

SELECTED QUOTES SENT TO IDOT ON THE ALTERNATIVES – NOVEMBER 2013

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) received almost 300 sets of comments that fall into four general categories: Build Alternatives, health, economic, and construction.

Build Alternatives comments focus on the small reduction in congestion given a high construction cost and negative impacts of right-hand side ramps. People opposed to widening outnumber people in favor of widening by a wide margin.

- “None of these plans will reduce the amount of congestion, so what would be the point?” – Julie Chyna
- “The surest way to improve automobile traffic is to get vehicles off the roads and get people onto mass transit.” - Eric Forte
- “Do not widen the Eisenhower. We should not have to sacrifice our community--Oak Park--to make it easier for those working in the city to get to their western suburban homes. They wanted to get away from the city; they should be prepared to spend the necessary time on the highway.” - Steven Kvaal
- “The IDOT proposals to move the 1-290 ramps to the north side of the expressway and elevate them above an additional lane will impact negatively on the Harrison street neighborhood --- what a terrible blow to the investment of our resources and energies as a community!” Rima and Richard M. Schultz
- “You say you're staying in the current ditch but these access lanes will be above grade right next to homes where families with small children and elderly individuals live, work and play—not in the ditch. Sure in the same footprint but it's bringing those vehicles racing and idling right next to people's homes.” - Sue Delsol
- “IDOT's current 4 alternatives are not alternatives in any sense of the word since all 4 are the exact same: adding an additional lane of traffic in each direction. Only the programming of the additional lane differs.” Doug Chien
- “IDOT has decided what it wants to do and is simply acting as if everything citizens and / or critics say makes any difference.” - Elisabeth Muhlenberg
- “IDOT’s presentation at the Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School on October 29, 2013, was pretty much more of the same. As at every meeting they have held with this Village, the information was presented in acronyms, graphs, and blown-up photos which we believe confuse and overwhelm the audience and make it possible to convince everyone the IDOT-favored alternatives are preferable and, most of all, inevitable.” - Lynne and Al Whitaker
- “An I-290 ‘improvement’ that leaves the ‘provision’ for a Blue Line Extension unfunded is not acceptable! An unfunded provision turns into a broken promise.” - Jim Kelly
- “The raised and widened ramps as well as the relocation from the inside to the outside lanes would adversely impact our air quality with ramifications to our health, property values, and neighborhood and village aesthetics.” Leslie Smith

Health comments talk about air and noise pollution.

- “The ramps and the proposed noise wall will be 25 to 35 feet above Harrison Street. In other words in the community, cutting views and acting as a platform for launching particulate into the community.” - John Mac Manus
- “Please consider the health of our children and residents – make this as pollution free as possible.” - Haley Gross

Economic concerns compare benefits with costs.

- “I believe those living further west should not be able to transfer the quality of life costs to affected communities of adding a 4th lane in exchange for their net benefit of reduced commute time. They should pay for the benefit they are receiving.” “I also have a concern with portions of the Ike being raised above grade. If this happens, it negates the benefit of staying within the current ‘ditch.’” - Norma Jenkins
- “Residents who live near the expressway are wondering if the time saved per trip (let alone the disruption to our communities) is worth spending all that money for such little gain.” - Elizabeth Rexford

Construction comments include:

- “What I will not like is any construction that happens during the nighttime when I have to sleep to get up for work the next day. The last time there was 290 construction for 3 weeks I got no sleep because of the loud noises, voices & blaring bright lights that made me think it was daytime when it was only 2AM.” - Anonymous
- “This project will substantially impact the quality of life in my community during the construction period.” - Susan Raphael
- “I also expect the construction period will radically alter my living conditions and make my home unsellable.” - Ron Orzel
- “I can only imagine how well my stucco home will hold up to demolition, truck traffic, dumping, and especially compaction (dynamic compaction will absolutely wreck houses on the street).” - Mike Johnson

Three quotes provide a good summary.

- “Most disturbing is that fact that IDOT appears determined to widen the Ike even though the benefits seem modest, the cost will be outrageous in this time of fiscal crisis, and thousands of Illinois citizens will see the quality of their lives diminished. I love living in Oak Park and I hate to have the State of Illinois force me to move for such dubious benefit.” - Ron Orzel
- “Keep looking for a better solution.” Catherine Jacobs
- “Finally, I have seen no evidence that the plan will significantly decrease commute times or traffic.” “I do not support moving forward without significant modifications to the current plans.” - Tara Mehta

Rick Kuner - Citizens for Appropriate Transportation - December 12, 2013