parallel tile be installed to make a new line and allow north-south tiles encountered to have a main tile to tap into.

Jamy Lyne Question: What is the perspective of the farm bureau members for a potential new interchange with I-57 near the potential South Suburban Airport site?

Mark Schneidewind Answer: There are concerns about the amount of interchange land area, but that there is also general opposition to the airport itself which might be part of the perspective. There is an understanding that there needs for better connection to I-57. The high volume of trucks along Manhattan-Monee Road and the need for better east-west routes, but also the need to minimize impacts for agriculture in project development.

Christina Kupkowski Answer: The county is not looking to do a massive widening. The DOT is mainly interested in what is needed to upgrade a route to make it suitable for trucks. The existing lanes are narrow, and there are drop-offs. Unless projected traffic volumes tell us different, we are looking at something on the order of 3 lanes, a lane in each direction with a median, and unlikely that it would be a through-lane addition project. There is an understanding of accommodating additional water runoff to address the addition of impervious surfaces of pavement and shoulders.



Mark Schneidewind Comment: Somewhat off-topic, the county and local officials need to work on developing a better plan for when a crash shuts down a roadway. There have been cases where the detours put in place cause massive traffic and do not seem done in a coordinated manner.

Christina Kupkowski Comment: Keep in mind the county has an open-door policy to discuss any issues with the project.





Will County Planning and Zoning Commission Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Will County Planning and Zoning Commission – Janine Farrell
Will County Division of Transportation – Christina Kupkowski
WSP USA – Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski

Time:

Tuesday, December 14, 2020, 2:00 PM

Below are the notes gathered from the meeting with the attendees listed above. These notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the information obtained through the meeting.

Jamy Lyne Question: Any comments or questions regarding the presentation?

Janine Farrell Answer: they had a list of all landmarks in the townships. There is one pending, but not directly on these roads.

Jamie Bents Question: with the local landmarks, if the structure only is considered, or also the adjacent property.

Janine Farrell Answer: it depends, we include cemeteries too. Farmsteads sometimes have multiple structures in the landmark, but generally not the underlying property. Scenic attributes are not included yet.

Jamy Lyne Question: How do you recommend us on keeping the Historic Preservation Commission in the loop. Should we invite every member to the stakeholder list? Also, whats the status of Ms. Vasko's term.

Janine Farrell Answer: In regards to Ms. Vasko's term its up, however she is expected to be reappointed. The Historic Preservation Commission prefers County staff to present to the commissioners. Two commissioners are concerned with this area. They are volunteers attending one meeting a month. If there is a targeting meeting, the local commissioners may attend.

Christina Kupkowski Comment: The intent of the project is to improve the roadway whatever route it will be, for the trucks already using it, to address narrow shoulders, channelizing the intersections, etc. and not a major lane addition project. In the worst case, a median may be added in the middle.



Will County Governmental League Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Crete Township – Michael Liccar, Tony Recupito
Will County Division of Transportation – Christina Kupkowski
WSP USA – Dave McGibbon, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski

Time:

Friday, December 18, 2020, 10:00 AM

Below are the notes gathered from the meeting with the attendees listed above. These notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the information obtained through the meeting.

Areas of Concern with Regards to Truck Traffic

Tony Recupito Comment: Trucks come in on State Line Road which is posted for 15 tons so they don't come down 113th, 121st (in Indiana), they are coming from further south somewhere and use County Line to get to Exchange. How can they be stopped? Tony talked to Sergeant Lacombiac - how can Will County do what Lake County in Indiana has been doing for truck enforcement? Car traffic between the states alone is high. Many subdivisions in Indiana, there is rapid residential growth there.

Michael Liccar Comment: The subdivisions in Indiana are a problem. Left turn lanes from SB 394 to EB Exchange - those cars are lined up into 394 mainline.

Tony Recupito Comment: They know there are issues but State Line Road, Klemme Road, Bemis Road, and Danne Road is where they sneak around to get to Exchange Street. The truck drivers are savvy and they know enforcement is minimal, and we suspect a lot of them are circumventing the weight limits at night. It is not to the degree of truck traffic around the Joliet intermodals, so its harder to detect.

Tony Recupito Comment: trucks are going to Crete Monee Road to get to Monaville Road too (note-didn't find a Monaville Road locally, may be referring to Burville Road, which connects to Exchange via State Street – there are weight limits on this route also)

General Questions and Answers

Tony Recupito Comment: Trucks are completely ignoring posted weight limits that exist.

Question Rick Powell: How are the weight limits enforced at the local level?



Tony Recupito Answer: Township calls the sheriff but they don't have resources to sit out there all day. All township roads are posted at 15 ton at most. Lake County Indiana can now ticket trucks based on license plate on Indiana side - if they have a plate that handles the weight and they are overweight based on the plate, deputies have been ticketing them. Trucks have been sneaking around those roads and into Will County since those roads are not enforced.

Michael Liccar Comment: Unincorporated area of Crete Township, law enforcement's been a constant problem. Any police presence in unincorporated areas is the county. They don't have resources to come out so they have issues with law enforcement in general, let alone the truck enforcement.

Tony Recupito Question: Can we get counts on roads east of 394?

Rick Powell Answer: IDOT has traffic counts on a limited number of local (county, township and municipal) routes.

Dave McGibbon Answer: INRIX data is showing that trucks are on routes they shouldn't be as well. We can develop some compelling maps to show % of trucks that exceed the weight limits in our purpose and need statement.

Christina Kupkowski Answer: We can provide the townships the truck OD data and need maps if needed to speak to law enforcement.

Christina Kupkowski Comment: County went into this thinking that corridor selected is more accommodating to truck traffic. Not looking to increase capacity. "Right size" the route.

