

# IL18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT PUBLIC MEETING #1 SUMMARY

October 4, 2021

## 1.0 Introduction

The existing IL 18 bridge over the Illinois River at the city of Henry was constructed in 1934. Due to the age and condition of the bridge, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) District 4 is evaluating potential improvement options for the bridge. The project study limits extend from the intersection of IL 18 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street in Henry on the west to the intersection of IL 18 and IL 26 on the east (Figure 1). The IL 18 River Bridge Project study will take a detailed look at potential improvements to IL 18 and the bridge over the Illinois River.

IDOT develops and implements projects using a three-phase process. The IL 18 River Bridge Project is currently at the beginning of Phase I: Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Studies. During this phase, IDOT will study a range of potential improvements, conduct public involvement activities, and complete an environmental analysis. The Phase I Study will determine the alignment, bridge type, and right-of-way needs for the project.

The purpose of the project is to accommodate IL 18 traffic through the project area and across the Illinois River on a transportation system that is structurally sound, meets current design standards, provides a safe crossing for the public, reduces flooding over IL 18, supports regional connectivity needs, and meets the need of river traffic.

IDOT hosted the first public open house meeting to kick-off the IL 18 River Bridge Project Phase I Study. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project and solicit feedback on the purpose and need. Interested persons visited the open house between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. IDOT provided information regarding the study schedule and process, purpose and need, public involvement activities, and Section 106 and Section 4(f). Attendees had the opportunity to review exhibits, provide comments, and meet with IDOT and study team representatives on a one-on-one basis.

The public meeting was held on August 25, 2021 between the hours of 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. at the Henry United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall on 225 Lincoln Street, Henry, Illinois 61537. Seventy-one people attended the public meeting.

This public meeting summary describes the tools used to announce and publicize the meetings, the information presented, and the comments received.



FIGURE 1 – PROJECT STUDY LIMITS



## 2.0 Getting the Word Out

### 2.1 MEETING EMAIL INVITATIONS


An email invitation (Appendix A) was sent to every individual on the project mailing list. The first email was sent on August 18, 2021. Two additional emails were sent on August 20 and 24 to the new people that signed up for the project mailing list on the project website.

#### 2.1.1 ADVERTISEMENTS

Display advertisements announcing the meeting were placed in the following newspapers:

- Peoria Journal Star: August 10 and August 22, 2021
- Henry News-Republican: August 18 and August 25, 2021

FIGURE 2 – DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENT



**Illinois Department  
of Transportation**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**IL 18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT**  
**MARSHALL AND PUTNAM COUNTIES, ILLINOIS**  
**DATE: Wednesday, August 25, 2021**  
**TIME: 5:00 – 7:00 P.M.**  
**LOCATION: Henry United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall**  
**225 Lincoln Street / Henry, Illinois 61537**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has scheduled an open house public meeting to introduce the study for potential improvements to the IL 18 Bridge over the Illinois River at Henry. The study limits extend along IL 18 from the intersection of School Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street on the west to the intersection of IL 18 and IL 26 on the east. The IL 18 Bridge is a critical transportation link providing access across the Illinois River for the City of Henry, Marshall and Putnam counties, and the surrounding region. The bridge is 87 years old and is approaching the end of its repairable life.

This meeting will introduce the project and solicit feedback on the purpose and need for improvements. All persons interested in this project are invited to attend. The meeting will be conducted on an informal basis with project displays and other information available for viewing. IDOT representatives will be available to explain the project and answer questions. No formal presentation will be given.

The public is encouraged to submit comments. Comments can be submitted in writing or electronically. Written correspondence can be mailed to the address listed below.

State COVID guidelines at the time of the meeting will be followed, which may require precautions such as facial coverings, social distancing, and room occupancy limits. The location of the meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations or assistance are needed, please contact Mr. Travis Wallenfang, IDOT Project Manager, by Friday August 20, 2021 at 309-671-3333, by fax at 309-671-3498, by telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY) at 309-671-3450, or in writing to the address listed below.

**Mr. Mark Otten, IDOT Studies and Plans Engineer**  
**Re: IL 18 River Bridge Project**  
**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
**401 N. Main Street**  
**Peoria, Illinois 61602**  
**[www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com](http://www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com)**

**2.1.2 HOW DID ATTENDEES HEAR ABOUT THE MEETINGS?**

One question on the comment form that was distributed at the public meeting asked the attendees to indicate how they heard about the meeting. The results are summarized in Table 1.

TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF HOW ATTENDEES HEARD ABOUT THE PUBLIC MEETING

Method	Number of Responses
Newspaper Ad	2
Project Email	2
Word of Mouth	2
Social Media	2
Elected Official	1

## 3.0 Public Meeting

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### 3.1 HANDOUTS

When attendees arrived at the public meeting, yard signs directed them to the building entrances and additional signage in the building directed them to the registration table. At the registration table, the Project Team asked attendees to sign in and invited them to take a project newsletter (Appendix B).

### 3.2 OPEN HOUSE

The open house featured a series of exhibits including a mix of display boards and aerial mapping that allowed attendees to understand the project, the overall process, and the purpose and need. Exhibits displayed at the meeting included:

- Project Overview
- Study Area Map
- Project Development Process
- Phase I
- Phase I Study Process
- Phase I Project Schedule
- Purpose and Need
- Public Involvement Activities
- Section 106 and Section 4(f)
- Land Acquisition

These exhibits are located in Appendix C.

## 4.0 Comments Received

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The Project Team encouraged participants to provide comments on the information presented at the meeting and to ask questions. Comments forms were available at the meeting. They were asked to either leave the form in the comment box at the meeting or to mail them to the Project Team at the address on the comment form. Self-addressed envelopes were provided. The comment period ended on September 10, 2021.

### 4.1 COMMENT FORMS RECEIVED AT THE MEETINGS

The comment forms distributed at the meeting included five main questions as well as an area to provide contact information. Four comment forms were received at the meeting, and one additional comment form was mailed in after the meeting (Appendix D). Listed below are the responses received to the five questions asked on the comment form.

#### QUESTION 1:

The purpose of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to learn more about the IL 18 River Bridge Project, speak with project representatives, and tell us what transportation issues and community values are most important to you. What transportation issues and community values do you want to see reflected in the draft Purpose and Need statement and considered during this study?

#### Responses to Question 1:

- Not to displace our businesses.
- Make it safer for vehicles and large implements/farm/school buses, etc.
- Bridge needs to be replaced with design similar to new bridge at Spring Valley (lane width, shoulders).
- IDOT needs to discontinue pretreating with calcium chloride. Public should be able to survive “winter driving conditions”.

- Old bridge needs to remain in service while new is constructed.
- I see no "community values" reflected in the purpose and need statement. The statement appears to only touch upon design, structural, and safety standards. In no way does the purpose and need touch upon community issues.
- We are 8 years minimum from new bridge. Please maintain the bridge we currently have.
- Because my home is rather close to Hwy 18, I am concerned about the location of the new bridge. If my home will be in its path, I would appreciate adequate advance notice so that I will have time to find a new home and get settled.
- It is very important that the current bridge not be shut down, as it would have a very negative effect on our community.
- Transportation issues: A wider bridge would be ideal. We are sure you are already aware of the flooding on east side of the bridge.
- Community values: a bridge to have character and for aesthetic appealing to the community. Attempt to keep the landing of the bridge as close to curved landing on the west side of the bridge. 15 foot concrete walls will not be very appealing to our current down town. The Illinois Rover and town view are a large attribute to our community, we would not like to lose that when crossing the bridge.

QUESTION 2:

The project team is also collecting information on the existing conditions in the study area. Please rank the top three factors that are most important to you, with "1" being most important and "3" being the least important.

Responses to Question 2:

TABLE 2- SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY FACTOR RANKING

Topic	Ranked "1"	Ranked "2"	Ranked "3"
Cultural/historic resources			●
Public parks and recreational areas		●	
Air quality			
Noise			
Agriculture			
Community/Neighborhood resources			●
Residential/commercial displacements	●	●●	
Visual/aesthetics	●●		●
Energy usage			
Travel options	●	●	
Natural resources			●
Project cost			
Other:			

QUESTION 3:

How did you find out about this public meeting? Please check all that apply.

