

OLYMPIAN DRIVE

EXTENSION : Update

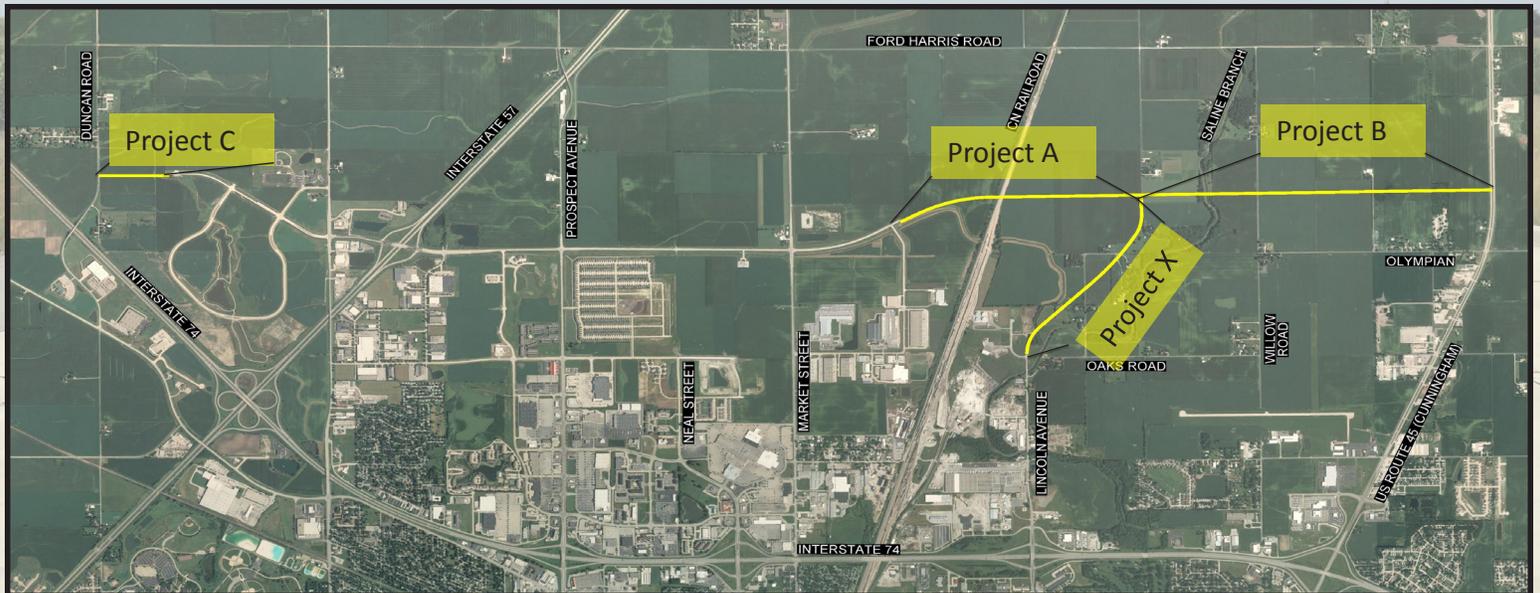
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT ADVANCES DESIGN PHASE

The Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase recently took a major step forward when elected officials from the cities of Urbana and Champaign and Champaign County approved an intergovernmental agreement. This agreement allows the engineering to be completed, land acquisition to begin and secures the funding for Projects A and C. Project A is a design and construction project for Olympian Drive from Apollo Drive to Lincoln Avenue. Project C is a design and construction project for Olympian Drive from 1400 feet west of Champian Avenue to Duncan Road. "Now that all entities, together with the Illinois Department of Transportation, are working together and moving forward, we can get into more of the design and details of the projects," says Matt Heyen of Hanson Professional Services, Inc., which is updating the design study and preparing construction documents.

Area officials chose not to move forward with Project B at this time, which involved extending Olympian Drive from Lincoln Avenue to U.S. Route 45. While obtaining feedback from the community, project officials learned that some landowners, as well as some municipal and county leaders, felt Project B was not a current priority.

Designing Projects A and C and acquiring the necessary land will cost approximately \$16.5 million, all of which will come from state and federal sources. No local tax dollars will be involved. However, if additional funding is needed, Urbana, Champaign and Champaign County officials will need to amend the intergovernmental agreement accordingly.

The engineering design work for Projects A and C should be completed in 2012. Construction will start after right-of-way acquisition and easements are secured and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Funding is approved through the ICC petition process, for the construction of a bridge over the Canadian National railroad tracks.