Rick Powell Comment: IDOT has traffic counts on a limited number of local (county, township and municipal) routes.

Tony Recupito Question: Will this project consider truck enforcement as an alternative?

Dave McGibbon Answer: We will look at how the report can develop that. Some alternatives may not be built alternatives but there are some limitations to how other agencies can enforce the PEL recommendations.

Tony Recupito Comment: look at what Lake County, Indiana has done to allow deputies to enforce trucks based on plate weight.

Michael Liccar Question: Are there any technology solutions like cameras that determine weight that could flag some of these truck issues

Dave McGibbon Answer: We are finalizing a study on truck weigh in motion systems that utilize existing bridges by detecting deflection then sending notification to Law enforcement on vehicles that can be stopped. This could be something incorporated into a range of alternatives. There are numerous



alternative weigh in motion systems that have a tendency to break down over time and become a maintenance challenge but we are looking at options for other agencies to improve reliability. Camera detection systems have some potential based on vehicle type identification and we can consider that also for alternatives.

Christina Kupkowski Answer: The County is in the process of an ITS study and one of the items is to look at freight. AECOM is leading this study. Should be done in January.

Michael Liccar Question: Is there any federal funding that could be applied for this project?

Christina Kupkowski Answer: The next federal funding bill is unknown but the FAST Act had truck-specific funding and if the next bill has that we can go after it. Truck traffic is a big issue for many places and there are federal and state freight funding sources that could be available for the next phase of the project.





South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation Meeting Notes

Attendees:

South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association: Kristi DeLaurentiis, Leslie Phemister Chicago Southland Economic Development Corporation – Reggie Greenwood Will County Division of Transportation – Christina Kupkowski WSP USA –Jamy Lyne, Jamie Bents, Rick Powell, Adam Miliszewski

Time:

Wednesday, January 6th, 2021, 2:00PM

Below are the notes gathered from the meeting with the attendees listed above. These notes are not verbatim, but a summary of the information obtained through the meeting.

Current and Upcoming Developments

Reggie Greenwood Comment: We are in a boom, it's here and more is coming. Below are some of the facilities the team should consider.

- Country Club Hills There is a large development in County Club Hills which is 1.2 million square feet. Amazon occupies one of the buildings (167th and I-57, near Cicero Ave.) There are a total of three buildings there. Additionally, there is two more projects happening in that area.
- Chicago Heights there is a 400k square feet facility being built in Chicago Heights
- XPO Facility XPO Logistics has built a 400K square foot building on US Route 30 that will have heavy truck use (Rick note this may be the same development in Chicago Heights that was referred to)
- Elwood There is a development in Elwood that should be considered, trucks will want to go
 east.

Reggie Greenwood Question: SSA will be a logistics/cargo airport. How much are we considering the airport - are we making considerations with or without airport?

Jamy Lyne Answer: that SSA is an assumed project, but at this point the CMAP plans are being followed. Christina said that the county's planning documents are factoring SSA in this location. This development is in flux and it could have more development on the north end rather than just being airport specific.



Christina Kupkowski Answer: Even in our LRTP we have assumed that that will be there in some fashion. Things are in flux as what the development will look like, there are thoughts that on the northern end it will be more warehouses

Jamy Lyne Request: Reggie could you provide us GIS or mapping file of any new developments that could be shared. Reggie noted he could get that information.

Questions and Comments

Kristi DeLaurentiis Question: What is the significance of being a freight generator that we should report that might influence the study?

Jamy Lyne Answer: We have no official threshold, just trying to compile new developments. We can base our projections on new developments that are not yet reflected on zoning maps. The base for projections is CMAP pop-employment data.

Kristi DeLaurentiis Question: Why was this project developed, is it a decision made from existing conditions or future needs?

Christina Kupkowski Answer: This comes out of a couple of things, change in policy in truck routing designations and increases in truck traffic in this general area but will county overall. There are no class-2 truck routes in this area. We've had discussions with the local mayors that have trucks going through everywhere. We don't have a single east west route in the area. They wanted a way to deal with it. We know there is a lot of truck traffic and a lot of truck traffic coming from Indiana.

Kristi DeLaurentiis Comment: There are facilities named in the five-year capital bill that are loosely related to the SSA, and these will be important to consider and SSMMA wants these considered in this project - such as I-57 at Eagle Lake Road interchange.

Christina Kupkowski Comment: From the County perspective, we are trying to avoid including it in the plan. IDOT has had a history of if you include you study it and you own it. We are looking at it as an IDOT project and want IDOT to pay for.

Kristi DeLaurentiis Comment: Will WSP evaluate capacity on I-394?

Rick Powell Answer: yes, we will see how the proposed project affects I-394. We know IDOT wants to convert 394 to a full access control facility but that may be beyond the planning horizon

Leslie Phemister Comment: The route on the second picture on slide 14 shows it going between the Monee Elementary School and a large neighborhood. This could be an issue with children walking to school.



Christina Kupkowski Comment: This option has been there for a while, the Mayor would want something more south. Just given the environmental issue, that's wetland headwaters for creeks. We don't foresee a route utilizing the northern tract.

Jamy Lyne Comment: That's a great point, each option we look at comes with pros and cons that come with it. We then try and select 1 or 2 that we move forward.

Kristi DeLaurentiis Comment: Regarding the MetroQuest Survey results, I think it is important to know what the public is saying. The mayors of the communities should know what their constituents think. Be mindful most of these municipals have elections in March and April. Their attention may not be 100% if you push any outreach into those months. I'm very curious what the 252-people said, I sat in on a lot of the LRTP sessions, people were angry about truck traffic in their front yard. It would behoove us as well to know what the communities we serve believe. I may want to circle back and sit down and get some in-depth walk through the content.

