



## I-55 STUDY

LORENZO ROAD + IL 129



## Changes Ahead for I-55 Interchanges

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is enhancing the interchanges at Lorenzo Road and at IL 129 along I-55 in Will County, near Wilmington, Illinois. This initiative follows several years of evaluation and a virtual public outreach event aimed at gathering community feedback.

In 2018, IDOT initiated preliminary engineering and environmental studies to evaluate and address improvements needed for I-55 from Lorenzo Road to IL 113 (Coal City Road) in Will County. This study, conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), seeks to identify solutions that address the area's transportation needs while minimizing environmental impact.

The study area, located in Wilmington Township, stretches approximately 4.8 miles and includes the interchanges at Lorenzo Road and IL 129. Notably, the study area is just south of where I-55 crosses the Kankakee River, with the municipalities of Braidwood, Diamond, and Wilmington nearby.

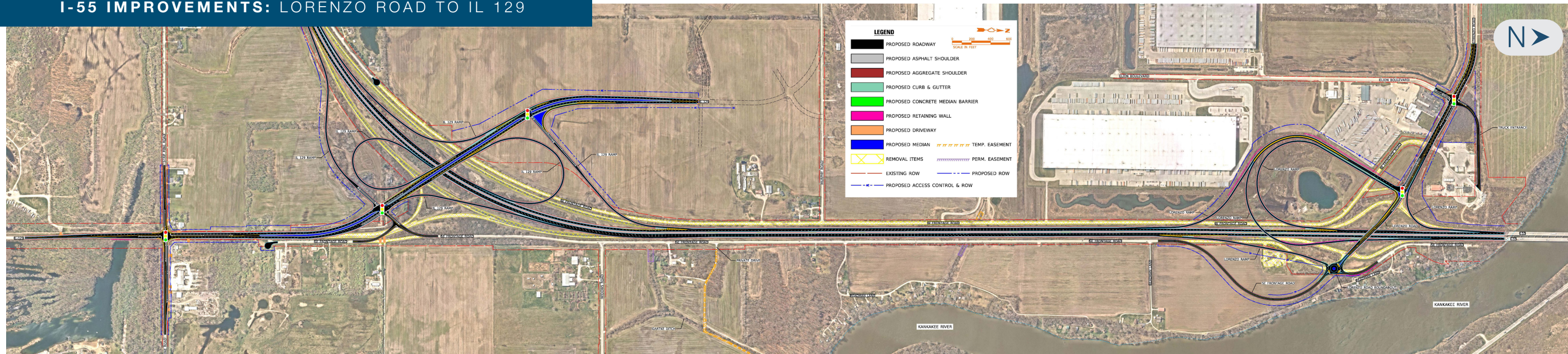
## PURPOSE & NEED

The project aims to improve safety, facility condition, and interchange operations on I-55 between Lorenzo Road and IL 113. The key **needs** to be addressed include **improving**:

- ➔ Safety for all users
- ➔ Facility condition and design
- ➔ Regional & local travel and access

*All public  
hearing materials  
are available for  
viewing on the  
study website.*





## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Currently, the Lorenzo Road interchange has some design shortcomings. The northbound entrance ramp does not meet current speed design criteria, and the minimum length of ramps without auxiliary lanes is insufficient

for both the northbound entrance and southbound exit ramps.

The IL 129 interchange also has its limitations. It lacks access to the west side of I-55 and does not provide an entrance or exit ramp for southbound I-55. Southbound traffic must exit eastbound at IL 113 to reach IL 129.

### Environmental Impacts

We evaluated how the proposed improvement might affect the environment and were mindful of these important resources:

- Wetlands
- Floodplains
- Potential Threatened and Endangered Species
- Residential & Commercial Displacements
- Noise



## PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

The proposed design was carefully chosen from the initial options and refined through detailed geometric analysis. This plan includes enhancements aimed at improving traffic capacity and operational efficiency.

Based on traffic projections provided by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), both interchanges will be over capacity by 2050, resulting in safety and operational deficiencies, and the ramps will fail to provide acceptable traffic flow. These projections informed the need for refining the previously proposed improvements.

The IL 129 interchange design was reverted to a partial clover leaf and enhanced with loop ramps in the northwest and southeast quadrants. These adjustments were designed to facilitate smoother

westbound to southbound and eastbound to northbound movements, which are projected to experience heavy truck movement. This modification was chosen for its operational performance compared to previous configurations.

Additionally, the intersection of the east ramps at Lorenzo Road were redesigned to incorporate a roundabout with the east frontage road, further optimizing traffic flow at this critical junction. These refinements ensure that the proposed improvements effectively meet the project's objectives while enhancing overall traffic operations.



### Did you know?

**Roundabouts** are considerably safer for drivers and pedestrians and cause much less congestion than traffic lights.



# Project Phases



## FUNDING

FY 2025-2030 Proposed Highway Improvement Program Includes \$149,500,000 for improvements to I-55 at Lorenzo Road & at IL 129.

## Leave a comment!

Project team members will be present to discuss the project and answer questions. A court reporter will be available for those wishing to make a verbal statement at the hearing. Written comments can also be submitted at the hearing or after via email or mail. Comments received by September 16, 2024, will become part of the official public hearing record. **See below for ways to submit your feedback:**

➔ **Submit your comment on the website at:**  
[i55lorenzoil129outreach.org](https://i55lorenzoil129outreach.org)

➔ **Email your comment to:**  
[lorenzoil129study@gmail.com](mailto:lorenzoil129study@gmail.com)

➔ **Send your thoughts by mail to:**

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Bureau of Programming  
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