



Appendix E

Construction-Related Impacts

	Impact Identified	Mitigation and Commitments	Responsible Party/Anticipated Method of Implementation	Tentative Timelines
1	<p><u>Transportation Impacts:</u></p> <p>Existing truck traffic uses and damages local roadways, primarily Water Street. Truck traffic will become worse during construction.</p> <p>Additional congestion during construction due to construction activities and detours will impact local traffic and community members are concerned about maintaining local access to their community and homes. Community members also expressed concerns about locations of the roadway construction storage equipment near homes.</p>	<p>A A Conceptual Construction Access Plan will be developed as part of design activities and prior to construction commencing for the Des Plaines River Bridge Replacement. This plan will finalize designation of construction routes, identify construction staging, and equipment storage location and access needs.</p> <p>Because of the nature of this project location, construction access is expected to need to use the interstate, state routes, local roads, and the river in some capacity. To further minimize impacts to the environmental justice communities, the Construction Access Plan will contain, at minimum, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primary construction access on the east side of the Des Plaines River will use temporary construction access roadways and ramps and connect to I-80 to limit use of construction equipment on local routes. 2. Primary construction access on the west side of the Des Plaines River will use Center Street from I-80. 3. Water, Shelby, and Patterson Roads will be used for secondary access points. 4. Construction access will be prohibited on Lucas Street west of Water Street. 5. Requirements for construction equipment and materials to not impede access to homes during construction. 6. Consideration of proximity to residences and identification of off-site locations for safe storage of construction equipment, to the maximum extent possible. <p>B A Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Plan will be developed as part of design activities and prior to construction commencing for the Des Plaines River Bridge Replacement. The plan will analyze, identify, and recommend:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detours or other changes in local access needed to maintain access to residences and community facilities during construction. 2. Specifications on maintenance of roadways, local roadways used for construction activities that will require repair both in advance of construction and after construction, as needed. 3. Adjustments to signal timing on state routes. Prior to construction, IDOT will adjust signal timing on state routes to further enhance traffic flow on these major arterials and to encourage through traffic to continue to use major state routes and arterial roadways. <p>C As part of bid documents and final construction plans, IDOT will require the contractor to maintain access for residences and community facilities throughout construction. IDOT, in coordination with the City of Joliet and Joliet Township will use traffic detours, as necessary.</p> <p>IDOT, in coordination with the City of Joliet and Joliet Township will establish procedures to notify the community in advance of detours and other changes to traffic patterns, including impacts to on-street parking, as part of a Construction Outreach and Coordination Plan (see Item 4 below for further details).</p>	<p>IDOT/Design Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conceptual access plan and detailed MOT and Construction Access Plan will be coordinated with IDOT, the City of Joliet, Joliet Township, and the City of Joliet's Fire Department and Police Department to designate construction routes to protect safety during construction and maintain emergency vehicle access. • Conceptual access plans and maintenance of traffic provisions will be shared with the community as part of additional outreach during and upon completion of the design phase. (See Item 5B below). • IDOT to include Maintenance of Traffic and Construction Access Plans in contract plans • IDOT will coordinate with the City of Joliet on changes to signal timing during construction and local roadway repaving that may be needed in advance and following construction • Contract documents will include provisions to maintain access for residences and community facilities throughout construction. 	<p>Design 2022-2024</p> <p>Design 2022-2024</p> <p>Pre-Construction 2024-2025</p>
2	<p><u>Noise/Vibration Impacts (Noise and Property Damage):</u></p> <p>Concerns raised about noise as a top highest concern area for construction related impacts. Related to property impacts for properties adjacent to construction, property damage due to vibration are concerns. Community members directly adjacent to the proposed construction area (demolition of existing bridge and implementation of new bridge) are particularly concerned about damage to property during construction activities. Many of these properties are within 100 feet of either the existing or proposed bridge.</p>	<p>A A Construction Noise and Vibration Monitoring Plan will be developed in advance of construction activities commencing for the Des Plaines River Bridge Replacement. The plan will provide, at minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Detailed provisions for how monitoring and managing vibration of buildings, structures, and other locations susceptible to vibration from construction activities (including construction truck traffic) will be addressed. In accordance with IDOT's Standard Specifications, the Contractor will provide monitoring equipment and all labor necessary to install and monitor adjacent buildings and structures for vibration. The contractor will also be required to provide detailed provisions for monitoring point locations to further monitor vibration at residences adjacent to the construction. 2. Detailed provisions for managing noise during construction and during nighttime construction. When possible, the contractor will conduct construction activities during the daytime and during weekdays. Some construction activities may require nighttime work such as beam erection and sign truss erection. When nighttime work becomes necessary, the contractor will be required to consider the City of Joliet's 	<p>IDOT/Contractor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IDOT will require the contractor to follow Standard Specifications and City of Joliet Ordinance. • IDOT specifications reference 107.35 requires construction occur between hours of 7am and 10pm within 1,000 feet of occupied residences, hospitals, similar receptors except for maintenance/ operation of safety & traffic control devices like barricades, signs, and lighting, or to construction of an emergency nature. 	<p>Pre-Construction</p>