Jamy Layne Comment: We will develop a newsletter summarizing what we learned (electronically as well as on website). Likely won't have specific one-on-one meeting to debrief public involvement period unless required.

Rick Powell Comment: We have had some issues getting in contact with municipalities as of late.

Kristi DeLaurentiis Comment: We'd be willing to assist in getting you all in contact with any municipality you need assistance on.

Kristi DeLaurentiis Question: Is there a steering committee for this project?

Christina Kupkowski Answer: The quasi-steering committee for this project is the individual communities.

Jamy Lyne Answer: said there has been one small group meeting so far, and after we process traffic data and have engagement summaries we can set up the next small group meeting with the municipalities.

Kristi DeLaurentiis Comment: SSMMA is looking at regional STP projects and they want to know what complementary projects they can prepare to support this project. Kristi and Leslie would like a followup meeting to discuss this as well as public comments.

Leslie Phemister Comment: Have you all reached out to the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC). Two years ago, they were trying to plan or hoping to plan from some of the roads that were going to 394. They were pushing their personal car traffic on us. It would be important to see what they are planning now more recently. They are looking also for an east west connection. Especially, if are looking to expand industrial facility.



Stakeholder Engagement Period Survey Results



Purpose of Survey

To kick off stakeholder engagement for the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study, an online public engagement period took the place of a traditional public meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic from November 30 to December 31, 2020. The goal of this online public engagement period was to solicit feedback, create awareness of the project, and to help determine the need for the project. A part of the public engagement period was a MetroQuest Survey to engage the Will County community and other impacted stakeholders. The survey received a great response and closed on December 31, 2020.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first survey!

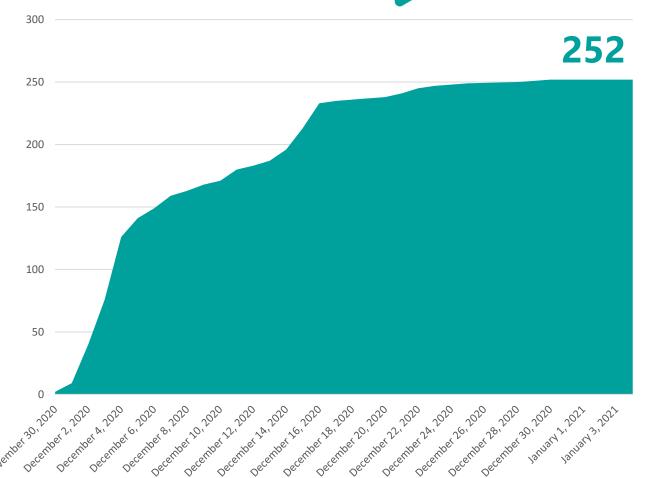


Participants

Survey Participation

The month-long survey garnered participation from 252 stakeholders, including elected officials, residents, and business owners.

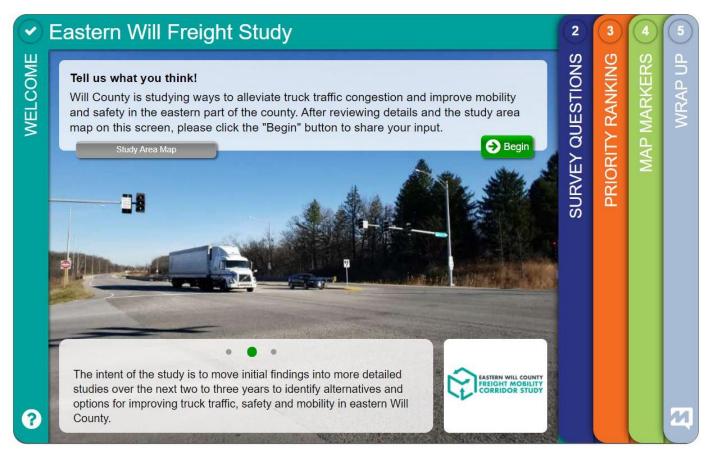
A combination of tactics were used to promote the survey including website updates, a social media campaign, email newsletters, and postcard with a QR code linking to the survey.

