



# Connections



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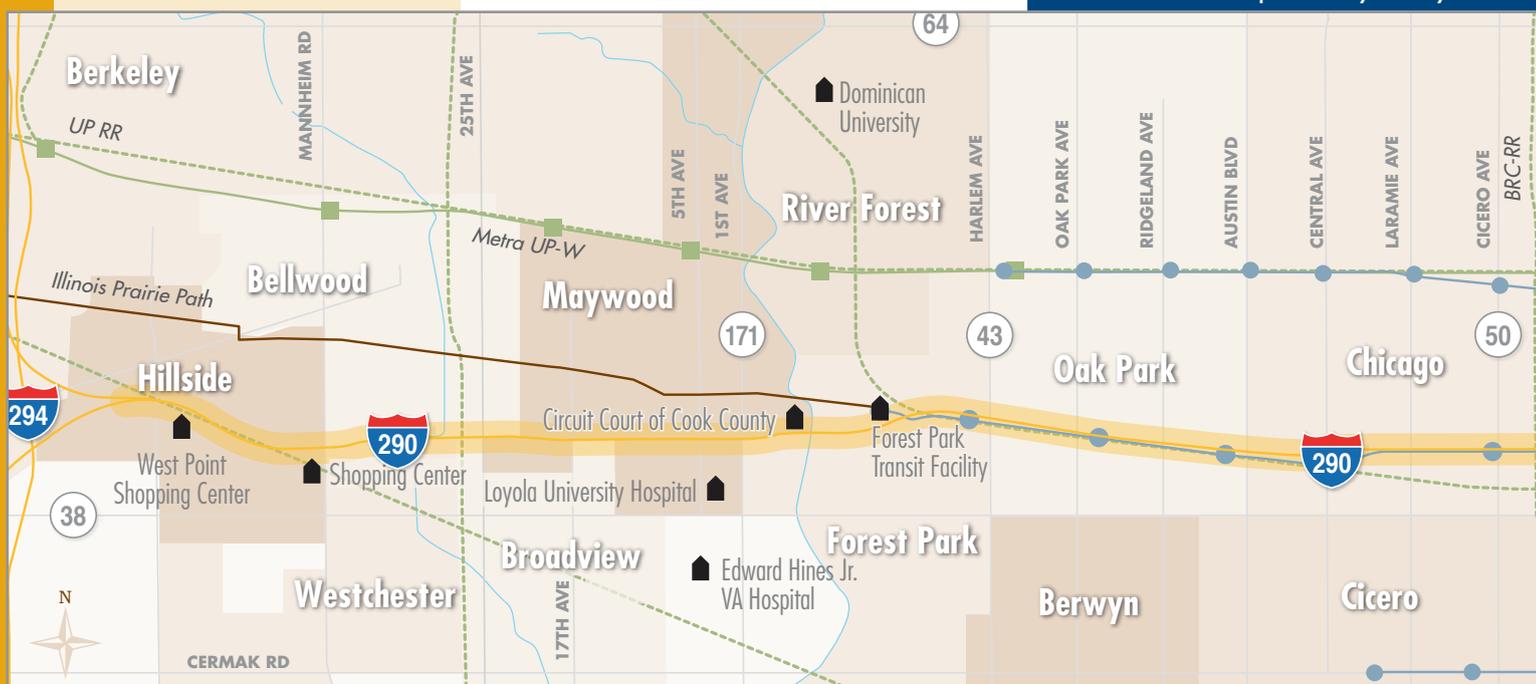
## What is the I-290 planning process?

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) initiated the I-290 Eisenhower Expressway Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Study in Fall 2009.

The study area is bound by I-294 on the west, Cicero Avenue (IL 50) on the east, North Avenue (IL 64) to the north, and Roosevelt Road (IL 38) to the South.

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Eisenhower Expressway Study Area



# Connections

## What is the I-290 planning process?

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The planning process, which will be completed in 2013, has many steps, including data collection, identifying transportation needs, developing and evaluating alternatives, and selecting a preferred alternative. The process begins at a broad level of detail, with engineering and environmental features added as the process advances. 

