



Will County

2040 LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Summer 2015 Newsletter

Will County is on the Move!



Earlier this year, Will County initiated a critical update to the County's Long Range Transportation Plan. Led by the Will County Division of Transportation (DOT) and with the support of partnering agencies, this update, known as "**Will Connects 2040**", will evaluate the needs of our transportation system in light of future population and employment growth.

Six months into the planning process we're making significant progress and have received invaluable input from the public, including residents, workers, business owners, transit users, bicyclists, and others, who have

shared their thoughts through the project [website](#) or through any of the five Open Houses held this Spring. This input is helping shape a Plan which truly reflects the current and future needs of the County. We appreciate all of those who participated.

If you have not provided input yet, there's still time. This summer we begin our second phase of work and we'll once again invite people to share their thoughts for improving our transportation system.

Now through early October, an [interactive survey](#) is available on the project website and later this Fall we will schedule another round of Open Houses to highlight and get feedback on what we've compiled so far.

Whether Will County is your home, where you work, or your place of business -- your voice matters. I am committed to proactively planning for beneficial growth in Will County so that residents and businesses can prosper here and continue to enjoy a high quality of life. By working together, we can sustain Will County's track record of success and work toward meeting the needs of the future.

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive

Take our [survey](#) and provide input about YOUR travel preferences for the future! Learn more about how you can get involved at www.WillConnects2040.org.



What's Next? Share Your Thoughts

Take our survey! online now through October 10, 2015. We want to know YOUR preferences for future transportation improvements. Your input will help shape future transportation in the County so **WEIGH IN TODAY!**

Will County Division
of Transportation
16841 W. Laraway
Joliet, IL 60433
T 815.727.8476

Advisory Committee Helps Guide Plan

Will County DOT has enlisted key civic and business leaders, and transportation professionals from local, regional, and statewide agencies to help guide the **Will Connects 2040** planning process. Meeting regularly, transportation partners share their expertise and insight to oversee development of the Will Connects 2040 Plan.

Working together, the Advisory Committee has developed a Strategic Direction, including a **Vision for Transportation** defining where we want to be in the future along with specific goals to help us get there. Our Strategic Direction is our foundation for moving forward with implementation strategies that help us achieve our Vision and Goals. For more information about **Will Connects 2040**, visit: www.WillConnects2040.org.

Over the next few months, the Advisory Committee will assist in developing a comprehensive project list, including capacity projects (widening existing roads and constructing new ones) and preservation projects (repairing existing roads and bridges), and determining investment priorities. The Advisory Committee will also guide development of different modeling scenarios to understand the potential impacts of select capacity projects.

Will County Holds 5 Open Houses

Earlier this spring, Will County DOT hosted five public **Open Houses** across the County in Joliet, Wilmington, New Lenox, University Park, and Romeoville. These Open Houses gave the public an opportunity to learn more about key issues, opportunities and challenges affecting the transportation system and to offer input. Participants viewed and shared their thoughts about information that was displayed and provided input at interactive stations. There are many viewpoints and Open Houses provided a face-to-face opportunity for the public to be heard and help shape the future Plan. Thanks to all who attended – and watch for news about more Open Houses planned later this Fall!



91% online survey responses

1,698

visits to website survey

5

OPEN HOUSES

209

WRITTEN COMMENTS SUBMITTED

Activity Station Input:

542

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK!



Assessing Needs Today, Preparing for Tomorrow

We've been busy analyzing existing conditions and developing a Strategic Direction. Next, we will focus on looking ahead to the future of travel in the County, what we want the transportation system to look like, and what types of projects will get us there.

We encourage you to continue to both **stay informed and stay involved** in this important planning process!

What We Heard

Your input tells us where challenges and opportunities lie ahead so that we can consider and incorporate them as we continue to develop **Will Connects 2040**. We've heard from many of you since **Will Connects 2040** started – through our website, our first online survey, and in-person at our five Open Houses. You've told us that addressing truck and rail freight – and associated issues related to feeling safe alongside trucks, congestion and delay, and the ability to foster quality communities – is a high priority. We also understand that many parts of the County need congestion relief and better mobility, but the high cost of roadway investments and their potential impact on the environment and on communities is a concern. You've also told us you want better connectivity, more travel options, and a commitment to bicycle facilities and sidewalks.

Newsletter is available in Spanish.