

Final Environmental Impact Statement

Prairie Parkway Study

Grundy, Kendall, and Kane Counties, Illinois



**Illinois Department
of Transportation**

PRAIRIE PARKWAY STUDY

GRUNDY, KENDALL, AND KANE COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c)

by the

US Department of Transportation

Federal Highway Administration

and

Illinois Department of Transportation

Cooperating Agencies

US Army Corps of Engineers

US Environmental Protection Agency

US Fish and Wildlife Service

Illinois Department of Agriculture

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

Illinois Historic Preservation Agency

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Date of Approval

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Date of Approval

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ABSTRACT: The proposed action is construction of an access-controlled, four-lane freeway in Grundy, Kendall, and Kane counties, Illinois between I-80 and I-88 and the widening of IL-47 to four lanes from I-80 to Caton Farm Road. The freeway section of the Preferred Alternative, Alternative B5 with IL-47 Widening, will be 37.1 miles long. The IL-47 widening will be 11.5 miles long. The proposed action will improve regional mobility, address local road system deficiencies, improve access from the study area to regional jobs, and improve safety. The proposed action will result in the relocation of 21 residences. It will require 2,634 acres of new right-of-way and other land purchases associated with land locked parcels and uneconomical remnants. The majority of required land is used for agriculture; the project will require 2,593 acres of agricultural soils. Approximately 2.3 acres of wetlands affected will be impacted. Mitigation is being provided for upland forest (51 acres) and wetland impacts as part of the project.

Foreword

1.0 Condensed Final EIS

The report that follows is organized as a Condensed Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Using this approach is consistent with Federal Highway Administration Technical Advisory 6640.8A, material that is unchanged from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) is incorporated by reference. This FEIS, consequently, provides more emphasis on new information or changed conditions since the DEIS was published, avoiding the unnecessary repetition of material from the DEIS. The format of the FEIS remains parallel to that of the DEIS so that major sections correspond in both documents.

Each major section of the FEIS briefly summarizes the information provided in the DEIS with citation provided to the appropriate section, table or figure where the information is found. A copy (CD) of the DEIS is included with the FEIS for this purpose.

Three new sections and four new appendices have been added to the FEIS. Section 3.5 presents the basis for selection of the preferred alternative, while Sections 7.3.1 and 7.3.2 summarize the results of the December 2006, February 2007, and July 2007 public hearings. Four new appendices are included with the FEIS. Appendix M is found in Volume 3 with the remainder, Appendices N through P, included in Volume 4:

- Appendix M: DEIS Comments and Responses;
- Appendix N: Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) Project Level Hot-Spot Analysis Report;
- Appendix O: Water Quality Information; and
- Appendix P: Road Closure Comments and Responses.

2.0 DEIS Changes and Additions

The FEIS also includes additional information and analyses. Included among the changes and additions from the DEIS are:

- The results of additional 2007 water resources field studies completed by the Illinois Natural History Survey and expanded impact analyses to water resources;
- A clarification of regional benefits for the identified project needs to be served by the proposed transportation system improvements;
- Mainline and crossroad design refinements and associated right-of-way changes in response to comments on the DEIS (see Exhibits 2 - 4 in Volume 2 of the FEIS);
- Rationale for selecting the Preferred Alternative; and
- The findings of the Fine Particulate Matter (PM_{2.5}) Project Level Hot-Spot Analysis.

Limitation on Claims Notice, 23 USC Section 139(l)

A Federal agency may publish a notice in the Federal Register, pursuant to 23 USC §139(l), indicating that one or more Federal agencies have taken final action on permits, licenses, or approvals for a transportation project. If such notice is published, claims seeking judicial review of those Federal agency actions will be barred unless such claims are filed within 180 days after the date of publication of the notice, or within such shorter time period as is specified in the Federal laws pursuant to which judicial review of the Federal agency action is allowed. If no notice is published, then the periods of time that otherwise are provided by the Federal laws governing such claims will apply.