



McHenry County

Division of Transportation

Joseph R. Korpalski, Jr., P.E.
Director of Transportation/County Engineer

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

City of McHenry and McHenry County Obtain Design Approval for Charles J. Miller Road Phase I from the Illinois Department of Transportation

The City of McHenry and the McHenry County Division of Transportation (MCDOT) are pleased to inform the public that design approval has been received for the Charles J. Miller Road Improvement Study concluding the Phase I Preliminary Environmental and Engineering Study. Since 2006, the City of McHenry and the McHenry County Division of Transportation have been evaluating alternatives to address the congestion on the segment of Miller Road between Illinois Route 31 and River Road. Public meetings were held throughout the project to gather public input on the proposed alternative. This regional improvement will address the existing and projected traffic congestion and safety at the Illinois Route 31/Miller Road intersection as well as on Miller Road as it continues over the Fox River to River Road.

The proposed project includes the construction of a new bridge over the Fox River, immediately north of the existing bridge, for westbound lanes as the existing bridge will be used for the eastbound lanes. Miller Road will be widened to 2 travel lanes in each direction between Illinois Route 31 and River Road with a barrier median separating them to allow for left turn channelization at intersections. Turn lanes and travel lanes will also be added at the Illinois Route 31, Green Street, and River Road intersections. The existing shared-use path on the south side of Miller road will also be reconstructed and extended to Green Street where it will connect with the City of McHenry's bike path system north on Green Street.

Construction on the proposed \$25 million project could begin as early as 2011 depending on the availability of funding and the progress of land acquisition which is required to construct the project. The project is being funded with a combination of local dollars and Federal funds secured through Congresswoman Melissa Bean. Approximately 11 acres from 30 different parcels will be required to construct the entire project. The MCDOT will assume the lead agency role on the design engineering and preparation of contracts plans which are anticipated to begin later this spring.

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