Responses to Question 3:

TABLE 3 – SUMMARY OF HOW PARTICIPANTS FOUND OUT ABOUT THE MEETING

Source	Occurrences
Elected Official	●
Project Email	●●
Project Website	
Word of Mouth	●●
Newspaper Advertisement	●●
Other: Social Media/Facebook	●●

QUESTION 4:

What information did you hope to gather from this meeting? Please provide any thoughts you have on the helpfulness of information presented, meeting format, meeting venue, publicity efforts, or other meeting-related feedback.

Responses to Question 4:

- A better understanding of the project.
- Factors that impact alignment and impacts upon existing property/land uses (parks, marina, road intersections).
- I was looking for possible alternative location for the bridge. Perhaps it's too early for that.
- Design options and how or what the impact is going to be to the community.

QUESTION 5:

Additional comments regarding the project and/or today's public meeting.

Responses to Question 5:

- Make it unique. Something that stands out.
- We are 8 years minimum from new bridge. Please maintain the bridge we currently have.
- Good source of information for the status so far. Thank you for allowing the input.

**4.2 COMMENTS RECEIVED ON THE WEBSITE**

No comments were received at the project website during the public meeting comment period (ending September 10, 2021).

**5.0 Next Steps**

The project team responded to each comment (if contact information was provided) with a letter addressing the questions, comments, and concerns stated (Appendix E). The information gathered at the public meeting and presented in this document will be incorporated in the environmental document. Input regarding the format and content of the meetings and the effectiveness of various communication strategies will be used to improve future public meetings and overall project communication.

## 6.0 Appendices

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Appendix A – Public Meeting Email Invitation

Appendix B – Meeting Handout/Newsletter #1

Appendix C – Meeting Exhibits

Appendix D – Comment Forms Received

Appendix E – Responses to Written Comments



**Appendix A – Public Meeting Email Invitation**

## IL 18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

# You're Invited

## Open House Public Meeting to Introduce the IL 18 River Bridge Project

The Illinois Department of Transportation has launched a study for potential improvements to the IL 18 Bridge over the Illinois River at Henry.

The study limits extend along IL 18 from the intersection of School Street and 3rd Street on the west to the intersection of IL 18 and IL 26 on the east. The IL 18 Bridge is a critical transportation link providing access across the Illinois River for the City of Henry, Marshall and Putnam counties, and the surrounding region. The bridge is 87 years old and is approaching the end of its repairable life.

The meeting will introduce the project and solicit feedback on the purpose and need for improvements. All persons interested in this project are invited to attend. The meeting will be conducted on an informal basis with project displays and other information available for viewing. IDOT representatives will be available to explain the project and answer questions. The public is encouraged to submit comments.

### Open House

#### IL 18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

Wednesday August 25, 2021  
5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

#### Henry United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall

225 Lincoln Street  
Henry, Illinois 61537

Project Website: [www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com](http://www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com)

For more information email us at: [Contact@IL18RiverBridgeProject.com](mailto:Contact@IL18RiverBridgeProject.com)

The location of the meeting is accessible to persons with disabilities. If special accommodations or assistance are needed, please contact Mr. Travis Wallenfang, IDOT Project Manager, by Friday August 20, 2021 at **309-671-3333**, by fax at **309-671-3498**, by telecommunications device for the deaf (TTY) at **309-671-3450**.

\*State COVID guidelines at the time of the meeting will be followed, which may require precautions such as facial coverings, social distancing, and room occupancy limits.

**Appendix B – Meeting Handout/Newsletter #1**



## Introduction

The existing IL 18 Bridge over the Illinois River at the city of Henry was constructed in 1934. Due to the age and condition of the bridge, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) District 4 is evaluating potential improvement options for the bridge. The project study limits extend from the intersection of IL 18 and 3rd Street in Henry on the west to the intersection of IL 18 and IL 26 on the east.

## Public Meeting #1

**August 25, 2021**  
**5 – 7 p.m.**

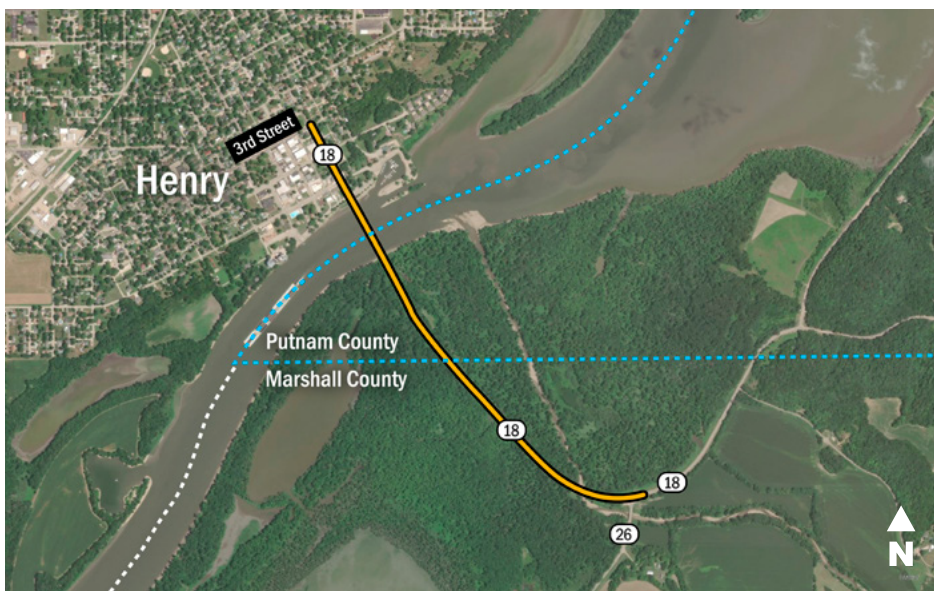
Henry United Methodist  
Church Fellowship Hall



225 Lincoln Street  
Henry, IL 61537

## About the Study

The IL 18 River Bridge Project study will take a detailed look at potential improvements to IL 18 and the bridge over the Illinois River.

IDOT and its consultant team (i.e., the project study team) will inventory existing conditions of the IL 18 roadway and bridge, traffic and crash data, and environmental constraints as it moves forward in the process. The project study team, with input from the public, will also develop and refine improvement options (alternatives). The existing conditions, alternatives, potential impacts, and proposed mitigation will be detailed in the project's Environmental Document. The result of the study will be the selection of a preferred alternative for improvements through the project study area that addresses identified transportation issues and serves the area's future needs.



-  Project Study Limits
-  County Border

## Project Development Process

IDOT develops and implements projects using a three-phase process. The IL 18 River Bridge Project is currently at the beginning of Phase I: Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Studies. During this phase, IDOT will study a range of potential improvements, conduct public involvement activities, and complete an environmental analysis. The first part of Phase I will be conducted under a process called Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL). This process is used for early collaboration to facilitate better planning and provide for expedited reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This Phase I Study will determine the alignment, bridge type, and right-of-way needs for the project. When the study is approved, the project will move forward with Phase II: Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition. This phase includes developing detailed contract plans and purchasing land for the project, if needed. Once funding and permits are secured, the project moves into Phase III: Construction.



## The NEPA Process

NEPA is a federal law that requires federally funded projects, such as the IL 18 River Bridge Project, to analyze alternatives and identify potential effects of those alternatives on the environment.

An Environmental Document will be developed for the IL 18 River Bridge Project. When it is complete, the Environmental Document will identify the solution that will best address the transportation issues and then detail how this solution was selected. The document will explain the potential impacts and benefits resulting from the project, and identify ways to avoid or lessen the negative impacts. These efforts help ensure that environmental resources and other factors are integrated into project decisions.