Construction-Related Impacts

	Impact Identified	Mitigation and Commitments	Responsible Party/Anticipated Method of Implementation	Tentative Timelines
		<p>noise nuisance ordinance (Section 21-133) and IDOT’s Plan Specifications. These provisions require that between the hours of 9:00 pm and 7:00 am, unless specified in writing by IDOT’s Engineer, the contractor is prohibited from conducting any demolition activities. When the Contractor requests to modify or deviate from these requirements, construction activities will be defined, include noise mitigation techniques to be taken to monitor and minimize noise and explicitly state the duration that noise levels will be elevated.</p> <p>3. All efforts will be taken through mitigation measures noted above to monitor and avoid noise and vibration impacts to properties. As part of the Construction Outreach and Coordination Plan development (see Item 4 below), IDOT will provide a construction outreach specialist as a contact to the community. The plan (Item 4 below) will provide the direct contact information (voice mail service, phone, email, or otherwise) to the public liaison person(s) responsible for communicating issues related to ensuring construction compliance with the Construction Noise and Vibration Monitoring Plan. The public liaison will be responsible for communicating night-time work notifications in advance to the community and to provide the community with a contact for coordination of construction related concerns throughout construction activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City of Joliet ordinance reference Section 21-131. Construction noise provisions notes no construction involving mechanical apparatuses operated by fuel or electric power between hours of 9:30pm and 7am within 600 ft of any building used for residence or hospital except for public works and utilities projects. Provisions under 21-134 also describe equipment standards for motor vehicles, operational standards, and requirements concerning horns and other warning devices. • Inclusion of requirements into Contractor contract documents. 	
3	<p><u>Air Quality Impacts:</u> Air quality concerns during construction and several questionnaire responses and direct outreach indicate senior citizens with COPD, asthma, and other breathing problems near the project construction area</p>	<p>A. Prior to construction and as part of the required pre-construction contractor documents, the Contractor will develop a Project Specific Dust Control Plan that addresses construction-related air quality concerns for communities near the Des Plaines River Bridge. Specific measures will be developed by the Contractor based on IDOT’s Standard Specification requirements and reviewed and approved by the Engineer. Elements of the dust control plan will include and specify, at minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mechanisms to limit tracking soil onto nearby publicly traveled roadways 2. Required speed reductions for Contractor vehicles on unpaved surfaces 3. Requirements for covering of haul vehicles, and 4. Application of dust suppressants (typically water based, calcium chloride, tarps) or water to exposed surfaces, particularly to vehicles and surfaces on which construction vehicles travel. 	<p>IDOT/Contractor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence by contractor to IDOT Standard Specifications and contract specifications. 	Pre-Construction 2024-2025
4	<p><u>Neighborhood/Community Impacts (Construction Areas):</u> <u>A number of recent local projects have been conducted without clearly delineating a buffer between the surrounding community. There are concerns about safety and conditions during construction within the community and a desire for separating the community from construction activities as much as possible.</u></p>	<p>A. Where possible, IDOT’s contractor will place temporary barriers between construction related activities and adjacent residential communities to limit exposure to construction activities and to create a buffer between residents and the construction area.</p>	Contractor provisions and requirements	Construction 2025-2028
5	<p><u>Neighborhood/Community Impacts (Community Engagement/Awareness):</u> Due to the duration of construction and potential impacts, there are concerns about undesirable construction activities occurring and the community having no way to have their concerns addressed (e.g., construction vehicle and equipment parking, access and safety concerns, construction equipment such as portable bathrooms, and others adjacent to homes).</p>	<p>A. IDOT, in coordination with the City of Joliet and the surrounding community, will develop a Construction Outreach and Coordination Plan as part of design development activities and prior to construction activities commencing for the Des Plaines River Bridge. Provisions of this plan will include, at minimum:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Designation of a public involvement coordinator to answer questions, respond to community concerns and provide updates during construction activities. <p>Information on how regular communication of construction activities, such as detours for state routes and any minor or temporary use of local access roads needed will be communicated to the public and establish timeframes for advance notification and regular construction updates.</p>	<p>IDOT (in coordination with City and community)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public involvement materials development and community meetings to be included in design phase • Completion of construction mitigation plans identified above 	Design 2022-2024