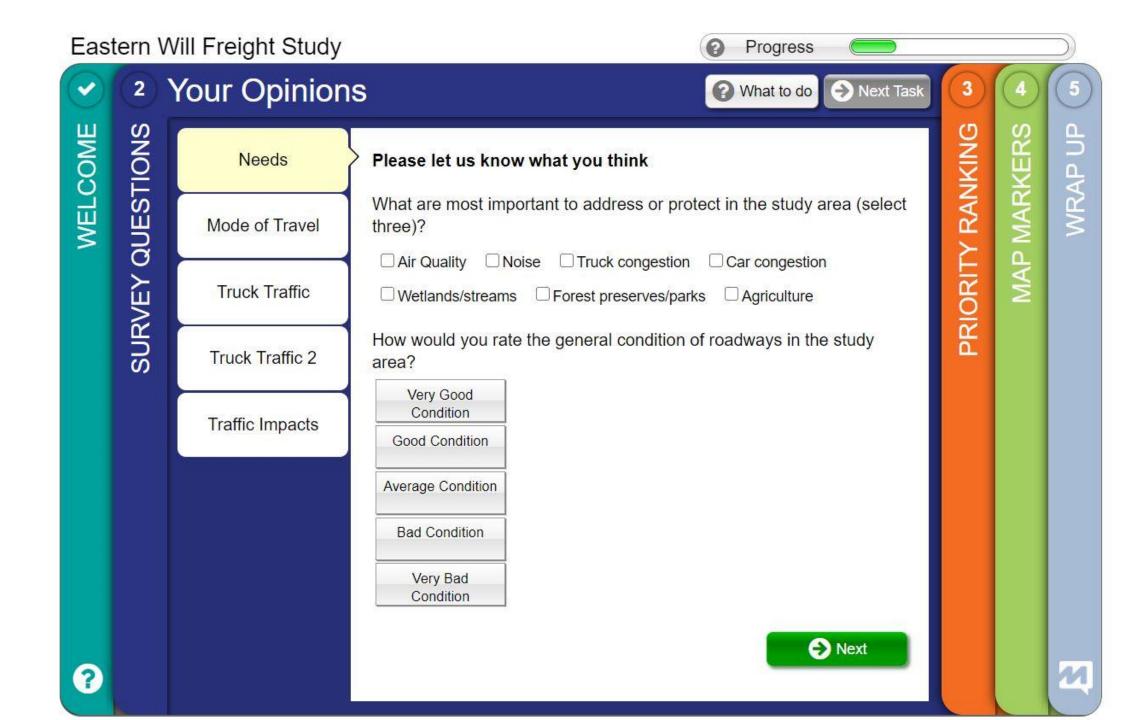




Survey Overview

The survey consisted of 13 questions focused on the topics of study area transportation needs, current conditions, safety and truck traffic.







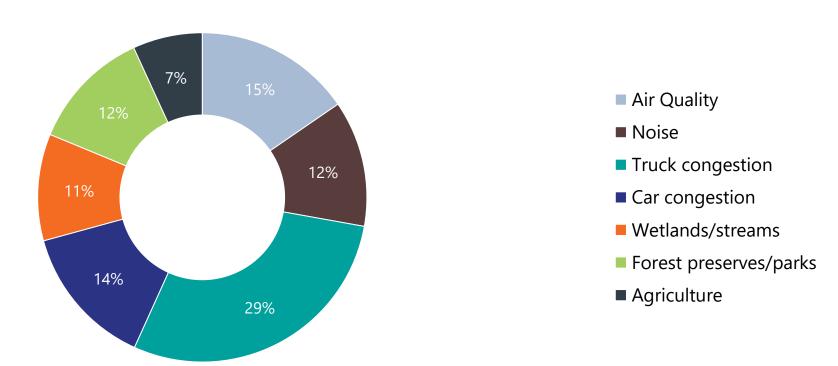
Responses to Survey Questions



Needs - Question 1

What are most important to address or protect in the study area (select three)?

Top three answers: truck congestion, air quality, and car congestion

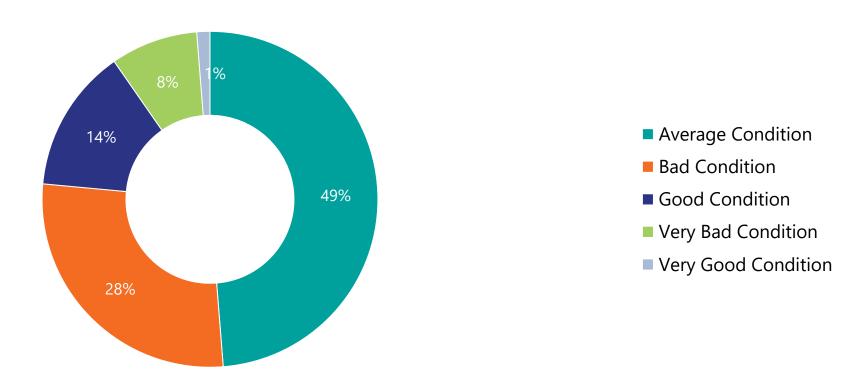




Needs - Question 2

How would you rate the general condition of roadways in the study area?

Top three answers: average condition, bad condition, good condition

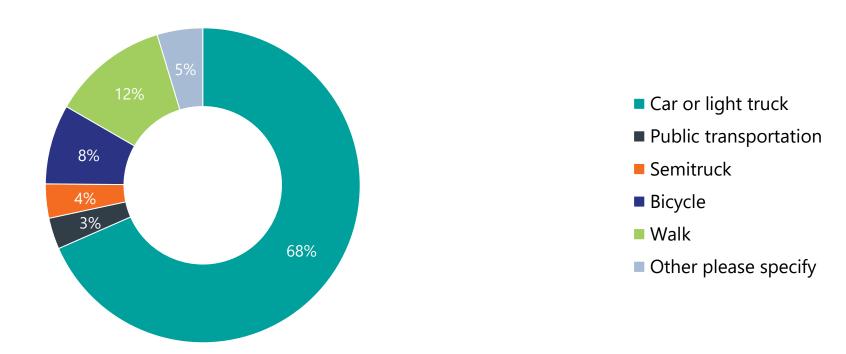




Mode of Travel - Question 1

What forms of transportation do you use when traveling study area routes (select all that apply)?

Top three answers: car or light truck, walk, and bicycle

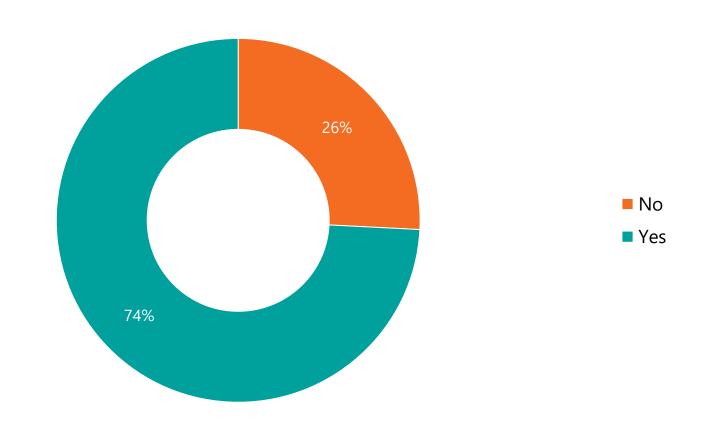




Truck Traffic - Question 1

Have you experienced truck traffic congestion on I-57

(including Monee and Stuenkel Road exits)?

