

# US ROUTE 45 NEWSLETTER & PUBLIC HEARING INFORMATION

## What's **NEW** with US ROUTE 45?

IDOT has been working with stakeholders as part of a comprehensive study of US Route 45 since the last Public Meeting in May 2009. The study area covers US Route 45 from Illinois Route 60 to Illinois Route 22. The purpose and need of the proposed action is to provide an improved transportation facility by addressing the needs of economic development, system linkage and continuity, capacity, and safety. The proposed scope of work for this project is to reconstruct US Route 45 to provide additional travel lanes separated by a median from Illinois Route 60 to Illinois Route 22. In addition, the project includes drainage improvements, modernization of traffic signals, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations, and provisions for additional turn lanes at various intersections.

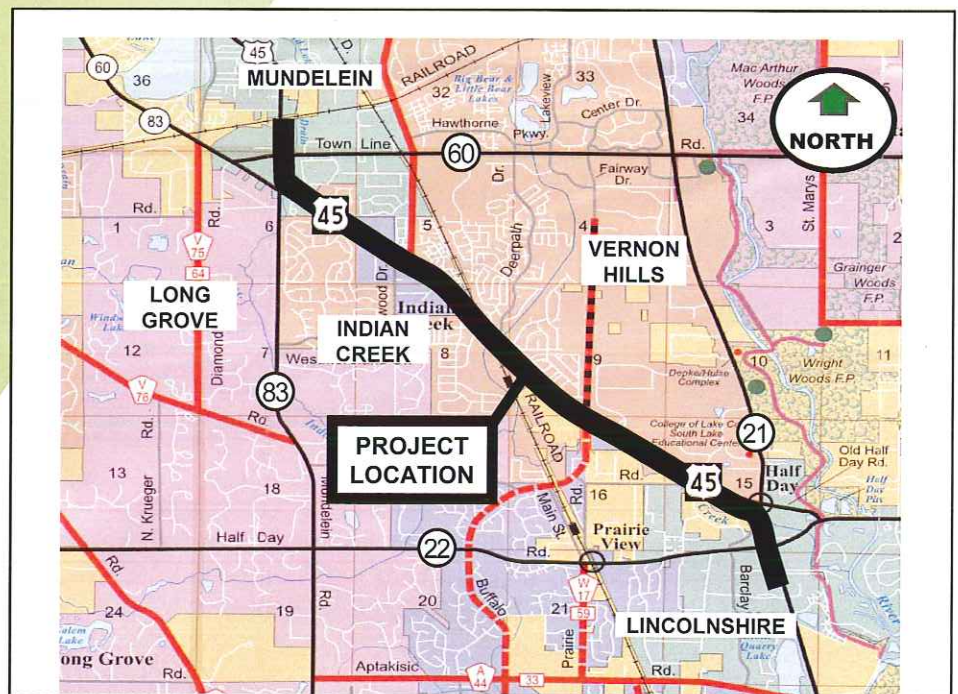
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## Project Update

IDOT received several comments at the second Public Meeting in May 2009. Since that time, IDOT has been working closely with project stakeholders to resolve these concerns. The primary topics that were addressed and incorporated into the proposed plan as appropriate include the roadway configuration between Deerpath Drive and Fairway Drive/ Buffalo Grove Road, pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations, railroad crossing concerns, traffic noise and traffic signal concerns. This newsletter summarizes the studies and status of these topics. They will be shown at the Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012.



## May 2009 Public Meeting Follow Up

The Department received 81 comments at the May 19, 2009 Public Meeting. Our response to the primary areas of concern is noted below.