Construction-Related Impacts

	Impact Identified		Mitigation and Commitments	Responsible Party/Anticipated Method of Implementation	Tentative Timelines
	<p>Community members have raised several concerns and questions about construction activities and have noted a desire for answers to these questions given the long planning horizon and duration between planning to actual construction commencing. While mitigation measures have been developed to address concerns, many of these will occur during the design phase. Additional community outreach to the Des Plaines River Bridge communities is needed to share results from the Maintenance of Traffic/Access Management and Construction Mitigation Plan as well as make members aware of construction schedule and community outreach specialist to be assigned during construction.</p>	<p>B</p>	<p>During the design phase, IDOT is committed to providing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A dedicated telephone number and email address will be assigned to the Public Involvement Coordinator. 2. Notifications to the Des Plaines River Bridge community in the form of mailings, fact sheets, and updates on the project website at key milestones to continue to share design activities progress and apprise the community of project advancements. 3. Community meetings at major milestones in design progress. 4. Community meetings upon completion of the Construction Access, Maintenance of Traffic, and Construction Mitigation Plan to share the provisions of these plans and to answer any questions from the community on construction related activities. These meetings will also provide further details on the construction outreach specialist and contact information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination with the community/key community partners to develop the construction outreach and coordination plan proposed. Input will help to finalize provisions. • IDOT to assign a Public Involvement Coordinator to project prior to beginning of construction. 	<p>Design 2022-2024</p>