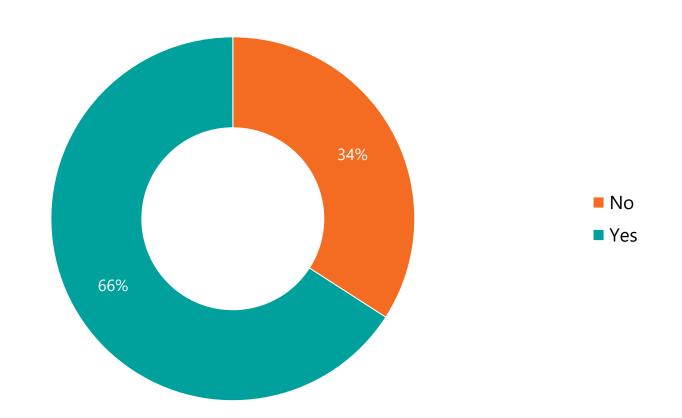




Truck Traffic - Question 2

Have you experienced truck traffic congestion on IL

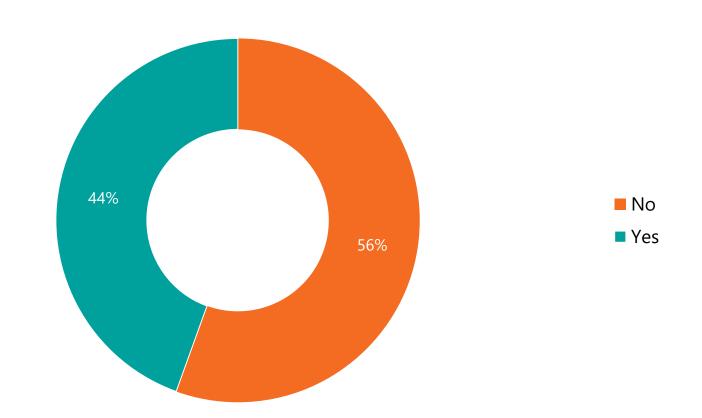
394/IL 1?





Truck Traffic 2 - Question 1

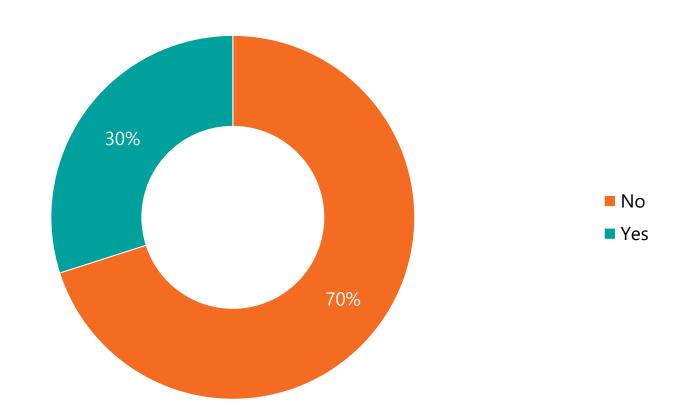
Have you experienced truck traffic congestion on CreteMonee Road?





Truck Traffic 2 - Question 2

Have you experienced truck traffic congestion on Pauling-Goodenow Road?





Priorities Ranking Responses

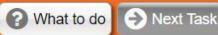
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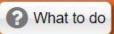
MAP MARKER

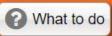


WELCOME

What's Most Important?







SURVEY QUESTIONS PRIORITY RANKING

0 Safety

2 Truck Congestion

> Order your top 5 ↑ items above this line ↑

> > Car Congestion

Bike & Pedestrian Safety

Connectivity/Efficiencies

Environment

Noise

Truck Routing

Truck Congestion



Ensuring that large trucks move through the area without experiencing or causing traffic back-ups.



Comment

Suggest another

Priorities Average Rank



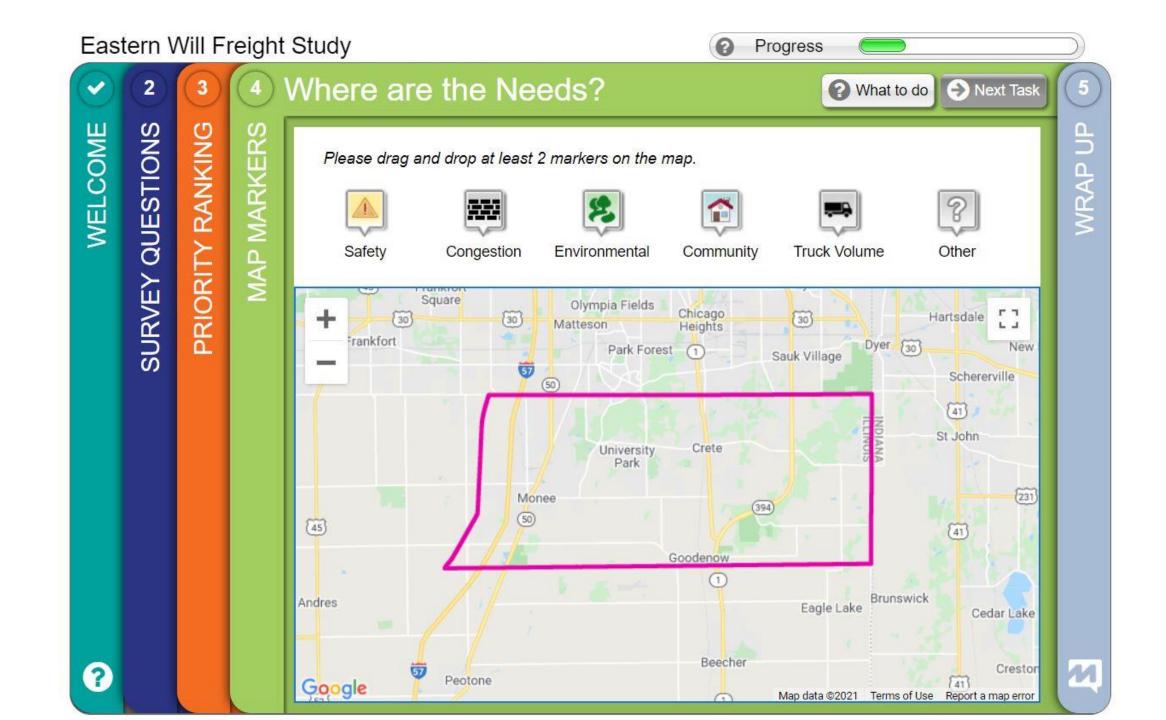
Participants ranked eight priorities from highest to lowest. The most important priority is 1. The average ranking for each priority was used to determine the overall rank.

