

US 51 Public Information Meetings – November 5, 6, 10, 12, and 13, 2014

Introduction

The US 51 project study, from south of Pana to Centralia, began in 2007 and we are nearing completion of the project. The purpose of the project is to improve connectivity and enhance the US 51 highway system continuity within the south central Illinois region. The process timeline is shown below. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to present Preferred Alternative.



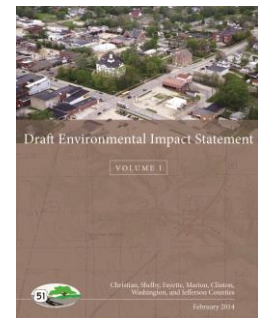
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Public Involvement (54 Advisory Group Meetings, 26 Public Information Meetings, and 5 Public Hearings)

Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)

The DEIS is a Federal/State document that includes:

- The Purpose and Need of the project
- The range of transportation alternatives that were considered
- The evaluation process used to narrow down the range of alternatives
- The environmental and community impacts of the remaining alternatives
- Discussion of mitigation strategies for impacts
- A summary of the public involvement process including public input received



The Preferred Alternative near each community is presented at tonight's meeting. The impacts resulting from each alternative are also presented.

The DEIS is sent to Federal, State, and local agencies for review and comment. It is available for public review at the following locations:

- Carnegie Schuyler Library in Pana
- Centralia Public Library
- Nokomis Public Library
- Sandoval Branch Library
- IDOT District 7 in Effingham
- US 51 website: www.us51eis-idot.com

The Final EIS will be issued in mid-year 2015.



Preferred Alternative

A summary of the public comments and the recommended Preferred Alternative were presented to the Federal and State resource agencies in September 2014. The project team received concurrence on the following:

- Ramsey: R Alt 2
- Ramsey Creek: RCOB
- Vandalia: V Alt 4
- Sandoval and Junction City: CS Alt 2
- Near Oconee, Shobonier, Vernon, Patoka, Central City, Centralia, Wamac, and the areas between communities: US 51 Build Alternative

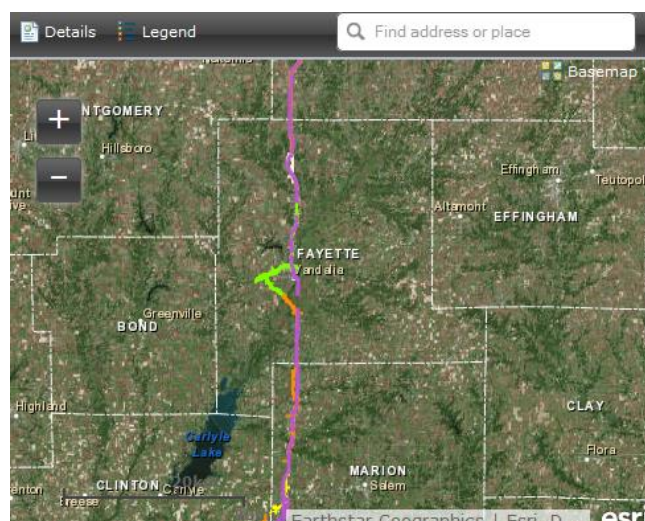
The US 51 Build Alternative is a lengthy alternative between communities where the proposed improvements follow existing US 51 or where only one build alternative remained after the alternative screening process.

In addition, a No Build Alternative is considered.



The build alternatives can be viewed on the US 51 website (www.us51eis-idot.com) or in the DEIS which is available for review at one of the public libraries listed previously on this handout. The DEIS is also available for download on the US 51 website. The Preferred Alternative will be described in the final EIS issued in 2015.

The Preferred Alternative can also be viewed on an interactive map (below) located on the website (<http://www.us51eis-idot.com/interactive-map/>).



Frequently Asked Question: what if my property is impacted?

- The land acquisition process is not expected to occur for a minimum of ten years
- IDOT priority is to work with the property owners to minimize impacts
- Process would include a plat of highway, independent appraisal by IDOT staff, an offer, and a period of negotiations
- IDOT must propose fair market compensation for property
- Eminent Domain or Condemnation are always considered to be last resorts