Permanent Impacts

Impact Identified		Mitigation and Commitments		Responsible Party/Anticipated Method of Implementation	Tentative Timeline
6	<p><u>Noise Impacts:</u></p> <p>The community largely supports recommended noise abatement wall locations. Concerns have been raised about holding off on voting/solidifying noise wall recommendations and that the community is concerned that they will not be erected following this outreach effort completing. One property owner on the west side of the river has expressed concerns that he is not included in the voting even though his property is adjacent to proposed noise walls and in clear line of site. He would like to see installation of noise walls.</p>	A	<p>IDOT will conduct community noise wall voting, in accordance with IDOT and FHWA requirements to solidify locations where noise walls will be implemented as part of the project. As identified in FHWA regulations for noise wall voting, “benefitted receptors” that are able to vote are those where the noise analysis indicates a at least a 5 db(A) reduction. 33% of votes must be cast by the benefited receptors; of that, 50% must be in favor for the barriers to be recommended.</p> <p>These final recommendations for noise wall locations will be posted to the project website to communicate final findings to the community and a community mailing will be sent out to all residents that voted and property owners and tenants within 1000 feet of proposed noise walls.</p>	<p>IDOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDOT to solicit community noise voting in 2022 to solidify commitment to installation of noise abatement walls as a mitigation for noise. IDOT to send community mailings and website updates on results of noise wall locations. 	Design 2022-2024
7	<p><u>Neighborhood/Community Impacts:</u></p> <p>The project will result in needing and compensating for additional property within the community and create more vacant land in the community once the existing bridge is demolished, further impacting community cohesion on the east side of the Des Plaines River between residents north and south of I-80. Community members have also raised concerns about property value decreases as a result of these additional impacts to community cohesion and aesthetics in the community.</p>	A	<p>IDOT will fund the development of a Community Plan to be developed in partnership with the City of Joliet and the affected community for the environmental justice community identified adjacent to Des Plaines River Bridge. This plan will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a community involvement plan and steering committee to provide input into the plan and review findings. A feasibility analysis and conceptual plan to enhance connectivity along the Des Plaines River between Varnado Park and to remaining unused land south of I-80 where the existing bridge will be demolished to create a multiuse trail to improve connectivity and community cohesion between residents north and south of the I-80 structure. A cost estimate and strategies for funding and implementation of various community improvement recommendations included in this Community Plan. These elements of improvements, not described to be paid for by IDOT in Provision 7B, will be determined based on further coordination with the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDOT/City of Joliet Steering Committee comprised of community partners to be identified Grant to be identified and secured for development of the plan proposed 	2023-2025 (Proposed and will be final determined based on initiation of project. Expected duration of Community Plan is 12-18 months)
B	<p>Based on community input to date, IDOT will provide funding based on community improvements identified through additional community outreach efforts for the I-80 Des Plaines River Bridge EJ communities, as described below. IDOT understands that the community desires the following to enhance community cohesion that has been impacted as a result of the original I-80 project and this I-80 bridge replacement: (a) a multiuse trail between Varnado Park and the remaining unused land south of I-80 where the existing bridge will be demolished;; (b) lighting and other amenities along the multiuse trail described above; (c) a plaque in Varnado Park to reflect the history of the community, particularly for Reverend Varnado, who was a local civil rights activist and church leader near this community; (d) traffic calming measures, as determined appropriate, along Water Street. Because these improvements would need to be implemented and maintained by the City of Joliet and should be part of cohesive community planning efforts, IDOT is committed to providing monetary compensation for prioritized improvements to the City of Joliet in the amount of \$3,500,000. These funds must be used within the Des Plaines River Bridge community outreach area (mapping provided in the Community Impact Assessment) for improvements to community cohesion and identity that result from recommendations of the Community Plan. Following completion of the Community Plan, IDOT will establish a Memorandum of Understanding or other written agreement with the City of Joliet, as required, to establish requirements and agency responsibilities for implementation of the Community Plan improvements with these funds.</p>				
C	<p>In coordination with the City of Joliet and with input from the community, development of a conceptual redevelopment plan for the remaining unused land that will remain following demolition of the existing bridge. This redevelopment plan will detail needed zoning/land use or other policy changes that the City would need to implement, potential redevelopment opportunities, and detail how land is to be transferred in accordance with state statutes and local requirements that may apply.</p>				

