



MOVING WILL COUNTY

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2020:
YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

What is the planning-level truck route network?

The Moving Will County project will develop recommendations for truck routes in the study area. This planning exercise allows local stakeholders to identify roadways where trucks are preferred to travel, as well as roadways where trucks are not preferred to travel. Designating a truck route may not necessarily increase truck traffic on that road. In many cases, trucks already use the roads recommended as truck routes, and may even have lawful access to do so under state law if located near an existing designated truck route or the expressway system. Per state law, designating truck routes provide access for longer trucks – those over 65 feet in length – while shorter trucks are allowed on all roadways unless otherwise prohibited.

Where is this at in the community engagement process?

These truck routes are still in draft format. August 13 through September 18, 2020 is the public commenting period. The purpose of the August 13th public workshop was to introduce the draft truck route network to the public and gather feedback that will be used to revise the routes where possible. Future opportunities will be provided in the coming months for community members to provide feedback on other aspects of the Moving Will County project.

What is the purpose of developing a truck route network?

Proactively designating a truck route sends a clear signal to the trucking industry of where a community wants trucks to travel. It ensures lawful access for larger trucks, provides data used by navigation systems to provide directions to truck drivers, and helps agencies to plan future capital investments in order to design and maintain facilities appropriate for truck movements. Designated truck routes are established by local ordinance or resolution only for roadways under the jurisdiction of the local agency. Capital investments are not required to designate a truck route, although additional capital investments may be appropriate in order to better facilitate truck movement. Truck routes officially designated by local agencies are reported to IDOT and included in the statewide truck route map, which in turn is used by navigation systems to provide directions for truckers.

How are roadways proposed as truck routes?

The proposed truck route network was primarily based on existing truck travel patterns and how to most directly connect industrial areas to interstates while avoiding sensitive areas. In some instances there is no easy solution and there will be tradeoffs with all roadways in determining east-west and north-south corridor(s) that provide these connections. The goal of the proposed network is to balance tradeoffs and identify corridors where there is community consensus for where trucks should and should not go and then provide a guide for municipalities and other agencies to direct capital improvements, especially as related to safety.

What are the next steps regarding truck routing in the Moving Will County project?

The truck route network is just one piece of the puzzle. Besides identifying routes, other elements that the Truck Routing Study will cover include: providing guidance for local communities in designating a truck route with IDOT as well as guidance on having IDOT incorporate the route in truck navigation platforms, developing an investment plan (including recommendations to improve safety), incorporating potential solutions for truck parking, developing strategies to preserve and enhance community livability and mitigate the negative effects of truck routes, and identifying signage/wayfinding improvements to help keep trucks on the appropriate roadways.

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