### Alternatives will be evaluated for impacts on:

- ✓ Social and Economic Factors
- ✓ Agriculture
- ✓ Historic Properties
- ✓ Air quality
- ✓ Noise
- ✓ Energy
- ✓ Natural Resources – plants, water bodies, threatened and endangered species
- ✓ Special Lands – parks/recreation

## Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to accommodate IL 18 traffic through the project area and across the Illinois River on a transportation system that is structurally sound, meets current design standards, provides a safe crossing for the public, reduces flooding over IL 18, supports regional connectivity needs, and meets the needs of river traffic.

### Project Needs:

- Structural Integrity: Condition of the superstructure and substructure
- Design Standards: The narrow roadway deck does not meet current standards
- Safety Concerns: The narrow roadway increases the likelihood of crashes
- Regional Connectivity:
  - The bridge is an essential link connecting Marshall and Putnam counties and the surrounding region
  - Flooding over IL 18 often results in roadway and bridge closures resulting in adverse travel time

## Bridge Condition

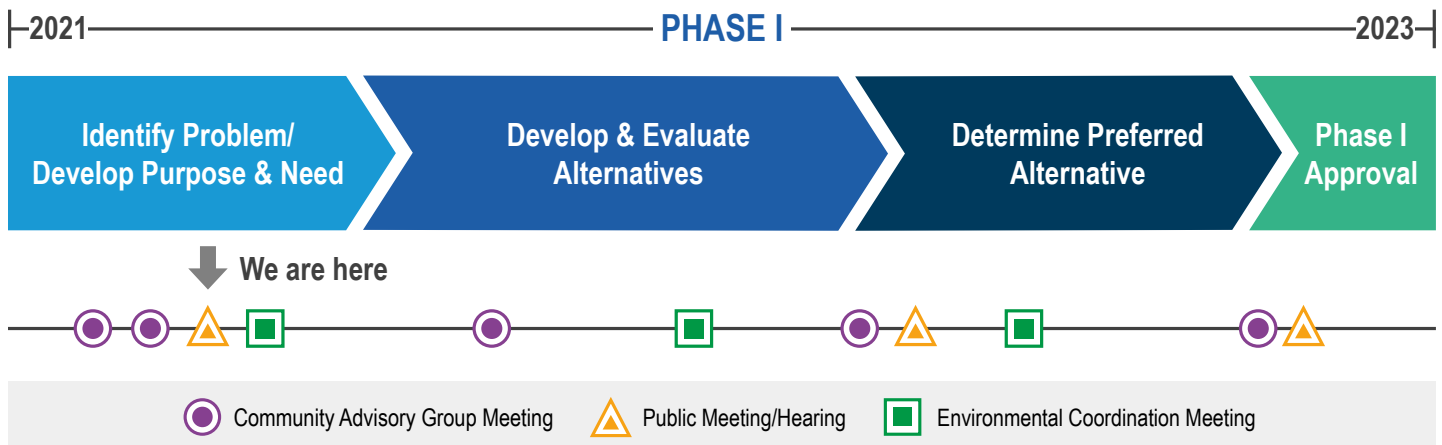
The bridge was constructed in 1934. In 1988, 54 years after its construction, IDOT performed a major rehabilitation project on the structure. The concrete bridge deck was completely replaced. Deteriorated and damaged steel members as well as concrete substructures were repaired. Since this last rehabilitation, vehicular use, weather, and salt usage have caused deterioration to the structural steel and concrete that form the piers and deck. Although the bridge has undergone extensive repairs, it is approaching the end of its repairable life.

IDOT inspects the bridge annually and will continue to repair the bridge as necessary until the project is complete.



## Schedule

The project is currently in Phase I, which includes preliminary engineering and an environmental study. This phase should last approximately 24 months. In Phase I, proposed geometry, bridge type, environmental concerns, and right-of-way requirements are identified. Phase I will conclude with design approval by the Federal Highway Administration. Following this approval, IDOT can proceed into Phase II of the project which includes final design and right-of-way acquisition.



## Public Involvement Activities

Public involvement is an important part of the Phase I study and includes many activities such as Stakeholder Interviews, Community Advisory Group Meetings, Public Meetings, project website, and a newsletter.

The **Stakeholder Interviews** were conducted to engage stakeholders, share information, and foster discussion by addressing specific project issues, allowing for more specialized discussions and input, and aiding the general public in developing a better understanding of the project goals and objectives. Although time does not permit every individual stakeholder to be interviewed, selections were made to gather input from all types of stakeholders such as local agencies and organizations, members of the business community, and affected property owners. During May and June of this year, the project study team conducted 17 stakeholder interviews with 72 stakeholders in the region.

A **Community Advisory Group (CAG)** was established that includes county and municipal officials, representatives of businesses, agricultural organizations, residents, and other members of the local community with an interest in the project. The meetings with the CAG are designed to encourage timely and meaningful opportunities for input and to encourage information sharing and collaboration. The first two CAG meetings for this project were held in June and July of 2021 to discuss the project's problem statement, purpose and need, and potential alignment alternatives. Three additional CAG meetings will be held in December 2021, April 2022, and December 2022.

**Public Meetings** and a public hearing will be large-scale meetings held to encourage public attendance and foster public awareness of project developments and alternatives under study. These meetings also will provide a forum for general public input, including concerns and comments regarding project alternatives. Three public events are anticipated to coincide with major project milestones:

- **Public Meeting #1** will be held on August 25, 2021, which is the project kickoff, providing information regarding the study process and objectives, additional outreach opportunities, the project purpose and need, and an opportunity for the public to share its perspectives and provide comments.
- **Public Meeting #2** will present the alternatives that were further evaluated and their evaluation results; alternatives that will be carried forward; and evaluation methods.
- The **Public Hearing** will present the Environmental Document and preferred alternative. The public hearing is part of a Federal requirement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Stakeholders will have the opportunity to view and provide comments on the Environmental Document and preferred alternative.



We encourage and welcome **Public Comments** throughout the project. At Public Meeting #1, there will be comment sheets available for attendees to fill out or to mail back to the project study team. The public can also send comments to [Contact@IL18RiverBridgeProject.com](mailto:Contact@IL18RiverBridgeProject.com) or fill out the online comment form at [www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com](http://www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com). When the environmental document is published, a formal public comment period will be held which will include the public hearing.