Permanent Impacts

Impact Identified		Mitigation and Commitments		Responsible Party/Anticipated Method of Implementation	Tentative Timeline
8	<p><u>Transportation Impacts:</u></p> <p>Concerns were raised by the community about existing difficulties turning in and out of neighborhoods to US 52 will become worse by additional traffic from I-80 project and construction activities. Access and mobility were brought up as concern areas.</p>	A	In coordination with the City of Joliet, IDOT will conduct a traffic signal and stop sign warrant study for major access points along McDonough Street (US 52) to/from communities on east and west side of the Des Plaines River Bridge – Water Street and Des Plaines on east side and Cherry Street and Market Street on west side. IDOT anticipates this study will evaluate four intersections. Based on the results of the studies, IDOT will install new traffic signals or stop signs at warranted locations.	IDOT/City of Joliet <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordination with City of Joliet 	Pre-Construction 2024-2025
		B	Safety improvements, including improvements to channelization and turning movements at the intersection of Chicago Street (IL 53) and 5 th Avenue will be included as part of this project and is a major access point to the community.		Construction 2026-2020
		C	As part of the project, IDOT will coordinate with Pace to fund improvements to existing bus stops along Chicago Avenue between Doris Avenue and 5 th Avenue. As part of the project, IDOT is committed to providing improvements to bus pads and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access including new accommodations for sidewalk along Chicago Avenue from 5 th Avenue to Doris Avenue through the existing railroad viaducts to major job centers south of I-80.		Pre-Construction 2024-2025
9	<p><u>Visual/Aesthetics:</u></p> <p>Garbage today collects under bridge and concerns about continued poor visual quality/aesthetics. The existing fencing is low in height, allowing for garbage dumping and there are holes that periodically occur in chained link fencing. Concerns about this issue continuing with new bridge implementation.</p> <p>There is a preference for a modest bridge structure that blends into the community and greenery/landscaping for aesthetics. Additionally, lighting in the community was a top ranked need in the community and respondents indicated that concerns for safety and noise are just as important as visual and aesthetics of the new bridge.</p>	A	IDOT will develop design plans indicating where fencing is required under the Des Plaines River Bridge structure for access to regular IDOT maintenance activities. IDOT is committed to installing any needed fencing at least 6-8 feet tall and with materials that maintain visibility between fenced and unfenced areas for safety.	IDOT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include appropriate pay items, plans, details, and specifications for fencing and design such as knee wall under bridge in contract documents. Perform lighting study to determine need for underpass lighting. If required, add underpass lighting in construction of the new bridge. During design and in coordination with the City of Joliet IDOT will develop a landscape plan which will include plant materials intended to enhance and screen the bridge and retaining walls. The landscape plan will become a part of the construction documents. Community meetings and mailings during design at major milestones 	Design 2022-2024
		B	IDOT is committed to design of the bridge underpass on the east side of the Des Plaines River to include a concrete knee wall (approximately 2 feet high) or other design parameters to limit the ability for vehicles access under the new bridge, and thereby minimizing trash and other debris to accumulate under the bridge.		Design 2022-2024
		C	IDOT will conduct a lighting study to determine the need for and proposed locations of lighting under the proposed bridge, at locations along the bridge as well as along new local frontage roads proposed to enhance safety. These recommendations will be included in final design plans and cost estimates.		Design 2022-2024
		D	IDOT is committed to constructing the new bridge to blend into the surrounding community and installing landscaping, where practical, to shield bridge view naturally and aesthetically. As part of design process, a landscape plan will be developed detailing proposed landscaping elements to be incorporated into the new bridge construction and for new noise walls.		Design 2022-2024
		E	As part of the community meetings to be held during the design process and prior to construction, IDOT will share findings of the lighting study, landscape plan and other elements of the aesthetics proposed for the new bridge (See Item 4 under Construction Impacts).		Design 2022-2024

