

Eastern Bypass Study

NEWSLETTER

Edition No. 3

September 2011

Next Public Meeting Scheduled

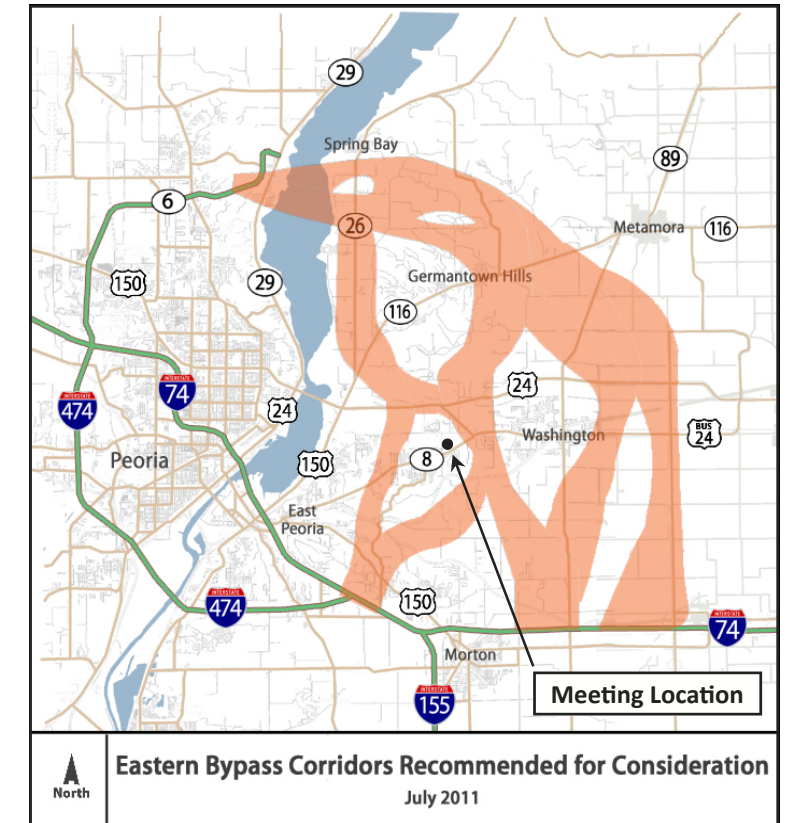
A public information meeting for the Eastern Bypass Study will be held on Thursday, September 15 at the Countryside Banquet Facility in Washington, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Countryside Banquet Facility is located on the northeast corner of School Street and Illinois Route 8 in Washington. All who are interested in the proposed project are encouraged to attend the meeting. Several members of the Illinois Department of Transportation's (IDOT) Study Team will be on hand to answer questions and receive comments about the proposed project.

The goal of the study is to find one broad "corridor" within which several possible route alternatives for the proposed Eastern Bypass could be located. The purpose of the meeting is to present and receive comments on the corridors currently under consideration and to describe the process used by the IDOT Study Team to develop and analyze these corridor options over the past several months.

The meeting will be held in an open house format. Under this format, members of the public are free to attend at any time during the meeting hours.

Various maps, drawings, and other project information will be on display at the meeting, and a continuously-running video presentation will be used to provide an orientation to the study and the meeting process. Attendees can spend as much time as necessary during the posted hours to discuss suggestions and concerns with Study Team members. Comments and suggestions can also be given to IDOT representatives by submitting a comment form, either at the meeting or through the mail, or by visiting the project website (<http://www.easternbypass.com>).

In keeping with the requirements of the *Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990*, the meeting site is fully accessible. Anyone requiring special assistance in attending or participating in the meeting should contact Mr. Mike Lewis, at least 3 days in advance of the meeting, at the address and number shown in the side panel on this page.



