Illinois Department of Transportation

# Eastern Bypass Study

NEWSLETTER

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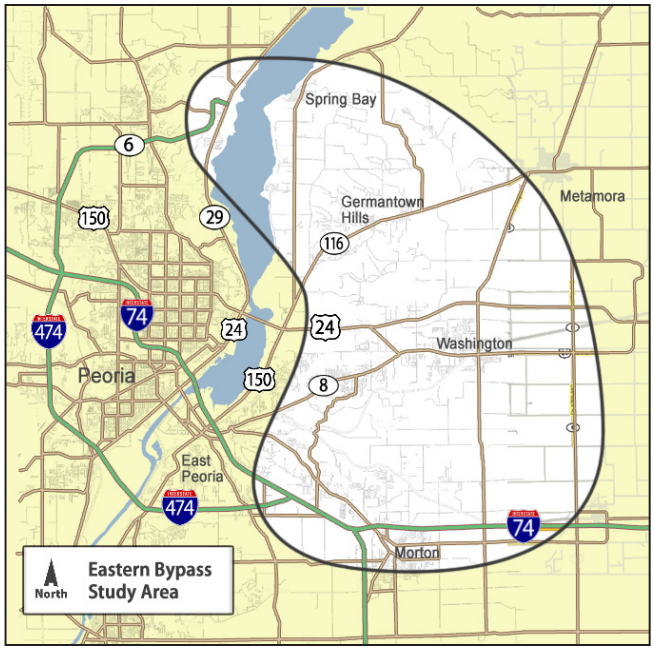
## IDOT Begins New Study for Eastern Bypass

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has begun a new study of an eastern bypass in the tri-county area. This study will begin with determining a corridor location for a highway intended to join Illinois Route 6 with Interstate 74, north and east of Peoria (see the map below).




The Eastern Bypass Study has been divided into two phases:

**A Corridor Phase** - Before determining where a highway should be built, it is necessary to select the general area where it should be located. This general area is called a corridor. A corridor is many times wider than a highway. This phase will help decide the location of the corridor. It will answer questions like, "Should it be north or south of Spring Bay?" and/or "Would it be best to be east or west of Washington?"

**An Alignment Phase** - After a corridor is selected, then the Alignment Phase will begin to determine the exact location of a new highway within the selected corridor. Studies including both positive and negative effects of a final alignment will then be used to make a "Build" or "No-Build" decision.

### A Context Sensitive Solutions Project

IDOT's mission has always been to provide safe and effective transportation facilities for the people of Illinois. Today, that mission also includes a greater emphasis on preserving or enhancing what are known as "quality of life" elements by using a technique called "Context Sensitive Solutions" (CSS).

Our goal is to create transportation projects that not only address safety and mobility but which also seek to preserve or enhance the scenic, economic, historic, and natural qualities of the area. It is only by working closely with area residents, however, that we can fully understand the unique and valued aspects of the project area's environment and communities. With this knowledge in hand, creative and flexible designs can be developed that are sensitive to those valued qualities.

### The Community Advisory Group

An important part of the Eastern Bypass Study and CSS is extensive participation of the public in the study process. One highlight of our public involvement plan is the creation of a Community Advisory Group (CAG). The main purpose of the CAG will be to function as a pipeline or liaison between IDOT and the broader community. This ensures that the mood and opinions of the broader public are shared with the IDOT project team, and that information developed by the project team is distributed throughout the broader public.

The CAG will consist of volunteers who represent a wide variety of community interests … groups such as homeowners' associations, local chambers of commerce, agricultural interests, environmental groups, and others with a stake in the outcome of the study. Please attend the July 29 meeting to learn how you could become a member of the CAG, or contact us at the address below.

**For more information please contact:**

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