* Note that the highest rank is 1, so small rankings and averages are better than high ones

Priority	Overall Rank	Average Rank
1	Truck Congestion	2.53
2	Safety	2.53
3	Environment	3.00
4	Truck Routing	3.05
5	Car Congestion	3.18
6	Connectivity/Efficiencies	3.43
7	Bike and Pedestrian Safety	3.44
8	Noise	3.52



Map Markers Responses



Priority Issues



Map Marker Summary

Top three markers on the map were safety, congestion, and truck volume.

To view the marker locations and comments click here.



Problem Locations Summary



Please note that there are limitations to the data provided. Most of the map markers were not placed directly on specific roadways or intersections. The project team made some assumptions and grouped markers in the most logical locations. Intersections and roadways that had the majority of map markers are summarized. To view <u>all</u> map marker locations and comments <u>click here</u>.

This is a preliminary summary, and the project team will provide further analysis of the data in the summary.

Problem Locations Summary - Continued



I-57 and Monee-Manhattan Road

The I-57 and Monee-Manhattan interchange had 38 map markers placed at or near the intersection. The map markers placed symbolized safety (15), congestion (11), truck volume (11), and environmental (1). Five comments were made about congestion and two specifically said the roadway needs to be expanded to four lanes. Eight comments were made about safety and two were specifically about pedestrian safety. Seven truck volume comments said there are too many trucks

IL-394 and Exchange Street

IL-394 and Exchange Street had 18 map markers at or near the intersection. The map markers were safety (10), congestion (7) and other (1). A total of 15 comments were made at this intersection, and ten comments were made about the lack of turn lanes.

Exchange Street

Exchange Street had a total of 37 markers placed on or near the roadway. Congestion (8) and safety (8) were the top used markers outside of the IL-394/Exchange intersection which had 18 markers. Heavy traffic from Indiana was commented five times.

Problem Locations Summary - Continued



IL-394

IL-394 had 40 markers placed on or near the roadway. Safety (19), truck volume (8), congestion (7) were the top three most used markers. The majority of the safety comments were about trucks running lights, speeding, and that the roadway is dangerous.

Pauling-Goodenow Road

Pauling-Goodenow Road had 21 markers placed on or near the roadway and safety was the most used marker (10).

Problem Locations Summary - Continued



IL-394 and Burville Road

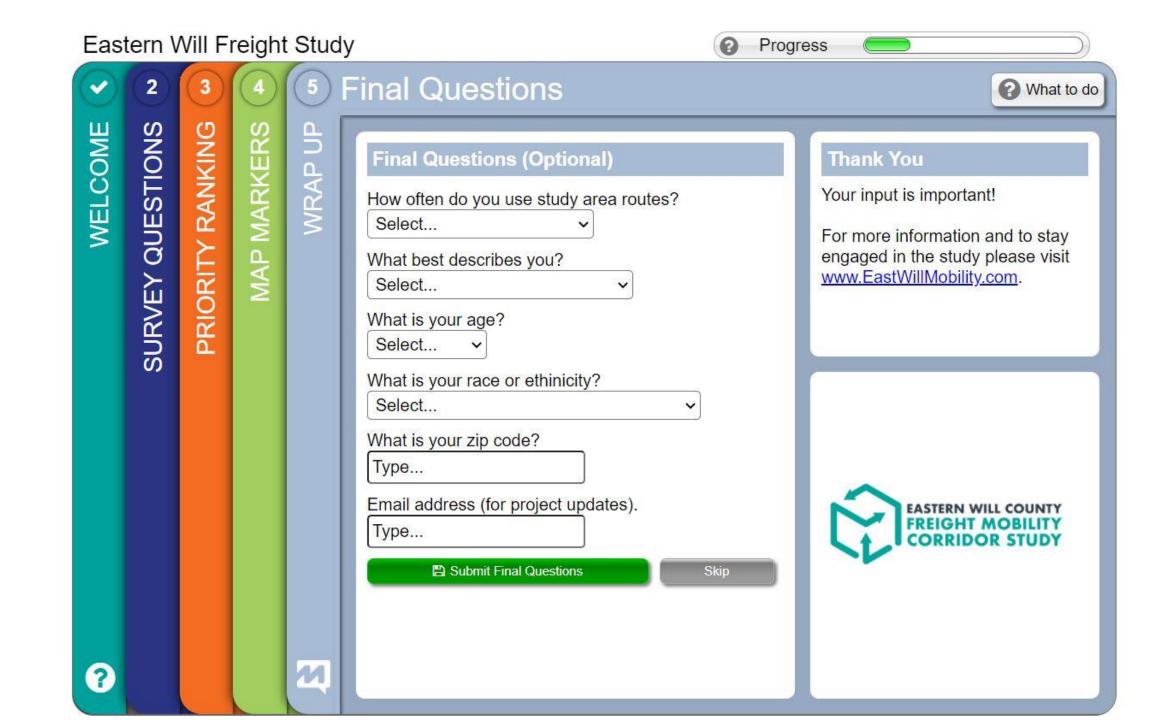
IL-394 and Burville Road had seven (7) map markers placed at the intersection and the majority of the comments said the intersection is dangerous.

