

## SELECTED QUOTES SENT TO IDOT ON THE ROUND 2 ALTERNATIVES

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) received 84 sets of comments on the Round 2 Combination Alternatives. Comments fall into five general (somewhat overlapping) categories: transit, alternatives, environmental, IDOT's process, and the clarity of IDOT's presentation.

**Transit** comments can be summarized in three phrases: expand transit, extend the CTA Blue Line, and increase transit funding.

**Alternatives** comments (Round 2) object that all Build Alternatives widen the expressway, and say things like don't widen the expressway, stay within the ditch, keep the center ramps, and don't convert one lane to a managed lane each way east of Austin Boulevard. Comments in favor of center ramps outnumber comments in favor of right-hand side ramps by almost 7 to 1. Comments opposing adding lanes outnumber comments in favor of widening by almost 3 to 1.

- "... all ten build alternatives widen the expressway by one lane in either direction. This will make the residential neighborhoods noisier and more polluted." – Judith Eldredge
- "Transit doesn't generally 'crash' so improve the use of the Blue Line to make people safer. And just as use of the Blue Line improved when stops were added to a logical destination ('O'Hare'), so too will extension of the Blue Line to the malls of Oak Brook improve use of the line." - Teresa Powell
- "I am very worried about the effects the expansion will have on property values." - Ana Constantinesu
- "Building an additional lane in each direction is hardly going to put a dent in the congestion." - Karen and Mike Baldwin
- "I am not happy with any of the options provided." – Pamela Brookstein
- "IDOT has not sufficiently justified the need to go from left-hand ramps to right-hand exit ramps." - Mike Johnson

People mention **environmental impacts** frequently, most often citing air and noise pollution, environmental justice, and concern that IDOT has yet to consider environmental impacts.

- "Why does IDOT only care about the quality of life for those who have chosen to live far from where they work?" - Ron Lubelchek
- "I do not look forward to seeing, nor HEARING the cars on the elevated ramps that are closer to my home. And, [air] pollution, the 'invisible' dimension, is an even worse issue. Sound walls, for me, is not a positive solution." - Karen and Mike Baldwin
- IDOT "presented no human or environmental impacts and sparse and unconvincing economic impacts." - Lynne Adams Whitaker and Al Whitaker
- "Extending the reach of a modern, efficient, fast mass transit line makes the best sense from a transportation and environmental perspective." - Richard Rubin

Comments about **IDOT's process** talk about the need for a better set of alternatives and a poor planning process.

- “You owe the citizens of Illinois who will foot the bill for this project a credible answer. It seems to me that two important principles are clashing: people need to be able to get to their jobs and communities need to preserve their quality of life.” - Elisabeth Muhlenberg
- “IDOT has not studied nor established a viable transit option.” - John Mac Manus
- “You’ve locked us in to thinking about just five without being able to explain from a cost or environmental standpoint why these are the best ideas you are capable of generating.” Jim Kelly
- “... the consideration of transit seems to be little more than an afterthought.” William Peterman

Some people complained about the **clarity** of IDOT's explanations.

- “Significant questions about the viability of HOV and HOT lanes are not included in the analysis” - Deana Herman
- “IDOT gave a rushed presentation to the Oak Park community of the Build Alternatives in technobabble at the Village Hall meeting in early June. The information and data were presented in acronyms and graphs which, we believe, were intended to confuse and overwhelm the audience and make it easier to convince everyone that the five alternatives favored by IDOT are inevitable and preferable.” - Lynne Adams Whitaker and Al Whitaker

Three quotes provide a good summary.

- “I share a deep love and respect for the wonderful community that Oak Park is. It's the best place to raise a family outside of Chicago, bar none.” - Ana Constantinesu
- “It is critical that we do the most good for the most people with our community dollars.” - Mary Rose Lambke
- “You can do better! The people of Illinois and of the Chicago Metro area deserve better, as do our children and grandchildren.” - Adrian Ayres Fisher

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December 4, 2012