

## State of Illinois Pat Quinn, Governor

## **Illinois Department of Transportation**

Ann L. Schneider, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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September 23, 2013

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## IDOT SEEKS FEEDBACK ON ADVANCING ALTERNATIVES FOR THE I-290 PHASE I STUDY

## PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES SCHEDULED

**Schaumburg, IL** – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will host a third round of open house public meetings for the I-290 Phase I Study. The study area is located in Cook County, and extends approximately 13 miles, centered along I-290 from the I-88/I-290 split on the west, to Racine Avenue on the east. This corridor passes through eight communities: Chicago, Bellwood, Broadview, Forest Park, Hillside, Maywood, Oak Park, and Westchester.

During the course of the I-290 Phase I Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study, IDOT and project stakeholders have identified the transportation needs in the study area for all modes of travel, including rail, bus, auto and bicycle/pedestrians. IDOT is seeking further stakeholder input on the study progress to date and the four multimodal alternatives advancing into the third round of evaluation.

All four alternatives stay within the existing walled section ("trench") in the Oak Park area.

The public open house meetings will be held at the following times and locations:

Monday, October 7, 2013 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Chicago Marriott at Medical District 625 S. Ashland Avenue Chicago, IL 60607 Tuesday, October 8, 2013 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Proviso Math and Science Academy 8601 Roosevelt Road Forest Park, Illinois 60130

The purpose of these meetings will be to obtain feedback on interchange design and improved pedestrian and bicycle access concepts and the four alternatives, as well as present CTA's long-term Blue Line Vision Study. The meetings will be in an open house format, and interested persons may attend **anytime between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.** There will be a continuous PowerPoint presentation, and attendees will have the opportunity to view study exhibits and speak with IDOT and study team representatives on a one-on-one basis. A question and answer forum will be held at 6:00 p.m. each day.



IDOT is also teaming with the CTA to enhance transit planning in the I-290 corridor. The Blue Line Vision Study is intended to determine a long-term planning strategy for the Blue Line Forest Park Branch, and will involve the assessment of transit and highway integrated improvements, regional mobility issues, and the identification of funding sources and future collaboration opportunities.

These meetings will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance should contact Lily Escarpita 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; TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/or 711; and for telebraille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.

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