Permanent Impacts

Impact Identified		Mitigation and Commitments		Responsible Party/Anticipated Method of Implementation	Tentative Timeline
10	<p><u>Property Acquisition/Relocation:</u></p> <p>Properties have been identified as needing to be acquired for the project. From direct outreach efforts, there are concerns about finding comparable market priced housing and desires raised to meet senior or low-income housing needs.</p>	A	<p>Displaced property owners and tenants will be compensated and relocated according to the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (Uniform Act). Among the benefits outlined in detail within the Uniform Act are the following provisions to address displaced property owner and tenant needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consideration of price differentials to assist property owners and tenants in identifying replacement housing that is comparable, decent, safe, and sanitary. 2. When comparable replacement housing cannot be obtained based on fair market value, "Housing of Last Resort" provisions will be utilized by IDOT to secure a replacement dwelling that is decent, safe, and sanitary. Housing of last resort provisions are in place to provide additional and alternative assistance when comparable replacement dwellings are not identified and available within the monetary limits of property owners or tenants 	<p>IDOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uniform Act provisions/requirements • <i>Additional benefits identified in Mitigation Table</i> • <i>Housing of Last Resort detailed provisions may be found in 49 CFR § 24.404</i> 	<p>Acquisition phase 2023-2025</p>
		B	<p>Outside of the benefits provided under the federal Uniform Relocation Act, IDOT will provide the following additional benefits to displaced property owners:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. For Property Owners - A real estate tax differential will be paid to property owners that have owned and occupied the impacted property for more than 90 days at time of offer. This differential will assist with offsetting the possible increase in real estate taxes upon relocation. An owner-occupied resident is defined by 49 CFR part 24. The Department will provide to the owner of owner-occupied properties (defined as a relocate) the Compensation Amount of \$75,000 for the potential real estate tax increase upon relocation. This total payment will be made in one lump sum payment within 60 days of the date the resident is relocated. However, to provide additional flexibility to this measure, if the property owner can demonstrate economic hardship that accepting the tax mitigation will cause undue financial burden, the Department will commit to working with the property owner and provide options such as reducing the overall tax mitigation compensation amount or dispersing the funds equally over multiple years. After an economic hardship has been identified by a property owner and the Department, the property owner must provide a written request to the Department. If additional properties are identified during final design, the Compensation Amount will not be adjusted. Because this mitigation is being offered outside of the Uniform Act, if chosen, it must be reported as income and therefore may be taxable. For this reason, the owner may choose to decline all or part of this benefit. <p>A Relocatee may obtain financial advisory services or the services of a certified public account (CPA) prior to electing to receive the Mitigation. The Department will reimburse the Relocatee for up to two visits. Reimbursements will be made on a case-by-case basis. The property owner is not required to accept any of the tax mitigation measure. However, to provide additional flexibility to this measure, if the property owner can demonstrate economic hardship that accepting the \$75,000 will cause undue financial burden, the Department will commit to working with the property owner and provide options such as reducing the overall tax mitigation compensation amount or dispersing the funds equally over multiple years. After an economic hardship has been identified by a property owner and the Department, the property owner must provide a request in writing to the Department.</p>		

Permanent Impacts

		<p>C</p> <p>Under the Uniform Relocation Act (URA), advisory services will be provided by the Department and consultants. Assistance provided to residential property owners and tenants includes but is not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidance in finding a replacement dwelling 2. Explanation of rights 3. Referrals to social and counseling services 4. Advice regarding rights under Fair Housing Act <p>The Department will provide a community outreach liaison to assist tenants that have to be relocated as a result of the Department's project and relocation program to assist in applications, filling out forms, or other documents related to low-income housing, Section 8 housing applicability. During acquisition and relocation coordination with property owners and tenants, the Department's staff will answer questions. These services are ongoing through acquisition and relocation process completion.</p>		
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Indirect/Cumulative Impacts