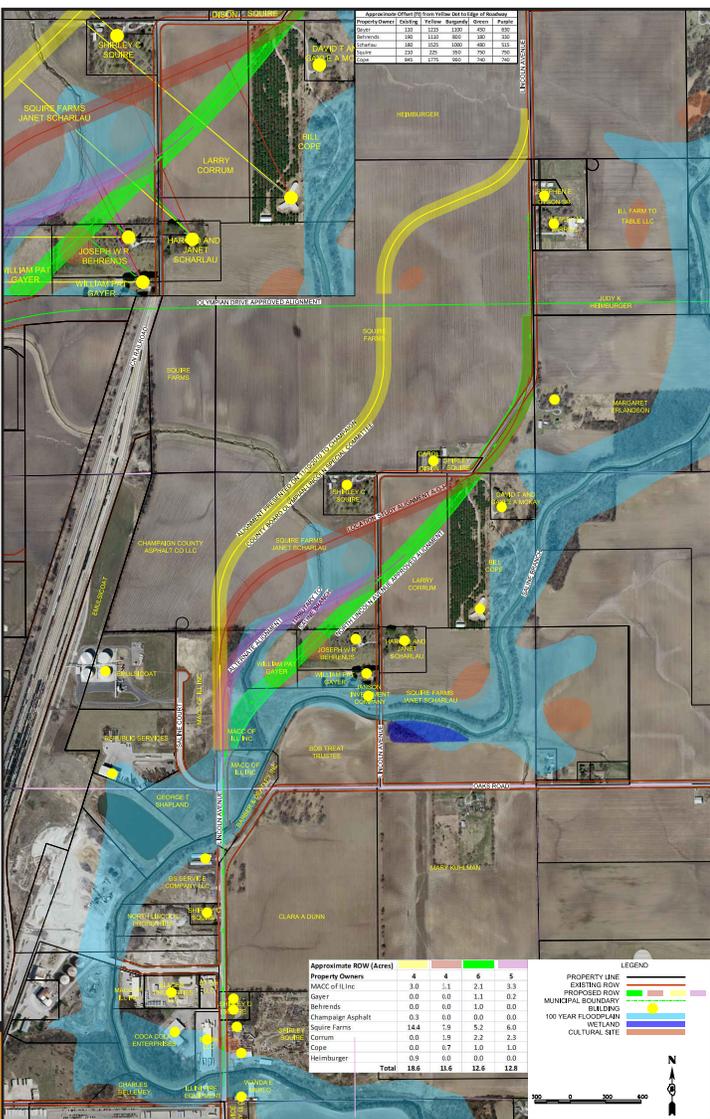
NORTH LINCOLN AVENUE PROJECT OUTGROWTH OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Public input on the Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase has led to another separate project that will be studied – Project X, better known as North Lincoln Avenue. This project will involve updating the previously approved alignment along North Lincoln Avenue between Saline Court and Olympian Drive. During the public engagement process, many citizens and community leaders said that this North Lincoln Avenue extension would provide a needed north-south connection to Olympian Drive. Officials then worked with landowners to determine an alignment further away from some adjacent homes.

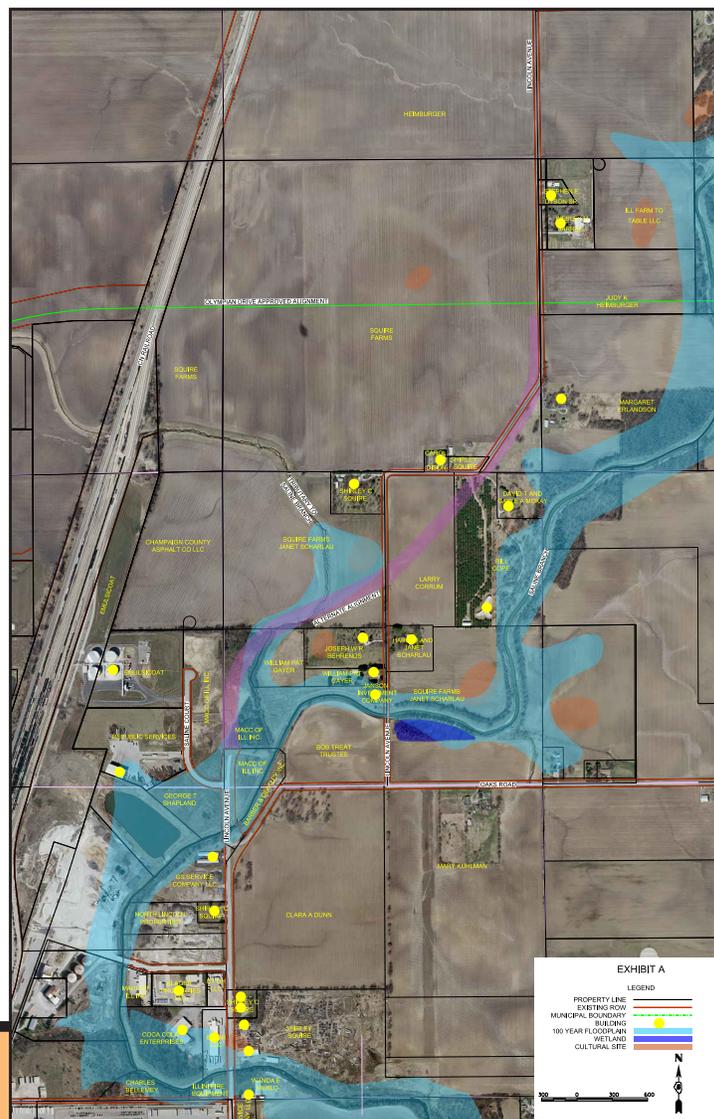
“The addition of North Lincoln Avenue shows that the public engagement process is important,” says Bill Gray, Director of Public Works for the City of Urbana. “Citizen input definitely influenced the project.”