## Appendix C – Meeting Exhibits



# Project Overview

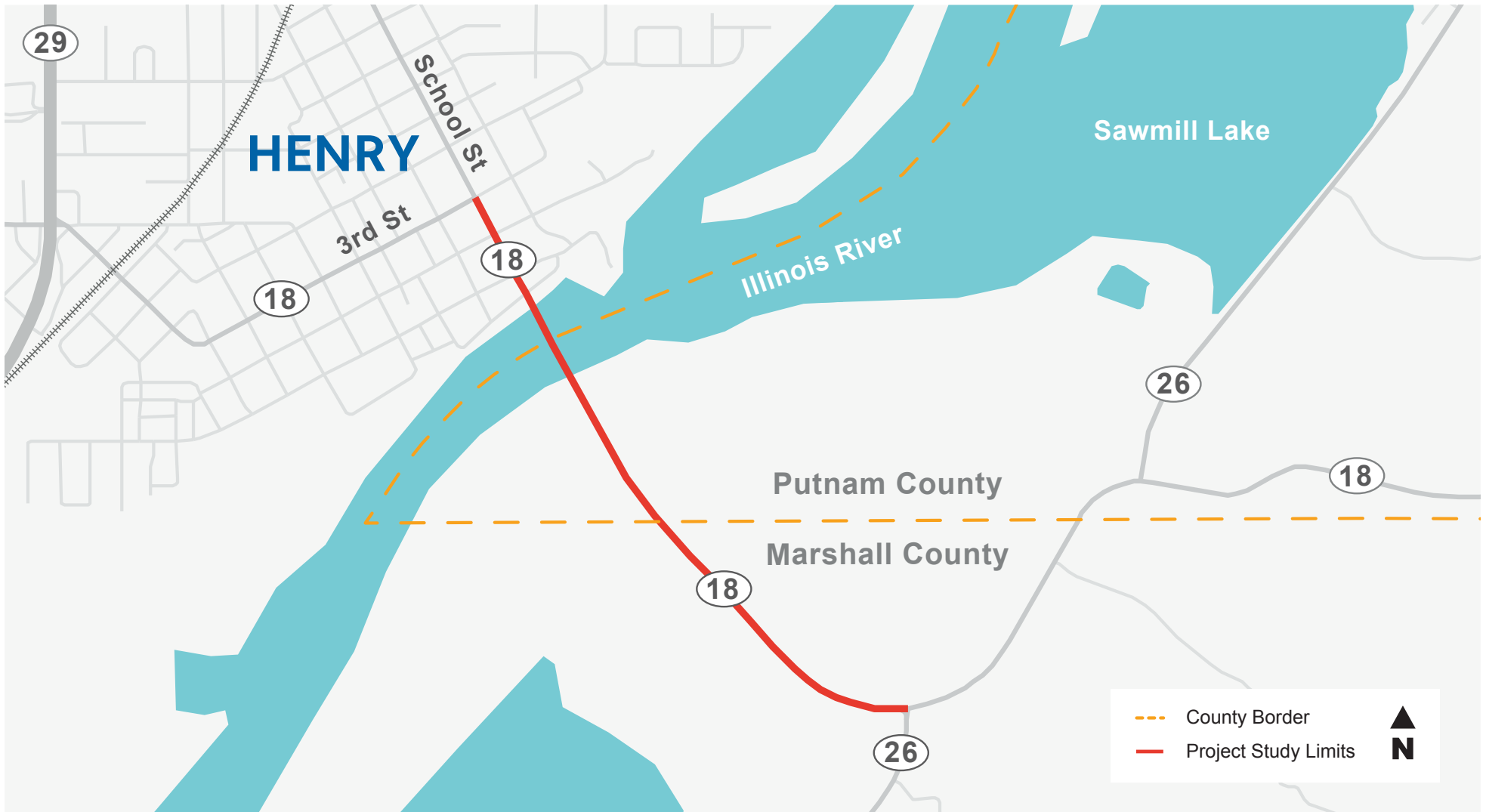
- IL 18 Henry Bridge was constructed in 1934
- Bridge was rehabilitated (deck replacement/substructure repairs) in 1988
- 1,719-foot long structure with 6 through truss and 7 approach spans
- Bridge width is 22.6 feet – Functionally Obsolete
- Approach roadway flooding issues
- Aging bridge is reaching the end of its repairable life



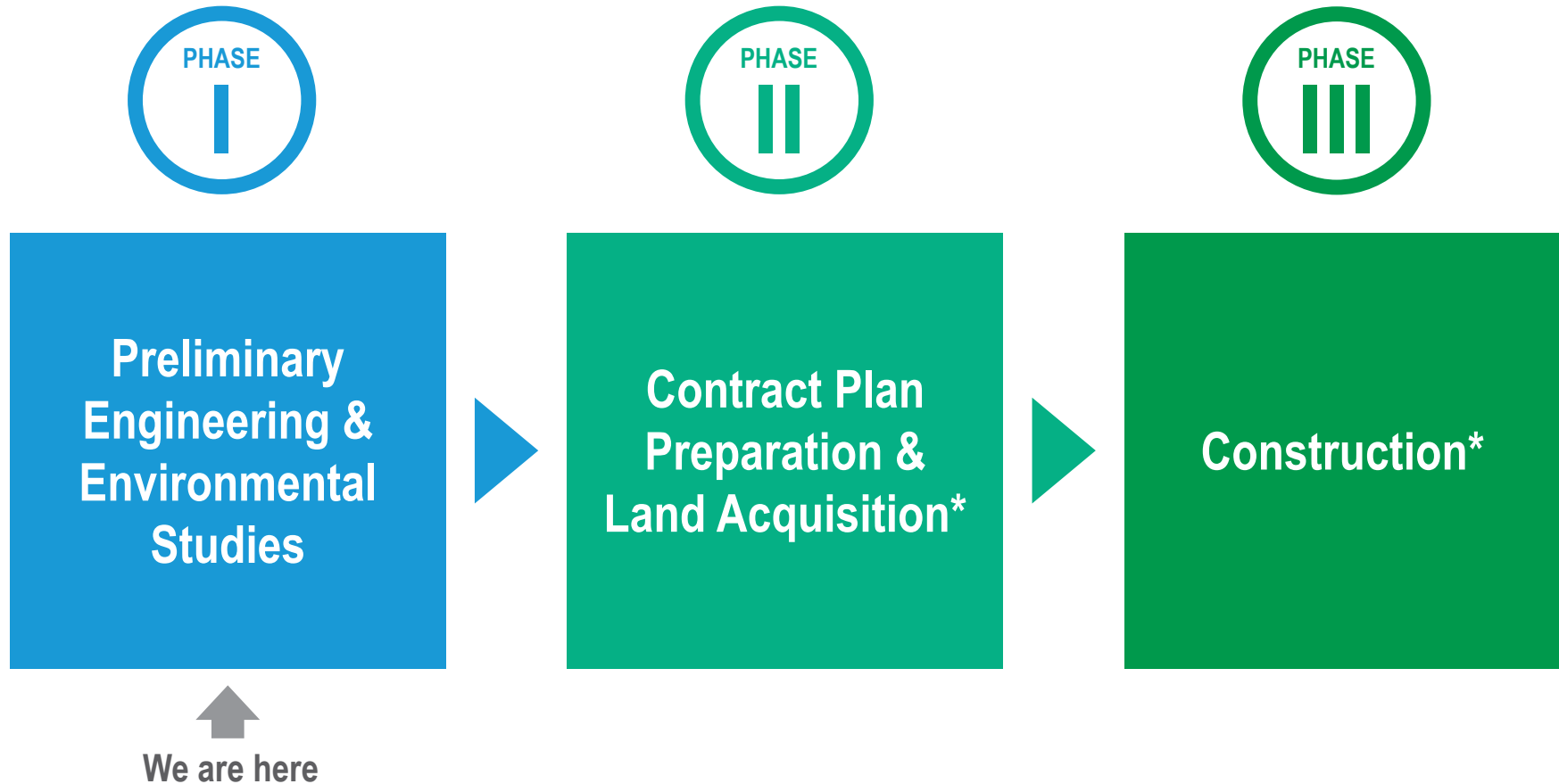
# IL 18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

## Study Area Map

Study Limits: Intersection of IL 18/3rd Street in Henry to Intersection of IL 18/IL 26



# Project Development Process



\*Currently included in IDOT's Fiscal Year 2022 – 2027 Multi-year program

## Phase I

### Environmental Studies

- Environmental Document
  - Social and Economic Factors
  - Agriculture
  - Historic Properties
  - Air Quality / Noise
  - Energy
  - Natural Resources: plants, water bodies, threatened and endangered species
  - Special Lands: parks/recreation