Impact Identified		Mitigation and Commitments		Responsible Party/Anticipated Method of Implementation	Tentative Timeline
11	<p><u>Transportation Impacts:</u> Industrial truck/traffic from Water Treatment and Recycling Plant on east side and south of I-80 use and damage local roadways that create safety concerns. Community has expressed a desire for traffic calming, such as speed bumps, to deter cut-through truck traffic.</p>	A	See Items 1A-C above which detail development of a Maintenance of Traffic and Construction Access Plan developed during design. As per Item 1B, prior to construction commencing, IDOT will coordinate with the City of Joliet and Joliet Township to designate construction routes. This will include determination of any repaving to be completed by IDOT prior to and following construction.	<p>IDOT (in coordination with City of Joliet/Joliet Township)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDOT to prepare a permanent access plan for local truck traffic as per Item 1 above. Coordination with the City of Joliet and Joliet Township on designated truck routes, identification of locations and frequency of signage, and costs for signage implementation. IDOT to fund signage needs and the City would install these signs. As part of coordination during the design phase of the project, funding and installation responsibilities between agencies will be confirmed. 	Pre-Construction 2024-2025
		B	Upon completion of construction of the Des Plaines River Bridge, IDOT, in coordination with the City of Joliet and Joliet Township, will identify and implement signage for designated truck routes within the community to minimize truck diversion onto local roads. IDOT will fund signage improvements and the City of Joliet will be responsible for implementation of new truck designation signage.		Post Construction 2029
12	<p><u>Neighborhood/Community:</u> Continued loss of community cohesion due to location of I-80 infrastructure within the community and continued degradation of community connectivity. There are already empty lots next to the existing bridge and the demolition of the existing bridge will expand unused land in the community. Questionnaire results indicate strong community identity from amenities such as places of worship and parks. Initial implementation of I-80 bisected a once cohesive community. Water treatment plan encroachment over time and previous reductions to community footprint and amenities combined with historic reduction in community footprint east and south of existing bridge plus recycling plant have led to increasing industrialization of east side community south of I-80. The community is disconnected, and new construction will limit connections further which can make it difficult to identify job opportunities. Providing information on job opportunities can help to appease this concern.</p>	A	See provisions in Item 7 above for development of a Community Plan .	IDOT, in partnership with City of Joliet and surrounding community	2023-2025 (see Item 7 above)
		B	<p>IDOT will promote construction related jobs and training opportunities for community residents through the Highway Construction Careers Training Program (HCCTP). “The HCCTP is designed to provide training and skill-improvement opportunities to increase participation of minorities, disadvantaged persons and women in the roadway construction industry”. The HCCTP emphasizes life-long learning and provides opportunities for further education and assistance to improve employability. The program is conducted at twelve community colleges throughout the state including South Suburban College in South Holland, IL. To promote this program and opportunity to residents in environmental justice communities surrounding the Des Plaines River Bridge, IDOT is committed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing informational flyers about the HCCTP program to local community centers in the area, including at the Warren J. Sharpe Community Center and All Nations Church, 2. As part of the outreach meetings during the design/construction phase, IDOT will provide informational flyers on the program and have staff members available to answer questions from the community about how to participate in the program, and 3. As part of construction efforts, the community public liaison will be provided with informational materials and will serve as a source for answering questions about how to participate in the program. The community public liaison, as part of efforts to promote the program, will coordinate with the IDOT HCCTP Program Coordinator, to determine additional outreach and educational opportunities that may be presented to the Des Plaines River Bridge communities as part of construction outreach efforts. Methods proposed for this outreach and educational opportunities, including a social media marketing strategy to further promote the program to community residents, will be defined in the Construction Outreach & Coordination Plan and monitored through design and construction outreach efforts to continually monitor and improve communication methods. 	<p>IDOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> IDOT will use the HCCTP program, distribute materials to community centers referenced, at community meetings in the design phase, and provide to the construction community outreach coordinator for use during construction. 	Design through Construction Phases 2022-2029

Indirect/Cumulative Impacts

Impact Identified		Mitigation and Commitments		Responsible Party/Anticipated Method of Implementation	Tentative Timeline
13	<p>Acquisition and Relocation (Voluntary): Some community members have requested voluntary acquisition of property due to proximity to construction activities and underlying conditions due to COPD or asthma. Some have also noted existing structural issues and concerns about cumulative impact and damage to property based on construction activities or an inability to sell property given current plans.</p> <p>There have been several community residences that are beyond the construction footprint and adjacent to construction proposed have requested voluntary acquisition. Some community members have noted their residence will be the only property left on an existing block of homes based on the construction footprint, concerns about access to homes during construction, and location of their property in closer proximity to new bridge.</p>	A	<p>IDOT will consider acquisition and relocation for property owners that have requested voluntary acquisition and are within 10 feet of the new proposed I-80 right-of-way as per the State of Illinois' Highway Code (Section 1, Section 4-501).</p> <p>Property owners within this 10-foot boundary must submit their voluntary request for property acquisition in writing to IDOT Bureau of Land Acquisition. IDOT will provide a letter of response within 30 days indicating approval of this voluntary request and those acquired within this 10-foot rule will receive benefits under the Uniform Act.</p>	<p>IDOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements for voluntary acquisition demonstration of requirements being met is in progress and will need to be documented • IDOT 10-foot rule in place under state law. 	Acquisition Phase 2023-2025



