

Citizens for Appropriate Transportation Action Alert

May 5, 2011

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is holding a Public Meeting on Wednesday May 18, from 4 to 8 PM, at the Proviso Math and Science Academy at the northeast corner of Roosevelt Road and First Avenue. Plan to spend 45 to 60 minutes to listen to IDOT's presentation, view the exhibits, ask questions, and make comments. It is important to attend so that IDOT hears all our concerns.

The focus of the meeting is the Purpose and Need Statement and the initial list of project alternatives.

The Purpose and Need Statement does not adequately cover critical economic, social, environmental, and land use issues.

- We have a high unemployment rate. Both roads and transit provide access to jobs.
- High activity land uses, such as shopping centers, educational institutions, and medical centers need good accessibility to be successful.
- Good transit service means a better quality for life for families without cars, young children, and senior citizens.
- The expressway has a negative impact on air quality and noise.
- The Year 2040 No-Build Scenario, projects a 43 percent increase in employment, but only a 3 percent increase in traffic. IDOT's explanation for difference is not persuasive.

For the Project Alternatives, consider making the following points:

- Extending the CTA Blue Line provides greater person-capacity than widening the expressway.
- Multi-modal solutions work better than single mode solutions.
- CTA Blue Line station platforms are not wide enough to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. IDOT should not recommend any option that prevents the CTA from widening the platforms.
- The Prairie Path is not a good option for rail or bus transit. There are better options.
- Extend the eastern Study Area Boundary to Wells Street or Michigan Avenue.

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