



STUDY OVERVIEW

The purpose of the 66 Corridor Study is to improve the movement of people, goods, and services along a section of the East-West Transamerica Corridor between Paducah, Kentucky and Interstate 55 in Missouri.

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For more information on IDOT Context Sensitive Solutions guidelines, please visit the website at:
<http://www.dot.il.gov/css/home.html>

66 Corridor Study

October 2013 Issue No. 1



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

*Ann L. Schneider, Secretary
Pat Quinn, Governor*



66 Corridor Study Holds First Open House Public Meeting

The first public meeting for the 66 Corridor Study was held on July 24, 2013, at the Shawnee Community College near Ullin, Illinois. 222 people attended the meeting to review the study limits and existing data about the project, such as floodplain maps, wetland maps, and median household income. The purpose of the meeting was to gather information from the public regarding issues they might have with the area being studied and improvements that may need to be done within the 66 Corridor Study area. Meeting attendees came from locations throughout the corridor, including Illinois, Missouri and Kentucky. The meeting attendees included state and local officials, interest groups, business owners, and residents. The exhibits displayed at the meeting can be reviewed on the project website at www.66Corridor.org in the "Announcements" section or in the "Document Library" tab.



The 66 Corridor Study is using Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS), an interdisciplinary approach that allows stakeholders to become involved with helping a project become a more integral part of its surroundings, or "context". As part of the CSS process, the Project Study Group collects comments from stakeholders pertaining to the project study area. 267 comments were received during the comment submittal period for this public meeting. Concerns about preserving the natural habitat in the study area were expressed by individuals and by organizations. Support for improving travel in this corridor, economic development, safety, and cost were also stated. Many inquired about previous studies that have been done in this same transportation corridor area. The Project Study Group will carefully evaluate all comments received and include these ideas in moving forward with the next steps of the study.



IDOT's goal is to improve travel along the East-West Transamerica Corridor for the traveling public, while seeking to preserve and enhance the scenic, economic, historic and natural qualities of the area. One of the tools IDOT will use to do this is public involvement. The Project Study Group needs to hear from the public to understand the concerns and priorities of the community. Alternative designs can then be developed with these concerns in mind using input from the community.

Frequently Asked Questions from Comment Forms

1. **Is this project Interstate 66?** No, not at this time. While Paducah is located on the western end of Interstate 66 in Kentucky and the study limits are in the same general location as the East-West Transamerica corridor, the process of identifying the need for a transportation improvement precludes identifying the alignment or type of improvement at this early stage.
2. **Is there a 2000-foot wide corridor?** No. If the study progresses into the third phase of the study, "Develop and Evaluate Alternatives" as shown in the Project Schedule diagram on page 3 in this newsletter, various corridors as wide as 2000' may be used to initially evaluate impact comparisons. From that, narrower working alignments would be evaluated in more detail. The width of an actual transportation improvement would never be 2000 feet wide.
3. **Why were no lines shown on the exhibits at the first public meeting?** At this stage of the study, no alignments are known. We are currently collecting data in preparation of developing the purpose and need for a transportation improvement. Until that is complete, no improvement types or alignments can be determined.
4. **Who performed previous studies?** In April 2005, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) published the results of an I-66 Corridor Study which is also part of the East-West Transamerica Corridor. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) facilitated a public meeting for the KYTC's study at Shawnee Community College. The 2005 document is a feasibility study for a portion of Interstate 66 in western Kentucky and excluded the steps required to meet the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

WHAT'S NEXT...

The 66 Corridor study is in the data collection phase. During this first step, the Project Study Group has reached out to many stakeholders to identify concerns and needs for a transportation improvement. From these interested stakeholders, the Project Study Group will assemble a Community Advisory Group (CAG). The CAG is a group of stakeholders that provide input and response to ideas and serve to focus the views, concerns and values of the communities. The Project Study Group is anticipating the first CAG meeting to be Fall 2013. From this input and the engineering and environmental studies, the Project Study Group will develop a formal purpose for the project.



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Did You Know?

- To find out about future public involvement activities, please visit the project website:

www.66corridor.org

and get on the project mailing list.