### Engineering Studies

- Roadway
- Structural
- Hydraulics

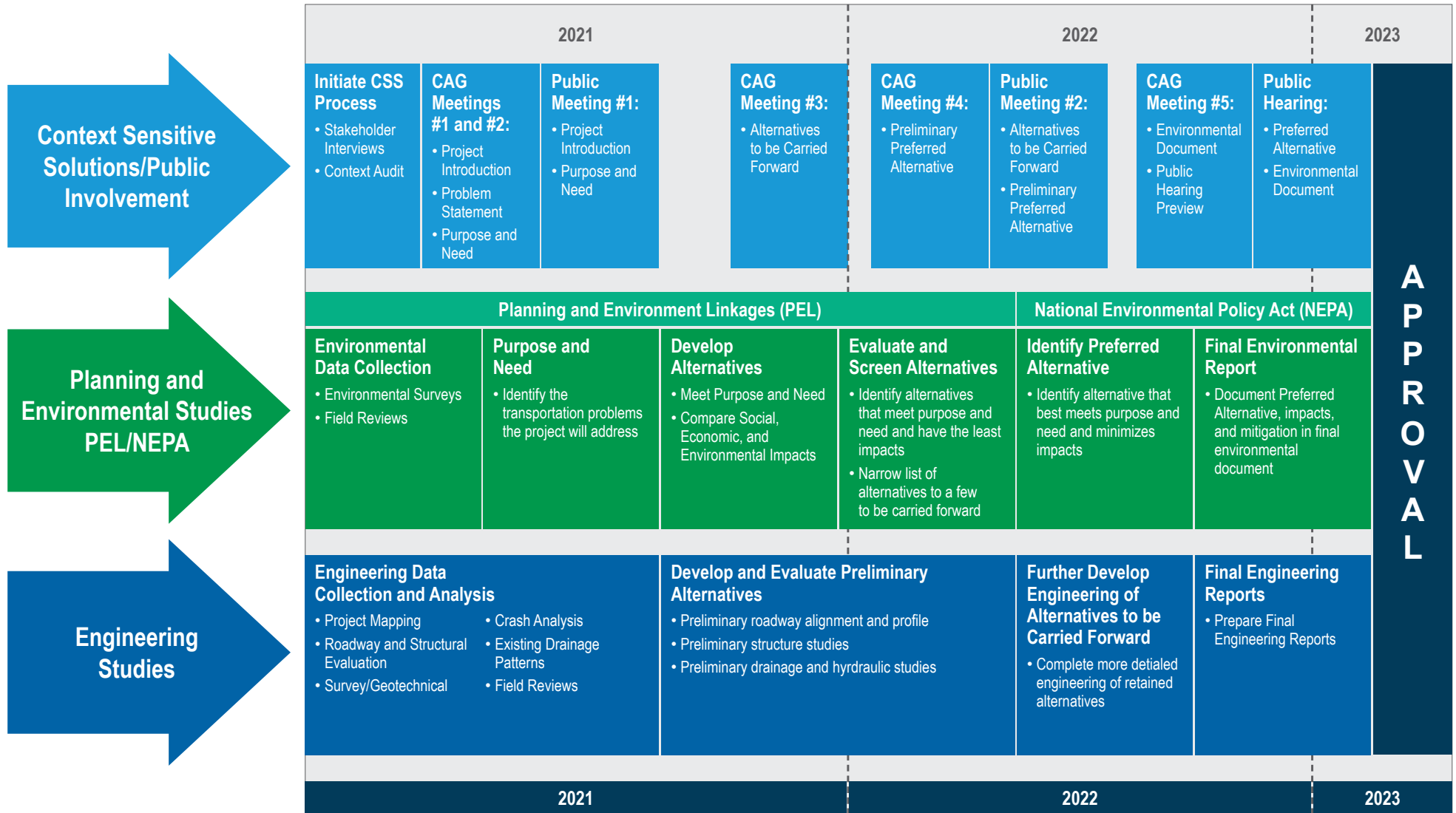
### Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS)

- Understand values of community
- Obtain public feedback early and often



# IL 18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

## Phase I Study Process



# IL 18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

## Phase I Project Schedule

Target Completion – 2 years



↓ We are here



- Community Advisory Group Meeting
- △ Public Meeting/Hearing
- Environmental Coordination Meeting

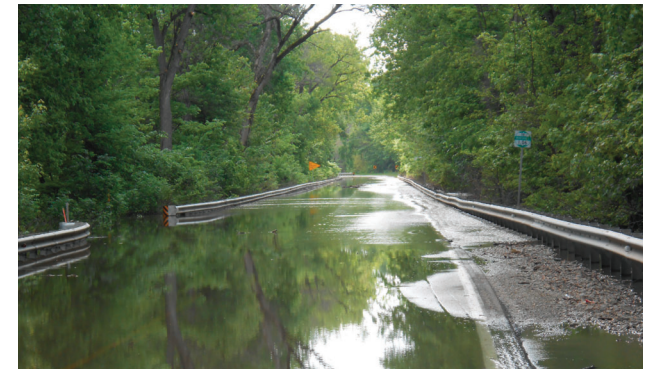
## Purpose and Need

### Purpose

- The purpose of the project is to accommodate IL 18 traffic through the project area and across the Illinois River on a transportation system that is structurally sound, meets current design standards, provides a safe crossing for the public, reduces flooding over IL 18, supports regional connectivity needs, and meets the needs of river traffic.

### Need

- **Structural Integrity** – Condition of the superstructure and substructure
- **Design Standards** – Narrow roadway deck does not meet current standards
- **Safety Concerns** – Narrow roadway increases likelihood of crashes
- **Regional Connectivity** –
  - Essential link connecting Marshall and Putnam counties and surrounding region
  - Flooding often results in roadway and bridge closures and adverse travel time



# Public Involvement Activities

- **Stakeholder Meetings** – One-on-one meetings with stakeholders
- **Context Audit** – Survey to identify characteristics that define the project
- **Community Advisory Group** – Small group of local stakeholders
- **Public Meetings** – Large meetings open to the public to gather input and to provide updates on the project (2 meetings)
- **Public Hearing** – Large meeting open to the public to present the environmental document and the preferred alternative and to receive comments (1 meeting)
- **Project Website** – [www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com](http://www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com)





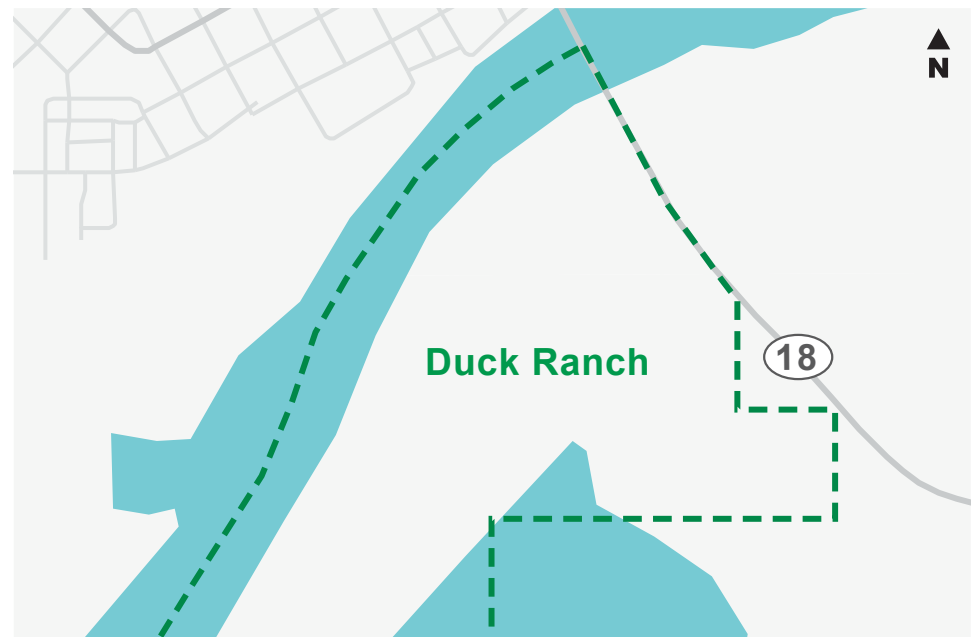
## Section 106 and Section 4(f)

### Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

- Consider the effects of federally funded projects on historic properties
- Identify historic properties, assess the effects and explore alternatives to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects

### Section 4(f) Properties

- Publicly-owned public parks, recreational areas of national, state, or local significance, wildlife or waterfowl refuges; or lands from a historic site of national, state, or local significance
- Determine that there is no feasible and prudent alternative to avoid the Section 4(f) properties
- Includes all possible planning to minimize harm to the Section 4(f) properties



Example: Duck Ranch owned by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources is a Section 4(f) property

# Land Acquisition



Phase I Study will identify project location, construction limits, and right-of-way needs



Land acquisition cannot begin until Phase I study is approved



Land acquisition follows federal regulations and offers are based on Fair Market Value