Crete-Monee Road

Crete-Monee Road had nine (9) map markers with the majority of comments being about an increase in heavy truck traffic.



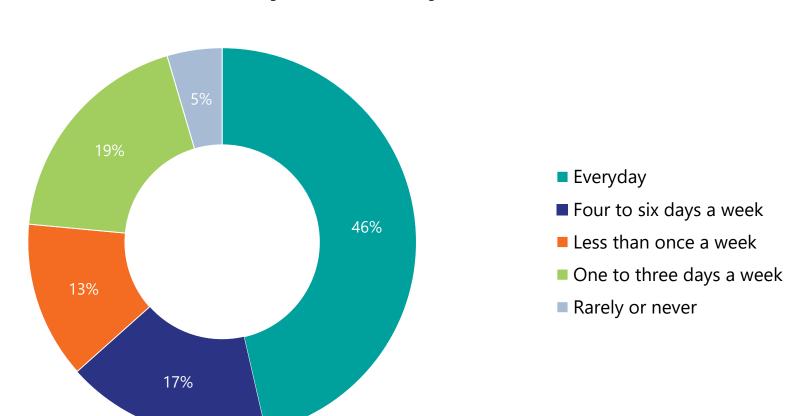
Demographics of Survey Participants





Demographics - Question 1

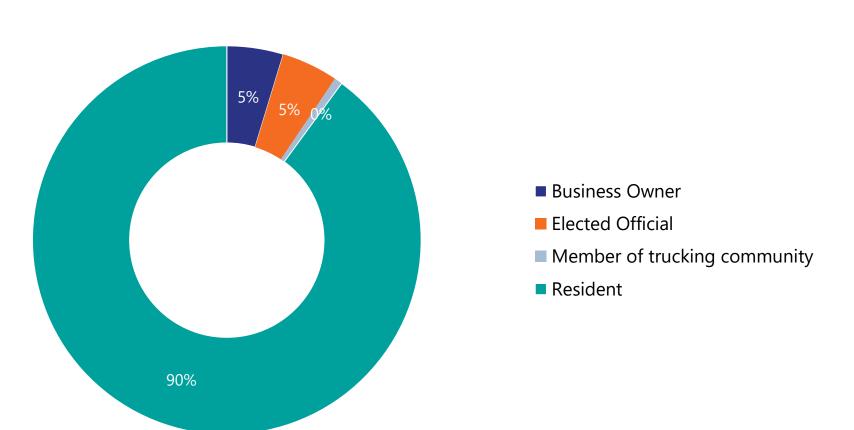
How often do you use study area routes?





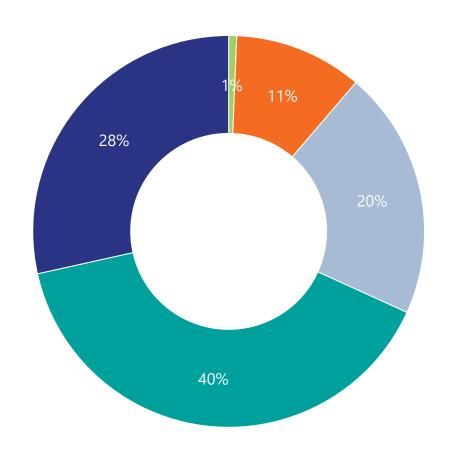
Demographics - Question 2

Which best describes you?





Demographics - Question 3 What is your age?



19-29

30-39

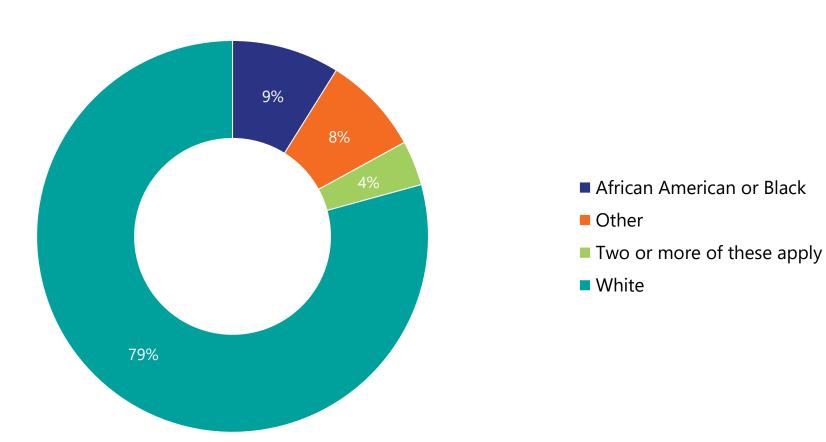
40-49

50-64

■ 65 or older



Demographics - Question 4
What is your race or ethnicity?



Wrap Up



There were 252 completed surveys received during the Public Engagement Period. The results of the survey, combined with stakeholder interviews, analysis of current and future travel trends, and engineering assessment will be utilized to develop the Purpose and Need for the project. The results will be incorporated into the development of the purpose and need statement, the first major milestone in the study process.