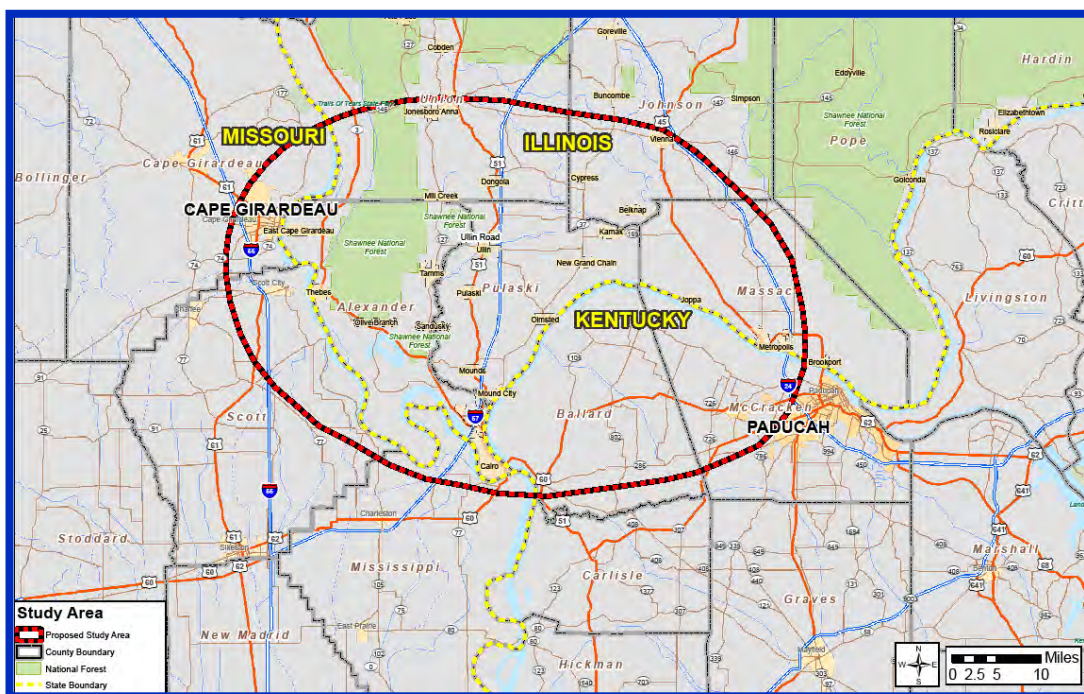
- Watch local newspapers, radio and television stations for announcements.

- Additional meetings can be held with local organizations. If you are part of an organization that may be interested in a stakeholder meeting, please submit a request using the comment form on the project website:

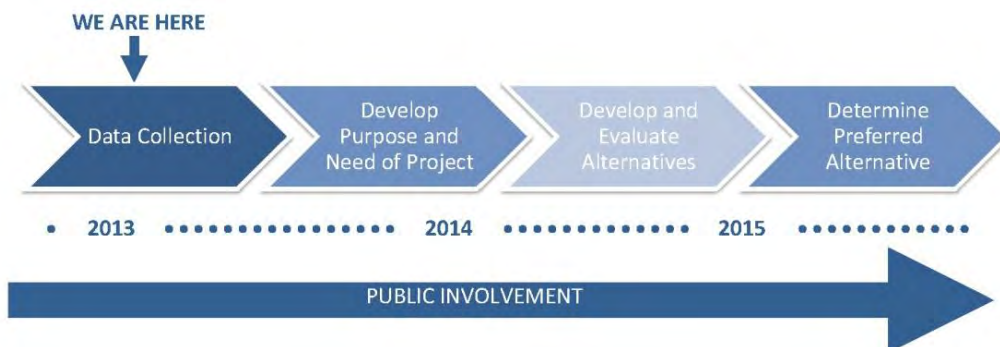
www.66corridor.org

STUDY LIMITS

This study area covers approximately 2,500 square miles in portions of Alexander, Union, Pulaski, Johnson, and Massac Counties in Illinois; Ballard and McCracken Counties in Kentucky; and Cape Girardeau, Mississippi, and Scott Counties in Missouri. Communities along the project area boundary include Paducah (Kentucky), Cairo (Illinois), Cape Girardeau (Missouri), Jonesboro (Illinois), and Vienna (Illinois). The final outcome is the determination of the need for, and the feasibility of, a transportation improvement between Paducah, Kentucky and Interstate 55 in Missouri.



STUDY SCHEDULE





Contact Information

We welcome your questions and comments!

Submit by mail to:

**66 Corridor Project Study Group
Illinois Department of Transportation
Division of Highways / Region 5 / District 9
P.O. Box 100
Carbondale, Illinois 62903-0100**

By email to:

66corridor@hornersshifrin.com

Submit comments through the project website at:

www.66corridor.org

This newsletter is published to provide updates regarding the progress of the 66 Corridor Study.

