



# Will County Division of Transportation

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JEFF L. RONALDSON, PE  
DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION/  
COUNTY ENGINEER

January 31, 2020

To: Mayor Raymond Soliman – City of Crest Hill  
Mayor Bob O'Dekirk – City of Joliet  
Mayor George Yukich – Village of Homer Glen  
Mayor Tim Baldermann – Village of New Lenox  
Mayor Steven Streit – City of Lockport  
Supervisor Pam Meyers – Homer Township  
Supervisor Ronald Alberico – Lockport Township  
Supervisor Tony Fremarek – Plainfield Township  
County Executive Larry Walsh  
Pastor Richard House

Re: **Caton Farm – Bruce Road Phase I Study  
Project Update – New Preferred Alternative**

Dear TCC Members:

The previous north-south alignment east of Gougar Road (i.e.; Middle Alignment) has been formally dropped as the locally preferred alternative in favor of the Gougar Road alignment, and we are in the process of proceeding with design development, environmental field studies, and updated analysis (traffic, environmental impacts/mitigation) for the new alignment. The TCC Minutes from April 29, 2019 have been posted to the website and are attached for your reference. The project team presented this information to IDOT, FHWA and other federal agencies (USACE, USFWS, USEPA, etc.) on September 19, 2019 and they concurred with the change provided we followed the required steps going forward for their review and eventual approval. Based on the steps required, completion of Phase I Engineering will take 2-3 years for completion, including design development and review, and all required public meetings, and review/approval of related environmental studies and reports. The Final Meeting Minutes from the meeting are attached for your reference.

## Next Steps

- An Environmental Survey Request (ESR) Addendum will be submitted in February 2020 to reexamine the preferred alternative and the north-south alternatives.
- The threatened and endangered species list needs to be updated.

- Wetland delineations and impacts will need to be updated for the entire Preferred Alternative and the three north-south alternatives east of Gougar Road as part of the ESR Addendum. The 2005 wetland delineations may be used for comparison on other alternatives that were carried forward. Wetland delineations were completed and a report is currently being prepared.
- Concurrence Point #3 – Preferred Alternative will be revisited once the ESR Addendum has been assessed. Areas of the corridor where there are community concerns, as well as the eastern north-south portion will be reevaluated as part of the Addendum. The project will be presented again in September, pending the environmental review.

#### Timeline Since Last TCC Meeting

- April 29, 2019 – TCC Meeting – TCC votes to change the Preferred Alternative to Caton Farm – Oak – Bruce – Gougar.
- June 2019 – County Board approves change to locally preferred alternative from “Middle Alignment” to Gougar Road.
- September 19, 2019 – Project Study Team attends NEPA/404 Merger Meeting to update IDOT, FHWA and other Federal agencies on the project. They concurred with the change. See below Next Steps.
- October 2019 to January 2020 – Project Study Team completed field work for updated wetland delineations, preparing Addendum Environmental Survey Request (ESR), began design development.
- February 2020 – Submit Addendum Environment Survey Request.
- Ongoing – Continue with design studies and environmental coordination.
- Anticipated to attend September NEPA/404 Merger Meeting to receive approval on the Preferred Alternative, pending environmental review.

Sincerely,

Jeff L. Ronaldson, P.E.

Director of Transportation/County Engineer

By: 

Christina Kupkowski, P.E.

Phase 1 Project Manager

CC: Rev. Griffin (Shiloh MB Church Executive Assistant)  
 Lisa Dorothy, City of Joliet  
 Nick Palmer, Will County (Chief of Staff, County Executive)  
 Moira Dunn, Will County (Chief of Staff, County Board)  
 Mary Tatroe, Will County (State's Attorney)  
 Denise Winfrey, Will County Board  
 Herbert Brooks, Jr, Will County Board  
 Annette Parker, Will County Board  
 Rachel Ventura, Will County Board