### I-290 Environmental Impact Statement Planning Process



## Transportation Needs Identified

Since beginning the planning process, IDOT has gathered traffic counts, environmental data, drainage information, crash data as well as important information from stakeholders to define the transportation needs in the study area. This was combined with an extensive technical evaluation of the transportation system. Some of the key findings include:

- Severe congestion along I-290, which is over capacity for up to 17 hours per day
- Severe local congestion, with I-290 interchanges and local arterials experiencing congestion
- Congested conditions are hindering access to employment
- Safety concerns along I-290, with over 6,000 crashes over a three year period, and crash hot spots at 25th, Harlem, and Austin
- Need for improving connections between modes; CTA stations lack adequate space for efficiently connecting to auto, bike, and pedestrian
- Facility condition and design – aging pavement and bridges, substandard design elements for roadway, transit, bike/pedestrians, and drainage

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# Study Process Moving into Alternatives Development Phase

## INITIAL ALTERNATIVES DEVELOPMENT AND EVALUATION

The combination of stakeholder input and technical analysis provides the foundation for the identification, development, and evaluation of potential project alternative solutions. We are currently at the beginning stages of the "Initial Alternatives Development and Evaluation" step in the study process. This step will consist of three 'rounds' of screening, each progressing at greater levels of detail related to transportation performance, engineering design, potential impacts, and cost. At each step of the screening process, the suggested alternatives will be analyzed and compared, advancing the higher performing and less impacting alternatives to the next evaluation step for more detailed review.

### Round 1

**Purpose and Need test**

Does an alternative address the transportation needs?

### Round 2

- Develop combination alternatives
- Add detail
- Assess travel performance, impacts & costs
- Reduce list of alternatives

### Round 3

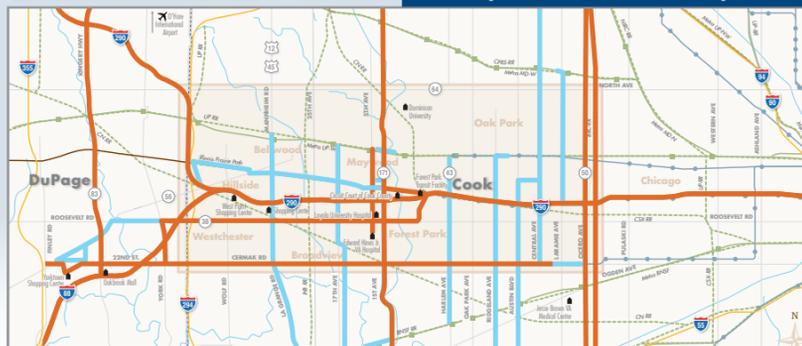
- Refine alternatives
- Reassess travel performance, impacts & costs



Full lists of suggested alternatives by mode are available on the project website and will be presented at the upcoming public meeting on May 18th.

The general location, alignment, and configuration of suggested alternatives are being established to allow for travel demand modeling. "Footprints" of alternatives are also being defined to determine the physical feasibility of fitting an alternative in the suggested location and to identify any significant flaws or potential impacts.

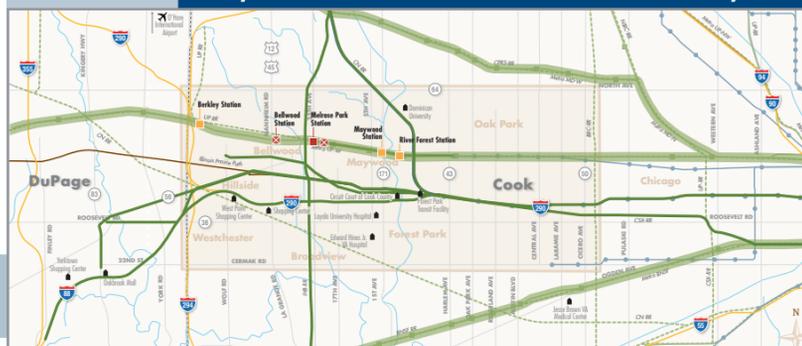
### Bus Rapid Transit - Local and Express Bus



