



State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor

Illinois Department of Transportation
Ann L. Schneider, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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****Public Notice****

The Circle Interchange Environmental Assessment (EA) has been released for Public Comment/ Public Hearing Scheduled

CHICAGO – After extensive data analysis and evaluation, the EA has been made available for public review and comment. The document can be found at www.circleinterchange.org, local libraries located within the study area and the Department's Schaumburg office. A complete listing of these locations can be found on the project website. The EA defines environmental impacts, plans, and issues of concern to the community. Comments on the EA will be accepted through July 12, 2013.

The Circle Interchange study has invested substantial resources to plan a new facility that balances community and transportation needs. The Department has been meeting with stakeholders since the April 3, 2013 Public Hearing to refine the preferred plan.

The Department cordially invites the public to attend an open house Public Hearing to review additional project refinements that have been made since the last event on April 3, 2013. The Public Hearing will be held in an open house format, and interested persons may attend anytime between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. There will be a continuous PowerPoint presentation, and the public is encouraged to attend to review the EA, the overall plan, local and regional benefits, design and aesthetic elements, ask questions, and share their views. In addition, noise abatement measures are being investigated for potential installment. Viewpoints of benefited receptors are being solicited as part of the proposed improvement and the deadline for returning the "Viewpoint Form" has been extended to July 12, 2013. Attendees are encouraged to provide verbal or written testimony to court reporters that will be included as part of the public record. Those attending may also speak with study team representatives on a one-on-one basis. **There will be a public forum beginning at 6:00 p.m. at which time participants will have two minutes to publicly voice their opinion.**

The Public Hearing will be held on:

**Thursday, June 27, 2013
Crowne Plaza- Chicago Metro Downtown
733 West Madison Street
Chicago, IL 60661
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM**



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The Circle Interchange is located in Chicago. The study limits extend along I-90/94 from Roosevelt Road (on the south) to Lake Street (on the north), and along I-290/Congress Parkway from Canal Street/the Old Post Office Building (on the east) to Loomis Street (on the west). The Circle Interchange was built in the late 1950's and early 1960's. Many of the bridges are in need of major repair and should be reconstructed. The Circle Interchange has been rated the slowest, most congested highway freight bottleneck in the nation, accommodating more than 400,000 vehicles a day, of which, 33,000 are trucks. In addition, the Circle Interchange is the centerpiece of a regional vision to improve a vital link in the nation's transportation network, better connecting all modes of transportation. Chicago links all six Class I railroads of the nation and is home to the largest inland port in the world.

To compete in the global marketplace, it is essential that Illinois implements initiatives that are directed at improving system efficiency and traffic flow through and within the Chicago industrial hub. The Circle Interchange project addresses the movement of vehicles on the expressway system and balances the community's needs for the surrounding neighborhood including new local street bridges that will enhance the multi-modal transportation system of the surrounding street network with the inclusion of bike lanes, wider sidewalks, improved access to transit, and aesthetic enhancements.

The proposed improvement results in significant benefits:

- Over 5,000 local jobs will be supported with the investments being made at the Circle Interchange, benefiting the people living and working in the region.
- The improvement will create a safer environment for the motoring public by reducing the predicted number of crashes by up to 10%, with severe crashes reduced by up to 25%.
- There will be up to a 50% reduction in delay for all vehicles over the course of the day.
- This reduction saves up to 5 million hours annually of drivers sitting in congested traffic, correlating to a savings of up to \$185 million annually in lost production from delayed travelers.
- Vehicle idle time reduction will save nearly 1.6 million gallons of fuel annually and will reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by one-third.

The Circle Interchange reconstruction will improve safety, mobility, and the condition of the interchange while creating jobs and enriching the local economy.

For information about the Circle Interchange Study, visit www.circleinterchange.org.

**The public hearing is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance should contact Amanda Leonard of Images, Inc. at (630) 510-3944. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844/or 711 or TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/or 711, and for telebraille, please dial (877) 526-6670, at least five days prior to the public hearing.*

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