This newsletter is the third in a series of newsletters intended to keep the public informed about the Eastern Bypass Study

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- Next Public Meeting Scheduled
- What has Happened Since the Previous Public Meeting
- Study Timeline and What Happens Next
- The Corridor Screening Process
- Your Community Advisory Group

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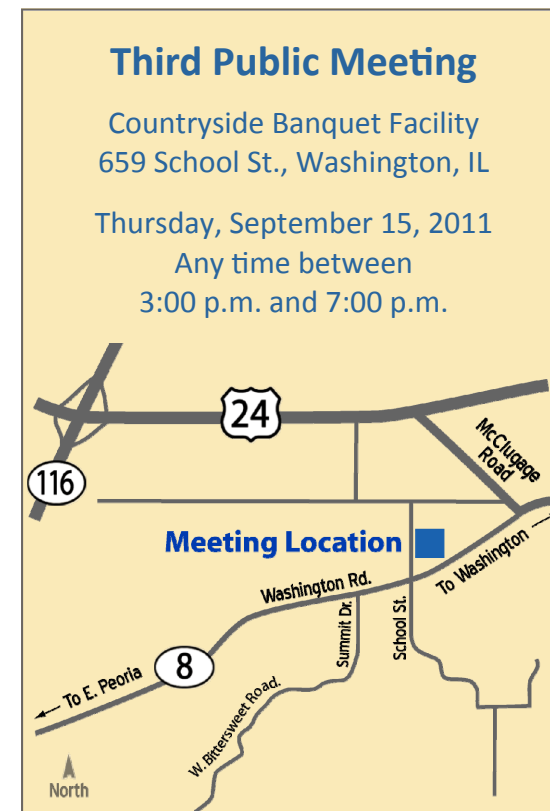
Or visit our website:
www.easternbypass.com

Eastern Bypass Study

Join us at the next public meeting for the Eastern Bypass Study. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 15, 2011 at the Countryside Banquet Facility in Washington, Illinois.

The meeting will be an open house, with hours from 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. You are free to attend at any time during these hours to discuss the Study's progress and the corridor locations that are currently being considered.

We encourage you to take this opportunity to learn more about the Eastern Bypass Study.



What has Happened Since the Previous Public Meeting?

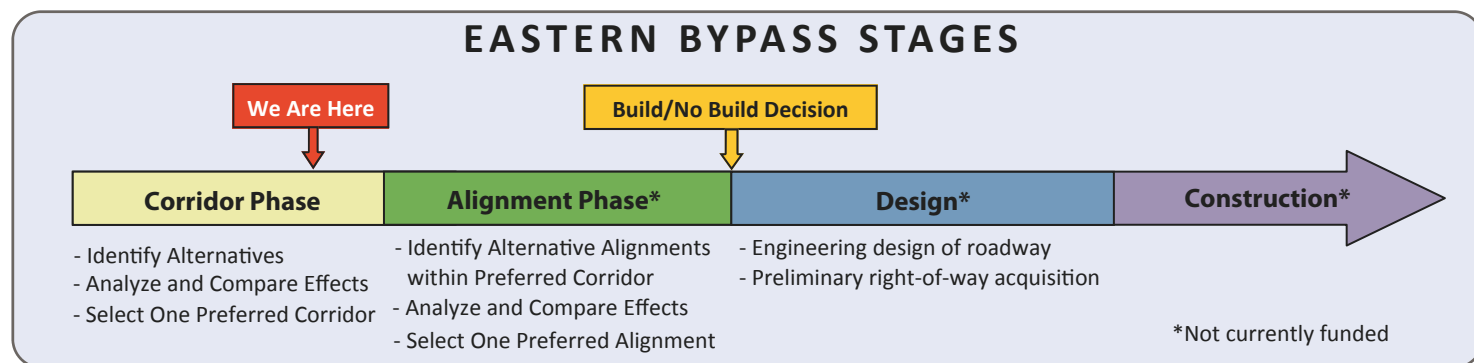
The IDOT Study Team and the Community Advisory Group (CAG) have been hard at work reviewing and analyzing possible corridors to ensure they: satisfy the project's purpose, maximize benefits, and keep negative effects to a minimum. In the time since the previous public meeting, the twenty corridors originally identified for the study have been comprehensively reviewed, compared, and screened by the Study Team and the CAG to determine which are viable for further consideration and which are recommended to be dropped from the study.