# HENRY

3RD STREET

Central Park

EDWARD STREET

2ND STREET

SCHOOL STREET

FRONT STREET

Water Works Park

MARKET STREET

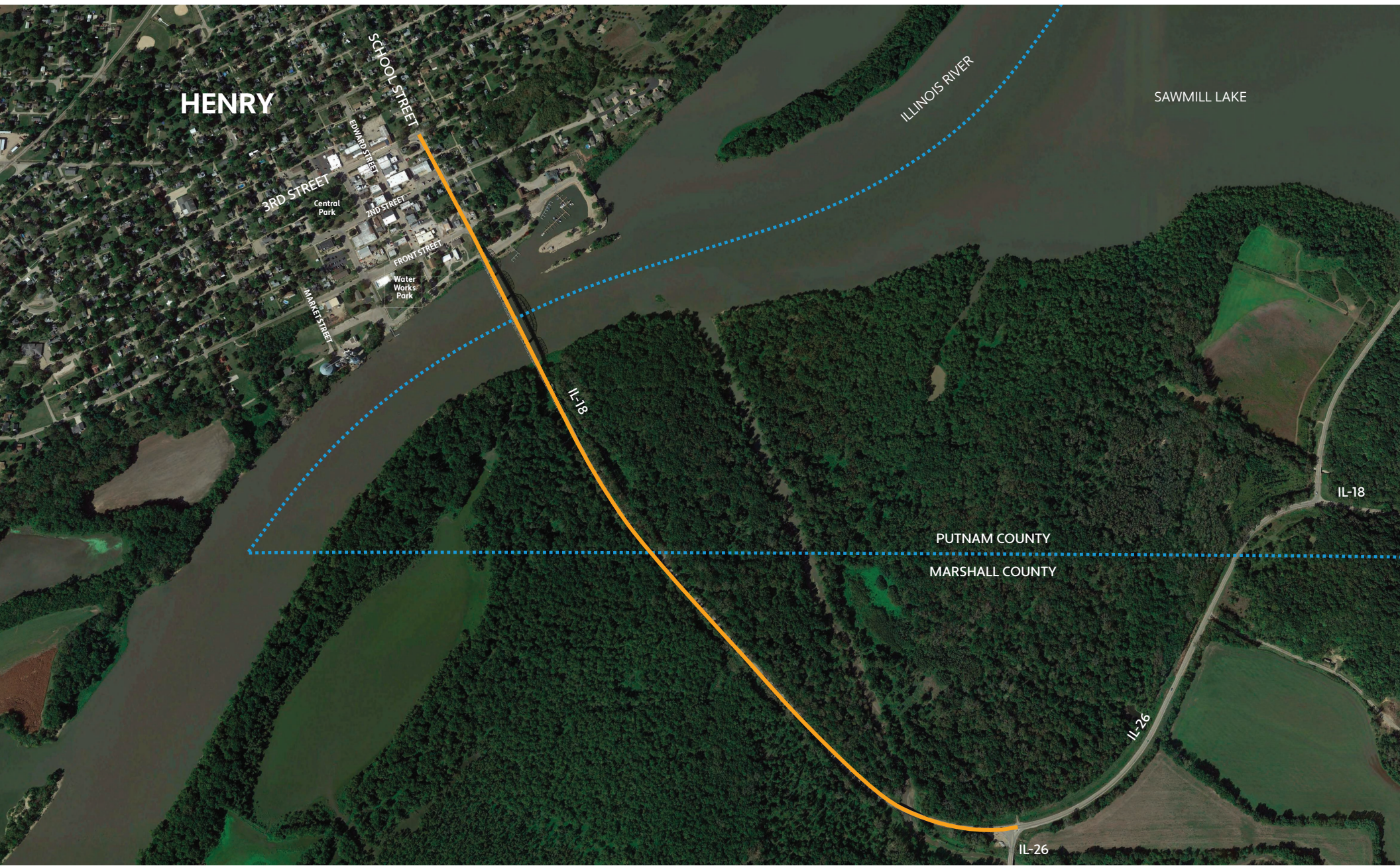
IL-18



## LEGEND

..... County Line

## IL 18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT



HENRY

ILLINOIS RIVER

SAWMILL LAKE

3RD STREET

Central Park

2ND STREET

FRONT STREET

Water Works Park

MARKET STREET

SCHOOL STREET

EDWARD STREET

IL-18

PUTNAM COUNTY

MARSHALL COUNTY

IL-18

IL-26

IL-26



LEGEND

- County Line
- Study Area

IL 18 RIVER BRIDGE PROJECT

## Appendix D – Comment Forms Received

## PUBLIC MEETING 1 – August 25, 2021 COMMENT FORM

Thank you for completing this comment form for the IL 18 River Bridge Project. Your input is greatly appreciated and will help inform the project team.

1. The purpose of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to learn more about the IL 18 River Bridge Project, speak with project representatives, and tell us what transportation issues and community values are most important to you. *What transportation issues and community values do you want to see reflected in the draft Purpose and Need statement and considered during this study?*

Not to displace our businesses.

Make it safer for vehicles & large implements/farm school buses, etc.

2. The project team is also collecting information on the existing conditions in the study area. *Please rank the top three factors that are most important to you, with "1" being most important and "3" being the least important.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/historic resources	<u>3</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Visual/aesthetics
<input type="checkbox"/> Public parks and recreational areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy usage
<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality	<u>1</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Options
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Project cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Community/neighborhood resources	Other: _____
<u>2</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Residential/commercial displacements	_____

3. How did you find out about this public meeting? Please check all that apply.

Elected Official       Project Website       Newspaper Advertisement  
 Project Email       Word of Mouth      If so, which newspaper?  
Other: social media

4. What information did you hope to gather from this meeting? Please provide any thoughts you have on the helpfulness of information presented, meeting format, meeting venue, publicity efforts, or other meeting-related feedback.

A better understanding of the project.

5. Additional comments regarding the project and/or today's public meeting:

Make it unique ☺ something that stands out.

6. About You

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**There are many ways to comment!**

- Drop this form in our **comment box** here tonight
- **Mail** this form to the address below
- Send an **email** to the project team at **Contact@IL18RiverBridgeProject.com**
- Fill out an **online comment form** at [www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com/questions-comments](http://www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com/questions-comments)

We welcome your questions and comments at any time and encourage you to provide input throughout the life of the project. Comments received by **September 10, 2021** will be considered in the Purpose and Need Statement.

**THANK YOU!**

**IL 18 River Bridge Project**  
Parsons  
10 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
ATTN: Tony Pakeltis

## PUBLIC MEETING 1 – August 25, 2021 COMMENT FORM

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1. The purpose of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to learn more about the IL 18 River Bridge Project, speak with project representatives, and tell us what transportation issues and community values are most important to you. *What transportation issues and community values do you want to see reflected in the draft Purpose and Need statement and considered during this study?*


BRIDGE NEEDS TO BE REPLACED WITH DESIGN SIMILAR TO  
NEW BRIDGE AT SPRING VALLEY (LANE WIDTH, SHOULDERS).

IDOT NEEDS TO DISCONTINUE PRE-TREATING WITH  
CALCIUM CHLORIDE. PUBLIC SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
SURVIVE "WINTER DRIVING CONDITIONS".

OLD BRIDGE NEEDS TO REMAIN IN SERVICE  
WHILE NEW IS CONSTRUCTED.