### ➤ Roadway Configuration

Based on the plans shown at the second Public Meeting, a number of trees along the north side of US Route 45 from Deerpath Drive to Fairway Drive / Buffalo Grove Road would have been removed. The meandering existing path would have also been impacted. Working with the Village of Vernon Hills, IDOT was able to develop an improved plan for this location. By revising US Route 45 to provide a painted median and shifting the

roadway slightly to the south (while avoiding the adjacent Arrowood Pet Cemetery and Willow Lawn Memorial Park), impacts to adjacent facilities were minimized. In addition, the alignment of the existing pedestrian walkway along the north side of the road will be utilized to provide the multi-use path proposed throughout the project. Where applicable, retaining walls were also proposed to further reduce impacts.

### ➤ Railroad Crossing

Several stakeholders expressed a concern about the gate and signal timing at the railroad crossing just west of Deerpath Drive. IDOT contacted the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC) about the operational issues of the railroad crossing. As a result of the coordination, the ICC conducted inspections in the summer of 2009 and the Canadian National Railroad replaced some equipment and adjusted timing to help alleviate some of the operational issues at the crossing.



### ➤ Drainage

Comments regarding existing drainage problems at several locations were noted at the Public Meeting. The project will include replacing the Milwaukee Avenue bridge over Indian Creek, replacing 8 major culverts crossing the roadway to meet current IDOT drainage standards, installing underground storm sewers, and raising the roadway out of flood prone areas.

### ➤ Noise

With the widening of the roadway, general concerns were raised regarding a possible increase in traffic noise. A comprehensive noise study has been completed for the project since the May 2009 Public Meeting. The noise study found that noise level changes and design year noise levels as a result of the proposed improvements do not warrant noise abatement measures per Federal and State guidelines. Therefore, noise abatement measures are not proposed. A copy of this study will be available for viewing at the Public Hearing.

### ➤ Traffic Data

Stakeholders had concerns about the 2002 existing traffic data presented at the May 2009 Public Meeting. Traffic data has been updated to reflect more recent traffic counts and IDOT has coordinated with the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning to confirm the projected traffic for the project. The revised projected traffic numbers for the project continue to warrant two travel lanes in each direction.

### ➤ Traffic Signals

Stakeholders were interested in investigating the need for a proposed traffic signal at the intersections of US Route 45 with Grosse Pointe Boulevard, Stone Fence Road and Corporate Woods Parkway. In addition, stakeholders were interested in synchronizing the traffic signals. Traffic signal installations must meet warrants that are based on parameters such as traffic volumes, roadway classification and spacing with respect to other signalized intersections. Grosse Pointe Boulevard, Stone Fence Road and Corporate Woods Parkway do not meet the warrants and will remain unsignalized as part of the US Route 45 improvements. Traffic signal synchronization will be included as part of the proposed improvements.



# May 2009 Public Meeting Follow Up (continued)

## ➤ Pedestrian Accommodations

Several stakeholders voiced concern over accommodating pedestrians, especially between Grosse Pointe Road and the Metra Station. The US Route 45 proposed improvements have been revised to provide a sidewalk and multi-use path throughout the entire project limits. Gaps in paths have been eliminated pending cost participation by the municipalities.



## ➤ Speed Limit

General concerns regarding reducing the speed limits were noted at the Public Meeting. The roadway has been designed to accommodate a maximum posted speed limit of 45 mph speed limit throughout the project limits. A speed study can be performed after construction to investigate whether lowering the speed limit is appropriate.

## 4(f) De Minimis Summary

There are three public parks/ recreation areas along US Route 45: Vernon Hills Golf Course, Carriage Green Park, and Garvanian Park. The proposed widening of the roadway will require acquisition of a small amount of property adjacent to the roadway right-of-way. These small areas of land currently serve as a frontage to the roadway and are not used for recreational purposes. Therefore, acquiring these areas from publicly-owned recreational agencies will not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that qualify these properties for protection under 23 CFR 771.135, commonly known as Section 4(f), which is the federal guideline that protects properties such as public parks and recreational areas from being adversely impacted.