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Highways Project Implementation / Region 1 / District 1
201 West Center Court / Schaumburg, Illinois 60196-1096

April 29, 2022

The Honorable Bob O'Dekirk
Mayor
City of Joliet
150 West Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Dear Mayor O'Dekirk:

The Illinois Department of Transportation (Department) is in the process of finalizing the preliminary engineering and environmental study (Phase I) for the improvement of I-80 from Ridge Road to US 30 in Kendall, Grundy, and Will Counties. This improvement is included in the Department's FY 2022-2027 Proposed Highway Improvement Program. Current engineering efforts are targeted to enable the first of multiple contract lettings in the early years of the multi-year program contingent upon plan readiness, land acquisition, and funding availability through future annual legislative appropriations. This letter supersedes the Letter of Intent that was sent to the City of Joliet on November 23, 2021.

The general scope of work for this improvement consists of pavement reconstruction, shoulder widening, auxiliary lane installation, interchange modifications, and widening and/or replacement of bridges including replacement of the I-80 twin truss bridges over the Des Plaines River north of their existing location. This scope of work was presented at public hearings on November 6, 2019 and November 7, 2019. In addition, the Department conducted extensive community involvement in the area of the Des Plaines River Bridge during Phase I to determine the project's impacts and identify measures to mitigate those impacts.

The Department is in the process of finalizing the mitigation measures and developing commitments to ensure their implementation. The community has indicated that it has been impacted in the past by the original construction of I-80 as well as the City of Joliet water treatment plant. To mitigate the cumulative impacts on the community by these developments and the proposed I-80 construction, the Department is committed to funding a Community Plan for the area depicted on the attached exhibit. The planning effort will be funded in the amount of \$400,000 through the Federal Highway Administration State Planning and Research Funds with a State match. The City of Joliet will lead and implement the planning effort.

Through the community outreach performed by the Department, the community has expressed the desire for the following improvements to be considered in the Community Plan:

1. A shared-use path with pedestrian level lighting connecting Varnado Park to the neighborhood south of existing I-80.
2. A plaque or other identifier honoring the Reverend Varnado in Varnado Park.
3. Traffic calming measures as determined appropriate, along Water Street from Davis Street to McDonough Street.
4. No Truck Traffic signs as determined appropriate, on residential streets within the Community Plan boundaries.

The Department recognizes that details of the items described above will be determined through the development of the Community Plan. The Department is committing \$3,500,000 toward the construction of improvements identified through the development of the Community Plan. These funds must be used within the Des Plaines River Bridge Community depicted on the attached exhibit for improvements to community cohesion which result from recommendations of the Community Plan.

This will serve as a Letter of Intent between the City of Joliet and the Department confirming your concurrence with the approach to executing the proposed mitigation measures. A separate Letter of Intent was provided to address cost participation and maintenance responsibilities for items anticipated to be constructed as a part of the I-80 improvement.

At the end of this Letter of Intent, there is an area where you can state your concurrence to the Department's commitment of funding \$400,000 for the development of a Community Plan and \$3,500,000 toward the design, construction and maintenance of improvements identified in the Community Plan and the City of Joliet's role as leading and implementing the development of the Community Plan. This Letter of Intent will be used as a basis during Phase II, contract plan preparation, to develop a project agreement between the City of Joliet and the Department in the development and implementation of the described elements of the Community Plan. Please return an original signed copy of this letter within 30 days to effectively maintain the project schedule.

The Honorable Bob O'Dekirk
April 29, 2022
Page 3

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me or Kimberly Murphy, Consultant Studies Unit Head, at (847) 705-4791 or via email Kimberly.Murphy@Illinois.gov.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jose Rios', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jose Rios, P.E.
Region One Engineer

Attachments

cc: James V. Capparelli
Greg P. Ruddy