2. The project team is also collecting information on the existing conditions in the study area. *Please rank the top three factors that are most important to you, with "1" being most important and "3" being the least important.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual/aesthetics
<input type="checkbox"/> Public parks and recreational areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy usage
<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Travel Options
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Project cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Community/neighborhood resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Residential/commercial displacements	<u>OPPORTUNITIES</u>

Please Continue on Back 



3. How did you find out about this public meeting? Please check all that apply.

Elected Official       Project Website       Newspaper Advertisement  
 Project Email       Word of Mouth      If so, which newspaper?  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What information did you hope to gather from this meeting? *Please provide any thoughts you have on the helpfulness of information presented, meeting format, meeting venue, publicity efforts, or other meeting-related feedback.*

5. Additional comments regarding the project and/or today's public meeting:

6. About You

Name: BILL SHAFER      Email: GJSHAFER70@YAHOO.COM  
Address: 8268 ILLINOIS HIGHWAY 26      Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
HENNEPIN IL 61327

**There are many ways to comment!**

- Drop this form in our **comment box** here tonight
- **Mail** this form to the address below
- Send an **email** to the project team at [Contact@IL18RiverBridgeProject.com](mailto:Contact@IL18RiverBridgeProject.com)
- Fill out an **online comment form** at [www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com/questions-comments](http://www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com/questions-comments)

We welcome your questions and comments at any time and encourage you to provide input throughout the life of the project. Comments received by **September 10, 2021** will be considered in the Purpose and Need Statement.

**THANK YOU!**

**IL 18 River Bridge Project**  
Parsons  
10 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
ATTN: Tony Pakeltis

## PUBLIC MEETING 1 – August 25, 2021 COMMENT FORM

Thank you for completing this comment form for the IL 18 River Bridge Project. Your input is greatly appreciated and will help inform the project team.

1. The purpose of this meeting is to give you an opportunity to learn more about the IL 18 River Bridge Project, speak with project representatives, and tell us what transportation issues and community values are most important to you. *What transportation issues and community values do you want to see reflected in the draft Purpose and Need statement and considered during this study?*

I SEE NO "COMMUNITY VALUES" REFLECTED IN THE PURPOSE & NEED STATEMENT. THE STATEMENT APPEARS TO ONLY TOUCH UPON DESIGN, STRUCTURAL & SAFETY STANDARDS.

IN NO WAY DOES THE PURPOSE & NEED TOUCH UPON COMMUNITY ISSUES.

2. The project team is also collecting information on the existing conditions in the study area. *Please rank the top three factors that are most important to you, with "1" being most important and "3" being the least important.*

3 Cultural/historic resources

1 Visual/aesthetics

2 Public parks and recreational areas

\_\_\_\_\_ Energy usage

\_\_\_\_\_ Air quality

\_\_\_\_\_ Travel Options

\_\_\_\_\_ Noise

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_ Agriculture

\_\_\_\_\_ Project cost

\_\_\_\_\_ Community/neighborhood resources

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Residential/commercial displacements

3. How did you find out about this public meeting? Please check all that apply.

Elected Official       Project Website       Newspaper Advertisement  
 Project Email       Word of Mouth      If so, which newspaper?  
Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What information did you hope to gather from this meeting? Please provide any thoughts you have on the helpfulness of information presented, meeting format, meeting venue, publicity efforts, or other meeting-related feedback.

FACTORS THAT IMPACT ALIGNMENT & IMPACTS UPON  
EXISTING PROPERTY/LAND USES (PARKS, MARINA, ROAD  
INTERSECTIONS.

5. Additional comments regarding the project and/or today's public meeting:

WE ARE 8 YRS. MINIMUM FROM NEW BRIDGE. PLEASE MAINTAIN  
THE BRIDGE WE CURRENTLY HAVE.

6. About You

Name: JEFF BERGFELD, MAYOR      Email: jeff@henry-il.com  
Address: CITY OF HENRY      Affiliation: joje911@gmail.com  
514 FRONT ST. HENRY, IL 60157      CITY OF HENRY

There are many ways to comment!

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**THANK YOU!**

**IL 18 River Bridge Project**  
Parsons  
10 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 400  
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Because my home is rather close to Hwy. 18, I am concerned about the location of the new bridge. If my home will be in its path, I would appreciate adequate advance notice so that I will have time to find a new home and get settled.

It is very important that the current bridge not be shut down, as it would have a very negative effect on our community.

2. The project team is also collecting information on the existing conditions in the study area. *Please rank the top three factors that are most important to you, with "1" being most important and "3" being the least important.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Cultural/historic resources	<input type="checkbox"/> Visual/aesthetics
<input type="checkbox"/> Public parks and recreational areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Energy usage
<input type="checkbox"/> Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 Travel Options
<input type="checkbox"/> Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 Natural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Project cost
<input type="checkbox"/> Community/neighborhood resources	Other: _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 Residential/commercial displacements	_____

3. How did you find out about this public meeting? Please check all that apply.

Elected Official       Project Website       Newspaper Advertisement  
 Project Email       Word of Mouth      If so, which newspaper?  
 Other: Facebook

4. What information did you hope to gather from this meeting? Please provide any thoughts you have on the helpfulness of information presented, meeting format, meeting venue, publicity efforts, or other meeting-related feedback.

*I was looking for possible alternative locations for the bridge. Perhaps it's too early for that.*

5. Additional comments regarding the project and/or today's public meeting:

*Good source of information for the status so far. Thank you for allowing the input!*

6. About You

Name: Joyce Wood      Email: minnes\_409@hotmail.com  
Address: 409 Front St.      Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Henry, IL 61537

**There are many ways to comment!**

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- Fill out an **online comment form** at [www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com/questions-comments](http://www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com/questions-comments)

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**THANK YOU!**

**IL 18 River Bridge Project**  
Parsons  
10 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 400  
Chicago, Illinois 60606  
ATTN: Tony Pakeltis

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Transportation issues: A wider bridge would be ideal. We are sure you are already aware of the flooding on East side of the bridge.

Community values: A bridge to have character & aesthetic appealing to the community. Attempt to keep the landing of the bridge as close to current landing on the west side of the bridge. 15 foot concrete lands will not be very appealing to our current down town. The Illinois River and town view are a large attribute to our community, we would not like to lose that when crossing the bridge.

2. The project team is also collecting information on the existing conditions in the study area. *Please rank the top three factors that are most important to you, with "1" being most important and "3" being the least important.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Cultural/historic resources

\_\_\_\_\_ Public parks and recreational areas

\_\_\_\_\_ Air quality

\_\_\_\_\_ Noise

\_\_\_\_\_ Agriculture

3 Community/neighborhood resources

2 Residential/commercial displacements

1 Visual/aesthetics

\_\_\_\_\_ Energy usage

\_\_\_\_\_ Travel Options

\_\_\_\_\_ Natural Resources

\_\_\_\_\_ Project cost

\_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

3. How did you find out about this public meeting? Please check all that apply.

Elected Official

Project Website

Newspaper Advertisement

Project Email

Word of Mouth

If so, which newspaper?

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

4. What information did you hope to gather from this meeting? Please provide any thoughts you have on the helpfulness of information presented, meeting format, meeting venue, publicity efforts, or other meeting-related feedback.

Design options & how or what the impact is going to be to the community.

5. Additional comments regarding the project and/or today's public meeting:

6. About You

Name: Chad & Kimberly Hartwig

Email: edhartwigtrucking@frontier.com

Address: 212 Conrad Street

Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Henry IL 61537

There are many ways to comment!

- Drop this form in our **comment box** here tonight
- **Mail** this form to the address below
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- Fill out an **online comment form** at [www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com/questions-comments](http://www.IL18RiverBridgeProject.com/questions-comments)

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**THANK YOU!**

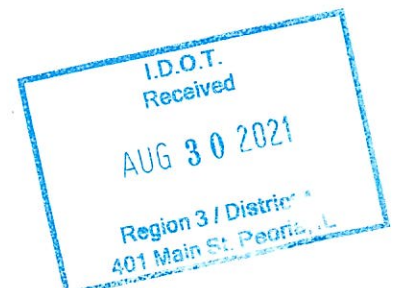
**IL 18 River Bridge Project**

Parsons

10 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 400

Chicago, Illinois 60606

ATTN: Tony Pakeltis



## Appendix E – Responses to Written Comments





# Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Highways Project Implementation / Region 3 / District 4  
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois 61602-1111

October 27, 2021

**BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT  
STUDIES & PLANS**

FAP Route 635 (IL 18)

Section (104B-D)BR

Location: Replacement of S.N. 062-0036 carrying Illinois Route 18 over the  
Illinois River at Henry

Marshall and Putnam Counties

Existing Structure No. 062-0036

Job No. P-94-007-20

Catalog No. 035761-00P

Bill Shafer  
8268 IL Highway 26  
Hennepin, IL 61327

Dear Mr. Shafer:

Thank you for attending the August 25, 2021 public meeting for the IL 18 River Bridge Project. The project team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to identifying the preferred alternative for the IL 18 River Bridge Project that best balances the transportation needs of the project with the concerns and values of the community. Below is some additional information in response to the comments you had submitted, and we have enclosed a copy of your submitted comment form for reference as well.