More specifically, the Study Team and the CAG have:

- Reviewed and discussed the public comments on the draft corridors presented at the last public meeting.
- Conducted four CAG meetings and one CAG "workshop."
- Combined the twenty original corridors into four "families" of fourteen possible corridors, based on comments from the public, CAG input, and IDOT analyses.
- Analyzed each of the fourteen corridors in terms of: traffic projections, land use and economic development, non-motorized travel, environmental and community impacts, and engineering factors.

- Discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the fourteen corridors, agreeing to recommend dropping eight of them from further consideration.

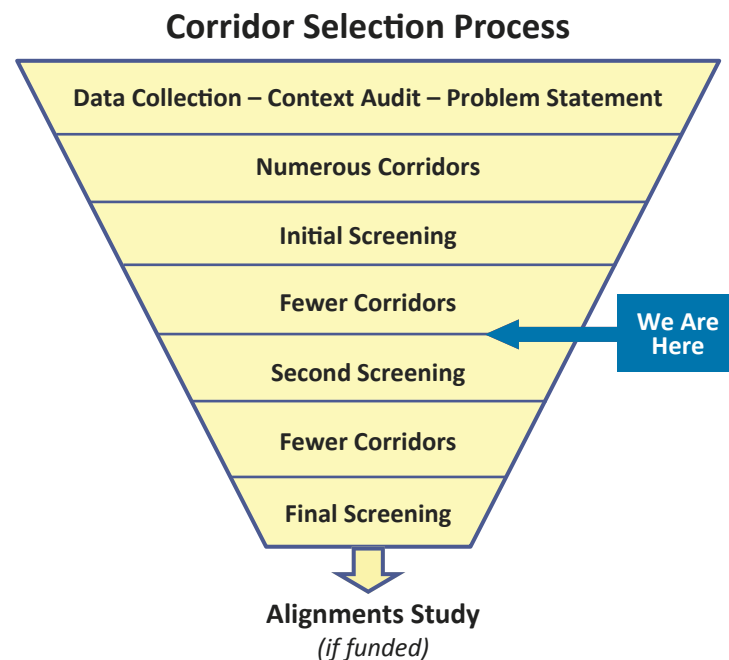
Details on each of these activities, and other project information, will be available for review at the public meeting on September 15.



What Happens Next?

It is important that the IDOT Study Team and the CAG members hear from the general public on the work that has been accomplished so far on the Eastern Bypass Study. This is why we are encouraging all who are interested to attend the September 15 public meeting and share their views.

In the weeks following the public meeting, the IDOT Study Team and the CAG will review the comments received and make any modifications to the corridors that may be necessary. After that, the Study Team will continue refining the data and analyses for those corridors that remain so that, working with the CAG, the best single corridor (or combination of corridors) can be identified and presented at the Corridor Study's formal public hearing. Once the results of the hearing are reviewed and any required changes in the study are made, the Corridor Study Phase of the project can be completed.



The Corridor Screening Process

At the previous public meeting, the IDOT Study Team presented a total of twenty corridors, all developed in collaboration with the Study's Community Advisory Group (CAG). At the next public meeting, on September 15, the focus will be on six corridors that are considered to have the most benefits and least negative impacts. But how, you may ask, did we get from twenty to six?

Beginning with Twenty

At a CAG meeting earlier in the process, the CAG members were asked to draw their ideas about corridor locations using the Study's problem statement and initial environmental mapping as guides. This exercise resulted in twenty corridors, which were grouped into six color-coded sets and presented to the public for comment at the Study's previous public meeting.

Refining to Fourteen

The resulting public comments were summarized by the Study Team and presented to the CAG members at their next meeting. Based on these comments, and on initial analyses conducted by the Study Team, IDOT and the CAG made adjustments to the twenty corridors. By the end of this task, fourteen corridors remained that satisfied the spirit of the original twenty. The other six were eliminated as redundant or otherwise not feasible. To make naming easier, these fourteen corridors were grouped into four "families," based on where they would intersect with Interstate 74.

With those adjustments agreed upon, the next task was for the IDOT Study Team to begin the lengthy process of gathering and analyzing data on existing and future traffic volumes, on environmental and community resources, and on various

engineering factors. Once the information was developed, the fourteen corridors were then screened to make sure each satisfied the purpose and need statement for the project. Once it was determined that each satisfied this requirement, they were then reviewed on a range of engineering factors, potential benefits, and possible impacts.