It will cost approximately \$120,000 to update the study of North Lincoln Avenue. Fifty (50) percent of the funding will come from the federal government with the 50% local match being split between the City of Urbana and Champaign County. Hanson Professional Services, Inc. will conduct this study update. The engineering firm is awaiting approval from the Illinois Department of Transportation to begin. Once approval is received, the location study for North Lincoln Avenue will take 12-18 months to complete.

Alignment Options Reviewed



Revised Study Alignment



PROJECT A TO INCLUDE ROUNDABOUT AND BRIDGE CROSSING

The majority of the Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase work centers on Project A, which will extend Olympian Drive from Apollo Drive to Lincoln Avenue with a two-lane road. Part of the work includes conducting a formal intersection design study for a roundabout at Lincoln and Olympian. A roundabout directs road traffic to travel counterclockwise around a central island. Signs alert traffic entering the circle to slow down and give the right-of-way to vehicles already in the roundabout. Because of the lower speeds, statistics show that roundabouts are safer for drivers and pedestrians than traditional intersections. Hanson Professional Services, Inc. is currently designing the approach alignments and profiles and is coordinating with the Illinois Department of Transportation to finalize the design.



Bridge Crossing Over Railroad Tracks Next Step

A critical segment of Project A is crossing the Canadian National railroad tracks. Currently, there are five tracks and the Olympian Drive Extension design team must petition the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) for approval to build a two-lane bridge across them. The ICC is responsible for all railroad grade crossings in the State of Illinois. The \$9 million needed to construct the bridge has already been allocated; however, the money cannot be released until the ICC approves the bridge crossing. Petitioning the ICC for approval is a legal process; thus, it is hard to determine how long it will take. The design team is filing its petition this fall.



STEERING COMMITTEE

Representatives from the Cities of Urbana and Champaign, Champaign County and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) are leading the Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase. They are:

- **Rita Morocoima-Black** – Champaign County Regional Planning Commission Director of Planning and Community Development
- **Jeff Blue** – Champaign County Engineer
- **Dave Clark** – City of Champaign Assistant City Engineer
- **Bill Gray** – City of Urbana Public Works Director
- **Darla Latham** – IDOT Region 3, District 5, Federal Aid Coordinator
- **Dennis Markwell** – IDOT Region 3, District 5, Program Development Engineer
- **Cameron Moore** – Champaign County Regional Planning Commission, Executive Director
- **Dennis Schmidt** – City of Champaign Public Works Director

- **David Speicher** – IDOT Region 3, District 5, Local Roads Engineer
- **Elizabeth Tyler** – City of Urbana Community Development Director
- **Roland White** – City of Champaign City Engineer

Committee members hired a consulting team, led by Hanson Professional Services, Inc. of Springfield, IL., to provide design engineering and public engagement services. The team includes:

- **Berns, Clancy and Associates** (Urbana, IL)
- **Clark Dietz** (Champaign, IL)
- **James H. Webster and Associates, Ltd.** (Urbana, IL)
- **Midwest Engineering and Testing, Inc.** (Champaign, IL)
- **Vector Communications** (St. Louis, MO)
- **Whitsitt & Associates, Inc.** (Champaign, IL)

DATE TO BE SET FOR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING

The next public meeting for the Olympian Drive Extension Design Phase will be scheduled once all the engineering and environmental updates are completed and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) has approved the bridge crossing design for the Canadian National railroad tracks. The updates include: bike and pedestrian accommodations; the intersection design study at Olympian Drive and Lincoln Avenue; a summary of the Beaver Lake drainage report; design criteria; cost estimates; and traffic projections. "We decided it would be better to wait and have all the information before presenting it to the public for comment," says Bill Gray, Director of Public Works for the City of Urbana. Depending on how long it takes to get the ICC's approval, it could be early 2012 before the next public open house.

