

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is conducting a study of the eastbound McClugage Bridge (US 150) over the Illinois River. The project will be carried out in three phases for the potential removal and replacement or rehabilitation of the bridge.

The McClugage Bridge is located north of downtown Peoria, Illinois, and northwest of East Peoria, Illinois. Two truss bridge structures make-up the bridge system, which is a vital connection between regions and the second most heavily traveled river crossing in Peoria. The northern bridge carries westbound traffic and the southern bridge carries eastbound traffic on US 150 over the Illinois River.

PROJECT BACKGROUND

The McClugage Bridge was originally designed as a steel cantilever bridge in 1939 to replace the Upper Free Bridge across a narrow stretch of Upper Peoria Lake. The existing two-lane bridge was completed in 1948 following World War II and allowed traffic to travel east and west across the Illinois River.

In 1982, an additional three-lane bridge with a similar look and style to the original McClugage Bridge was added immediately north of the existing structure. The original southern bridge has been repaired seven times since 1964, with a major rehabilitation in 1999.

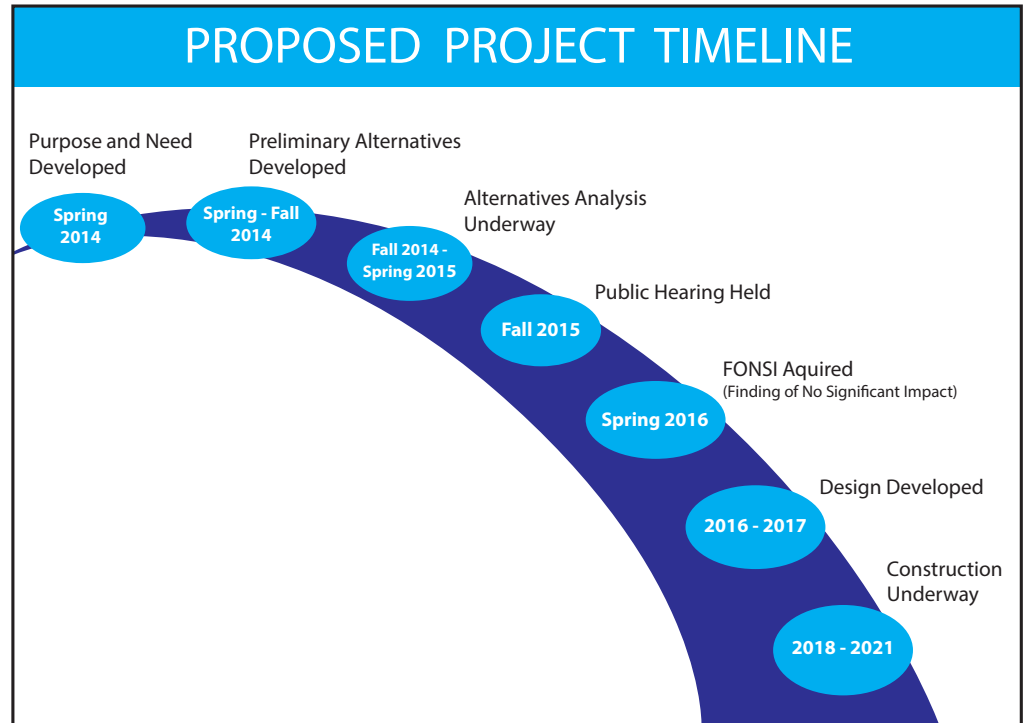
Although the eastbound US 150 bridge has been rehabilitated, the basic structure is over 70 years-old and is approaching the end of its serviceable life. Weather, vehicle use, age, and salt used in snow removal have caused deterioration. Also, the existing average daily traffic use of over 20,000 eastbound vehicles predicts that the current two-lane bridge will be insufficient for accommodating future traffic needs. These factors indicate the need for another rehabilitation, or complete reconstruction, of the original southern bridge.

IDOT has contracted with the joint venture project team of T.Y. Lin International and Hanson Professional Services Inc. to complete the McClugage Bridge project preliminary engineering and design, including engaging stakeholders and the public throughout the process.



PROJECT PROCESS

The project process will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which requires agencies to consider impacts on social, cultural, environmental, and economic resources. The goal of the process is to identify a solution that addresses the project's transportation needs and respects the natural and human environment. Thus, public participation and input is an essential part of the McClugage Bridge Project. IDOT will work with the FHWA to ensure that federal requirements are met, including those under NEPA.



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Stakeholder and public involvement will be guided by the Illinois Department of Transportation's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) policy. CSS is an approach to project study and planning that helps ensure the recommended alternative of a project "fits" into the area's surroundings and balances costs, safety, commuter needs, environmental impacts and the project's goals. Stakeholder involvement is critical to this approach and helps build awareness and understanding.

IDOT will be hosting a public informational meeting in the summer of 2014 to present information about the project and to obtain feedback. The exact date and time have not yet been decided.

Meanwhile if you have any questions, please contact:

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