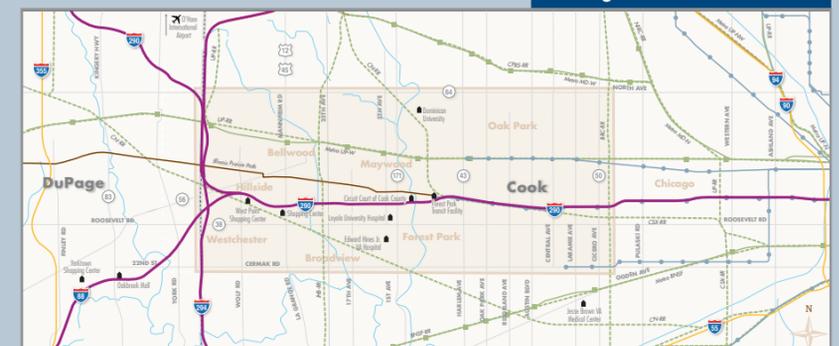
### Traffic Management



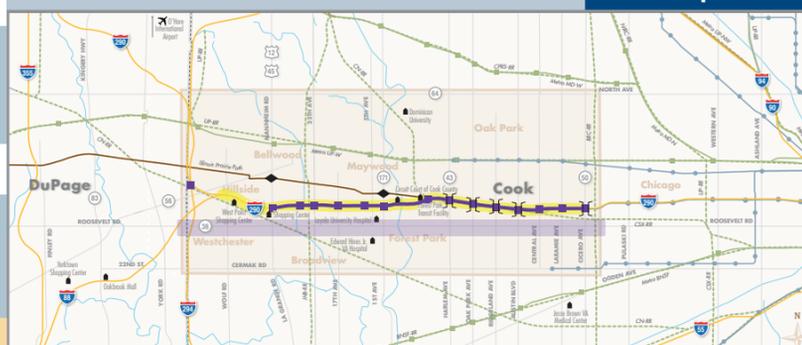
### Heavy Rail Transit - Commuter Rail - Automated Guideway Transit



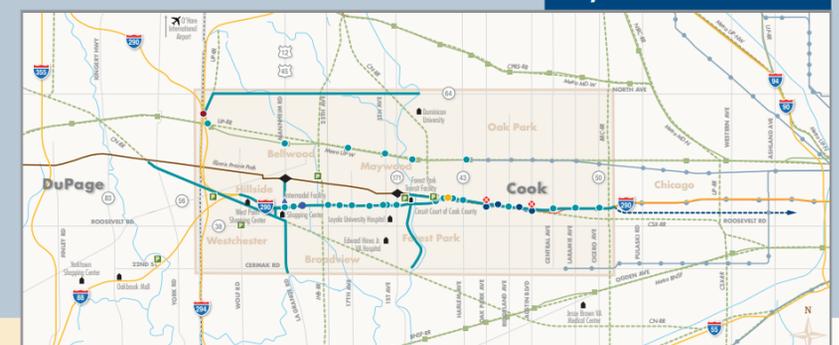
### Managed Lanes - HOV - HOT



### Arterial Improvements



### Bicycle - Pedestrian - Other



## Initial Alternatives Suggestions

Ideas for improving transportation in the I-290 corridor have been suggested by stakeholders since beginning the study process, and a more formal step was undertaken at a workshop on December 2, 2010. Over 170 suggested alternatives have been offered, and include ideas such as:

- **Transit** — CTA Blue Line Extension to the west, bus rapid transit, express bus, commuter rail, light rail
- **Highway improvements** — add a general purpose lane, car pool lanes, congestion pricing
- **Bicycle and Pedestrian improvements** — add bike lanes, new non-motorized crossings of I-290, new multi-use paths, improved sidewalks and access to transit
- **Arterial street improvements**
- **Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS), Travel Demand Management strategies (TDM)**



## PARTICIPATE IN THE SOLUTION!

What is CSS?

» **CSS is frequent and meaningful participation.**

» **CSS considers transportation factors, environmental factors, community factors, stakeholder input.**

IDOT's Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) designation for this project involves extensive public outreach efforts to the affected stakeholders, including users of the facility from within and beyond the study area. The study has now reached another key milestone with the development of initial project alternatives, and **public participation has never been more important.** Your meaningful and continued involvement in the I-290 Phase I Study is strongly encouraged. Check our website for project updates, sign up for the mailing list, and send comments or contact us at the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Highway-District One, Attn: Mark Peterson, 201 W. Center Court, Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096. Telephone: Mark Peterson at 847-705-4569 Fax: 847-705-4159. 