Detailed documentation describing the impacts and mitigation associated with the effects of the US Route 45 project on the Section 4(f) properties will be available at the Public Hearing for review and comment. The US Route 45 project intends to seek a Section 4(f) "de minimis" impact finding based on a determination that the project will not adversely affect the features, attributes or activities that qualify the locations for protection under Section 4(f). Meetings have been held with both the Vernon Hills Golf Course and the Vernon Hills Park District to discuss the impacts.

## Anticipated Project Schedule



### What's next?

- Public input
- Approval of Phase I Study (anticipated Summer 2012)
- Begin Phase II – Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition

**IDOT is excited to continue working to** create the best possible future for US Route 45. In the months ahead, we will review input from the Public Hearing and finalize the project details for approval of the Phase I study. Next, detailed construction plans will be designed and property needed to build the roadway will be purchased. Construction funding for this improvement is not currently included in IDOT's Fiscal Year 2012 to 2017 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. This project will be included in our priorities for future funding consideration.

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 7, 2012  
**TIME:** 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.  
**PLACE:** Vernon Hills Park District  
 Sullivan Center  
 635 North Aspen Drive  
 Vernon Hills, Illinois 60061

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

Phone: (847) 705-4791 (Kimberly Murphy)  
 TTY/TDD: (800) 526-0844 or 711  
 TTY (Spanish): (800) 501-0864 or 711  
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 E-mail: us45@transystems.com

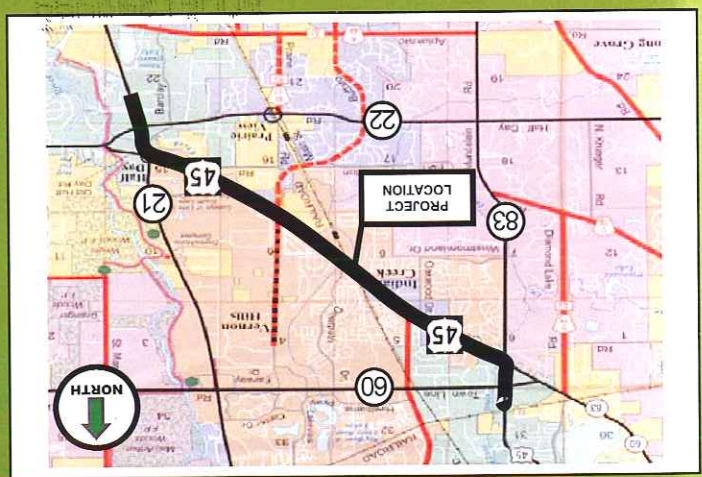
You are invited to attend an *Open House Public Hearing* held by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) concerning US Route 45 from Illinois Route 60 to Illinois Route 22.

The purpose of the Hearing is to present the preferred alternative for the proposed improvements to US Route 45. In addition, IDOT is seeking comments on the effects that the proposed improvements will have on Carriage Green Park, Garvanian Park and the Vernon Hills Golf Course. The US Route 45 project intends to seek a "de minimis" impact finding based on a determination that the project will not adversely affect the features, attributes or activities that qualify these 23 CFR 771.135 locations for protection, commonly known as Section 4(f).

Exhibits will be on display and an audio-visual presentation will be shown approximately every half-hour beginning at 5:30 P.M., with the last showing at 8:00 P.M. IDOT representatives and project team members will be present to answer questions regarding the project. Please attend at anytime between 5:30 P.M. and 8:30 P.M.



Mr. Michael S. Allison  
 Village Manager  
 Village of Vernon Hills  
 290 Evergreen Drive  
 Vernon Hills, IL 60061-2999



**You're Invited to a Public Hearing!**  
**US ROUTE 45**  
**Public Hearing**  
 Tuesday, February 7, 2012  
 5:30 P.M. to 8:30 P.M.

US Route 45 - IL 60 to IL 22  
 Illinois Department of Transportation  
 Division of Highways-District One  
 201 West Center Court  
 Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096