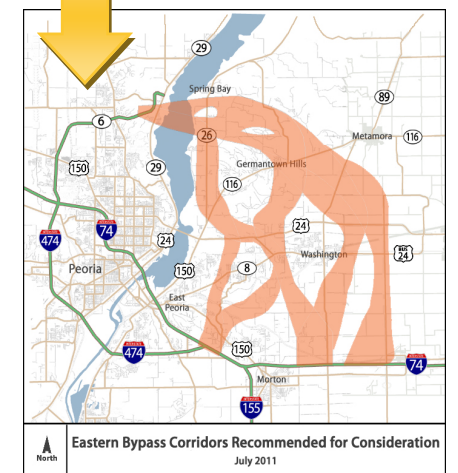
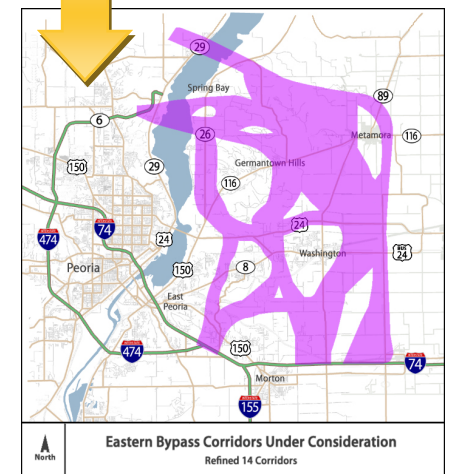
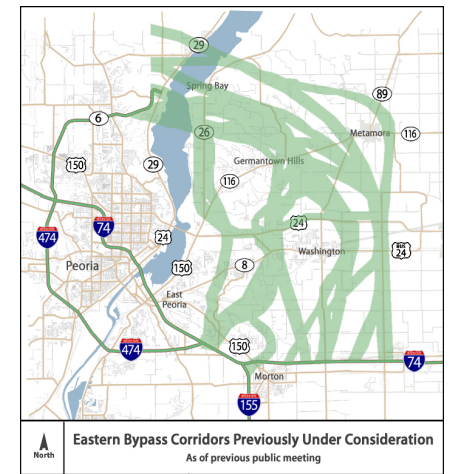
These analyses were then presented to the CAG for review and discussion on the corridors' merits and disadvantages.

Reducing to Six

At a series of CAG meetings earlier this year, the CAG members participated in lengthy and detailed discussions to reach consensus on which of the fourteen corridors did not merit further analysis and, conversely, which should be kept for more detailed review and refinement. As a result of these meetings, it was agreed that eight corridors would be recommended to be dropped, pending input from the public meeting, and six would be retained for further analysis.

Comments on the Corridors

The resulting six corridors will be the focus of the September 15 public meeting. The Study Team encourages members of the public to attend the meeting and to comment on the six corridors recommended for further study, on the corridors recommended to be dropped, and on the process that was used to develop the corridors. With your comments, the Study Team and the CAG can move forward with more detailed analyses, with the ultimate goal being the selection of a single corridor (or combination of corridors) to provide the basis for the next phase of the highway development process.



Your Community Advisory Group

One of the most important features of the Eastern Bypass Study is its Community Advisory Group, or CAG -- a group of 47 individuals who represent property owners, communities, and other stakeholder groups throughout the study area. The purpose of the CAG is to ensure that two-way communication takes place between the IDOT Study Team and the broader community, whose members have the greatest stake in the outcome of the study.

The CAG meets periodically with the IDOT Study Team to learn

about the details of the Eastern Bypass Study, and to share with IDOT information about the values, perspectives, concerns and suggestions of those who live and work in the greater study area.

The CAG members have been invaluable in educating IDOT about the community's preferences and have done a great deal of work on behalf of their constituents in helping IDOT develop and analyze the study's corridors and their benefits and impacts. Several CAG members will be available at the September 15 public meeting to discuss their participation in the process and to answer questions.