## Transportation Needs Identified

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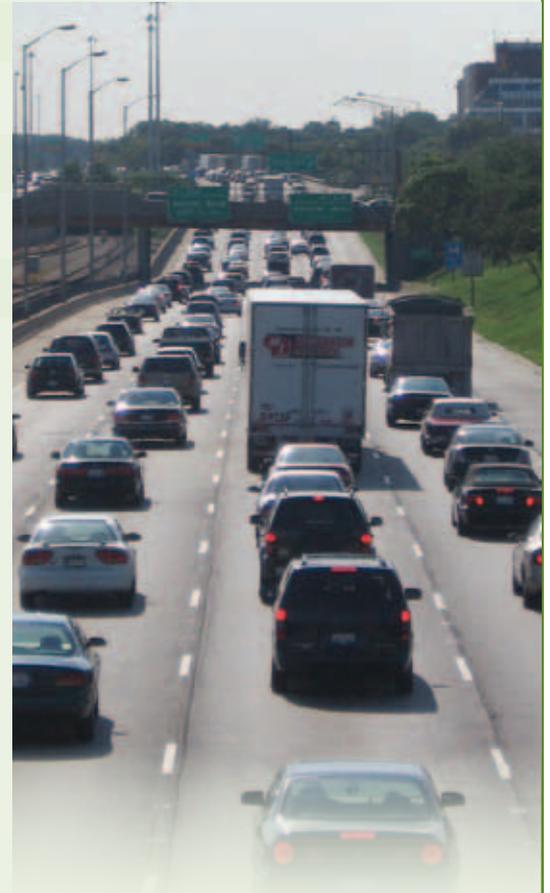
This information was used to develop the project "Purpose and Need", which is a concise statement of the transportation problems that will be addressed.

- Improve local and regional travel
- Improve access to employment
- Improve safety for all users
- Improve modal connections and opportunities
- Improve facility deficiencies

The result of this work was published in the Existing System Transportation Performance (ESTP) report. The ESTP report is available on the project website under "Information Center/Reports".

A draft Purpose and Need statement has been developed and will be available for review at the upcoming Public Meeting and is available at [www.eisenhowerexpressway.com](http://www.eisenhowerexpressway.com).

We will build on all of this work as we move into the alternatives development phase by continuing to work with stakeholders to identify possible transportation alternatives and potential evaluation criteria. 



## Next Steps:

*IDOT encourages input from stakeholders at the upcoming public meeting, and requests comments by June 1, 2011 in order to be part of the public meeting record. This input will be used along with the results of the technical evaluation of the initial alternatives, such as bus rapid transit systems, heavy rail transit (CTA Blue Line), managed lanes, and other alternatives, to assemble sets of combination or multi-modal alternatives.*

*Over the next several months, the project study team will continue work with stakeholders to evaluate the preliminary range of possible alternatives. After initial evaluation and screening, alternatives will be selected for further development and detailed analysis.* 

# YOU'RE INVITED, AND WE WANT YOUR PERSPECTIVE!

IDOT is hosting an open house public meeting and is seeking further stakeholder input on the identified project needs as well as the initial list of alternatives.



*The Open House Public Meeting will be held:*

**Wednesday, May 18, 2011**  
**4:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

**Proviso Math and Science Academy**  
**8601 Roosevelt Road**  
**Forest Park, Illinois 60130**

The meeting will be an open house format, and interested persons may attend anytime between 4:00 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. The Open House will be accessible by transit: Pace bus routes 301 and 308 depart from the CTA Forest Park Blue Line Station and stop at the Roosevelt Road/1st Avenue stop at the front of the school. Other suggested transit routes can be found at [www.pacebus.com](http://www.pacebus.com) or [www.transitchicago.com](http://www.transitchicago.com).

This meeting will be accessible to handicapped individuals. Anyone needing specific 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 Braille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.



  
Illinois Department  
of Transportation  
Eisenhower Expressway Project  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
Division of Highways - District One  
201 W. Center Court  
Schaumburg, Illinois 60196