As a part of the study, IDOT will investigate alternatives for the proposed improvements, including options to keep the existing bridge open during construction. If a new bridge is proposed, it will be designed to current standards which includes, at a minimum, two 12-foot travel lanes and two four-foot shoulders. If the new bridge is built on a new alignment, the existing bridge can most likely remain open for the majority of the construction period. If a new bridge is proposed on the existing alignment, however, the crossing would have to be closed during construction. At this time, however, the location of the proposed improvement is not known. As more detailed information becomes available regarding potential alignment options, a decision can be made as to whether the IL 18 River bridge can remain open during construction. This decision will be made during the current 2-year Phase I study.

IDOT's responsibility for maintaining safe roadways for the travelling public must account for a variety of weather conditions and driver concerns. This balance requires us to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of winter weather roadway and bridge treatments that include pretreatment with safety as our top priority.

Mr. Bill Shafer  
October 27, 2021  
Page Two

Your input to the IL 18 River Bridge Project is appreciated. If you have additional comments or questions, please feel free to use the comment form on the project website or write to the address above.

Sincerely,



Kensil A. Garnett  
Region Three Engineer

MO:TW:pjl\Std&Plns\Squad 02 -T. Wallenfang\Letters\TW\_IL 18\_River Bridge Project\_Shafer.docx

Cc: Kensil A. Garnett  
Project File (T. Wallenfang)  
Project Engineer (N. Fayant)  
Studies & Plans Engineer (M. Otten)  
Program Development Engineer (K. Dvorsky)



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Office of Highways Project Implementation / Region 3 / District 4  
401 Main Street / Peoria, Illinois 61602-1111

October 27, 2021

**BUREAU OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT  
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Marshall and Putnam Counties

Existing Structure No. 062-0036

Job No. P-94-007-20

Catalog No. 035761-00P

Jeff Bergfeld, Mayor  
City of Henry  
514 Front Street  
Henry, IL 61537

Dear Mayor Bergfeld:

Thank you for attending the August 25, 2021 public meeting for the IL 18 River Bridge Project. The project team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to identifying the preferred alternative for the IL 18 River Bridge Project that best balances the transportation needs of the project with the concerns and values of the community. Below is some additional information in response to the comments you had submitted, and we have enclosed a copy of your submitted comment form for reference as well.

IDOT is tasked with justifying and identifying the need for the transportation improvement proposed for the IL 18 River Bridge project. As IDOT is a transportation agency, the need for the IL 18 River Bridge project is based on transportation issues. The stakeholders and the Community Advisory Group members identified issues important to the community and these included the narrow bridge, intersection safety at IL 18/IL 26, flooding along IL 18, and maintaining or widening the existing navigation channel. These items are addressed in the purpose and need statement. Other regional connectivity needs are also incorporated including the bridge is a gateway to the city of Henry; is a transportation link for emergency services, the school district, and the farming community; and adverse travel time. Other community values not considered specific transportation issues will be considered as part of the alternatives development and evaluation process and will be evaluated in the Environmental Document.

IDOT inspects the bridge annually and will continue to repair the bridge as necessary until the improvement project is complete.

Mayor Bergfeld  
October 27, 2021  
Page Two

Your input to the IL 18 River Bridge Project is appreciated. If you have additional comments or questions, please feel free to use the comment form on the project website or write to the address above.

Sincerely,



Kensil A. Garnett  
Region Three Engineer

MO:TW:pjl\T. Wallenfang\Letters\TW\_IL 18\_River Bridge Project\_JeffBergfeld\_CityOfHenry.docx

Cc: Kensil A. Garnett  
Project File (T. Wallenfang)  
Project Engineer (N. Fayant)  
Studies & Plans Engineer (M. Otten)  
Program Development Engineer (K. Dvorsky)



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Office of Highways Project Implementation / Region 3 / District 4  
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FAP Route 635 (IL 18)

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Marshall and Putnam Counties

Existing Structure No. 062-0036

Job No. P-94-007-20

Catalog No. 035761-00P

Joyce Wood  
409 Front Street  
Henry, Illinois 61537

Dear Ms. Wood:

Thank you for attending the August 25, 2021 public meeting for the IL 18 River Bridge Project. The project team appreciates that you took the time to attend the meeting and to provide written comments on the project. Input received from you and from other meeting participants will be vital to identifying the preferred alternative for the IL 18 River Bridge Project that best balances the transportation needs of the project with the concerns and values of the community. Below is some additional information in response to the comments you had submitted, and we have enclosed a copy of your submitted comment form for reference as well.

The location and design of a project must first be determined before preliminary land acquisition activities can begin. IDOT has established policies and procedures for the acquisition of property to ensure that both private and State rights are protected. These policies and procedures require a high standard of integrity and professionalism by IDOT and its agents in the acquisition process. In addition, the program allows for full consideration of social, economic, and environmental impacts and for meaningful input from the public and affected property owners.

Parcels to be acquired, whether by partial and/or full acquisitions, will be identified during the current 2-year Phase I process. These acquisitions will be confirmed once the Phase I design is complete. The land acquisition process can then be started once this project receives design approval which is at the end of Phase I. Any acquisitions that involve structures are typically put at the front of the list so as to give the person as much time as possible to relocate.

Joyce Wood  
October 27, 2021  
Page Two

As a part of the study, IDOT will investigate alternatives for the proposed improvements, including options to keep the existing bridge open during construction. If a new bridge is proposed, it will be designed to current standards which includes, at a minimum, two 12-foot travel lanes and two four-foot shoulders. If the new bridge is built on a new alignment, the existing bridge can most likely remain open for the majority of the construction period. If a new bridge is proposed on the existing alignment, however, the crossing would have to be closed during construction. At this time, however, the location of the proposed improvement is not known. As more detailed information becomes available regarding potential alignment options, a decision can be made as to whether the IL 18 River bridge can remain open during construction. This decision will be made during the current 2-year Phase I study.

Your input to the IL 18 River Bridge Project is appreciated. If you have additional comments or questions, please feel free to use the comment form on the project website or write to the address above.

Sincerely,



Kensil A. Garnett  
Region Three Engineer

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Cc: Kensil A. Garnett  
Project File (T. Wallenfang)  
Project Engineer (N. Fayant)  
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Job No. P-94-007-20

Catalog No. 035761-00P

Chad & Kimberly Hartwig  
212 Conrad Street  
Henry, Illinois 61537

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Hartwig:

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If a new bridge is selected as the preferred alternative, the bridge will be designed to meet current standards. The current roadway deck is 22.6 feet wide with no shoulders. A minimum deck width of 32 feet is required. Reducing flooding over IL 18 is part of the purpose and need for the IL 18 River Bridge Project.

As part of this project, alternatives will be studied that include a new structure on the same alignment as the existing one, as well as structures on new alignments. The various alternatives will need to have the benefits and impacts of each compared to identify the preferred alternative. In addition to location, the bridge type and design will be studied. If a new bridge is selected as the preferred alternative, it will meet current standards for width, as well as for navigational clearances over the Illinois River. If a new structure is determined to be the best option, various structure types will be evaluated. The selected style will be dependent on the potential impacts and benefits of each design.

Mr. and Mrs. Hartwig  
October 27, 2021  
Page Two

Your input to the IL 18 River Bridge Project is appreciated. If you have additional comments or questions, please feel free to use the comment form on the project website or write to the address above.

Sincerely,



Kensil A. Garnett  
Region Three Engineer

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