Stay tuned for future outreach on the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study.



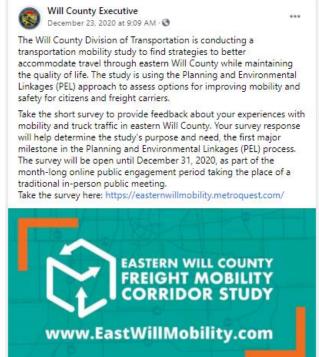
Boosted Post Objective

In December 2020, two paid social media posts were launched on the Will County government Facebook page. The posts' objective was to educate stakeholders and the public in Will County about the study taking place in their community, raise awareness, and increase participation in the survey that was open for their input.

Boosted Post One



Boosted Post Two



Boosted Post Results

Boosted Post Data	Post One (12/2/20)	Post Two (12/23/20)	Total
Duration	14 days	5 days	
Cost of Boosted Post	\$150.00	\$25.00	\$175.00
Cost Per Engagement	\$.45/per engagement	\$.18/per engagement	
Reach	5,885	266	6,151
Impressions	8,898	309	9,207
Post Engagements	330	141	471



Facebook Definitions

Term	Definition
Duration	Length of the boosted post.
Cost Per Engagement	Cost per time a user engaged with the post.
Reach	Measures the number of unique users that see your content.
Impressions	Refers to the number of times a user may have seen your post.
Post Engagements	Includes all actions that people take involving your ads while they're running. Post engagements can include actions such as reacting to, commenting on or sharing the ad, viewing a photo or video, or clicking on a link.





Twitter



Facebook



In partnership with local municipalities within Eastern Will County and transportation associations, we will use social media to create awareness and educate stakeholders and the public on the study.

Example email to reach out to partners:

Hello,

On behalf of the Will County Department of Transportation and Highways, I'm emailing you to ask for your help promoting a series of surveys benefiting your community. The Will County Division of Transportation is conducting a transportation mobility study to find strategies to better accommodate travel through Eastern Will County while maintaining quality of life. The Will County Division of Transportation wants to know about stakeholders, including resident's, experiences with mobility and truck traffic in Eastern Will County.

To make the voices of Will County heard, we created a survey to help develop the purpose and need of the study. Stakeholders can take the short survey on MetroQuest by visiting: https://bit.ly/3lpvddw. Please consider helping us promote this survey to the community who will benefit from the study by posting the recommended post copy and graphic. We're requesting your help by posting about the survey once during each of the time frames below.

Post One: December 7th – December 11th

Post Two: December 18th - December 28th

Recommended Copy:

Post One: The Will County Division of Transportation wants to know about your experiences with mobility and truck traffic in Eastern Will County. If you or someone you know lives or works in this area, please consider taking the survey or sharing the post: https://bit.ly/3lpvddw.

Post Two: The public engagement period for the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study is ending on December 31st. Take this short survey to make your voice heard https://bit.ly/3lpvddw

A graphic for each post is attached.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Zubek at bzubek@morrealecomm.com or Christina Kupkowski at ckupkowski@willcountyillinois.com.

Thank you,

[Insert Name]





Twitter





Recommended Partners:

Municipalities:

- Crete Michael Smith, Acting Village Administrator; FB and T: @VillageOfCrete
- Frankfort Rob Piscia, Village Administrator; FB and T: @FPDIL
- Monee David Wallace, Village Administrator; FB: @villageofmonee
- Park Forest Tom Mick, Village Manager; FB and T: @ParkForestIL
- Steger Mary Jo Seehausen, Village Administrator; FB and T: @VillageOfSteger
- University Park Ernestine Beck-Fulgham, Village Manager; F: @Village-of-University-Park-2091456904471552



Associations:

- Illinois Trucking Association Eric Gallien, Associate Director; F: @iltrucking
- Midwest Truckers Association Don Schaefer, Executive Vice President; F: @MidWestTruckers
- Active Transportation Alliance Melody Geraci, Deputy Executive Director; F and T: @activetrans
- Chicago Southland EDC Reggie Greenwald, Executive Director; F:
 @ChicagoSouthland and T: @VisitSouthland
- Will County CED John Grueling, President; F and T: @WillCountyCED,
- Will County Governmental League Hugh O'Hara, Executive Director, T:
 @wcgovtleague
- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association Kristi DeLaurentiis, Executive Director; F: @SSMMACOG
- Forest Preserve of Will County Ralph Schultz, Chief Operating Officer; F and F:
 @WillCoForests





Please use the recommend posting content below when posting to Facebook and Twitter.

Posting Frequency:

We're requesting your help by posting about the survey once during each of these time frames.

Post One: December 7th – December 11th

Post Two: December 18th - December 28th

Graphic:

Please use the graphic on the following slide when posting to Facebook and Twitter.

Recommended Copy:

Post One: The Will County Division of Transportation wants to know about your experiences with mobility and truck traffic in Eastern Will County.

If you or someone you know lives or works in this area, please consider taking the survey or sharing the post: https://bit.ly/3lpvddw.

Post Two: The public engagement period for the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study is ending on December 31st.

Take this short survey to make your voice heard https://bit.ly/3lpvddw





Please use the copy and accompanying graphic below when posting the first post to social media.



Post One: The Will County Division of Transportation wants to know about your experiences with mobility and truck traffic in Eastern Will County.

If you or someone you know lives or works in this area, please consider taking the survey or sharing the post: https://bit.ly/3lpvddw.





Please use the copy and accompanying graphic below when posting the second post to social media.



Post Two: The public engagement period for the Eastern Will County Freight Mobility Corridor Study is ending on December 31st.

Take this short survey to make your voice heard https://bit.ly/3lpvddw