



# Public and Stakeholder Involvement Plan

Southwest Illinois Connector  
Planning and Environmental Linkages Study

May 22, 2025



**SOUTHWEST  
CONNECTOR**



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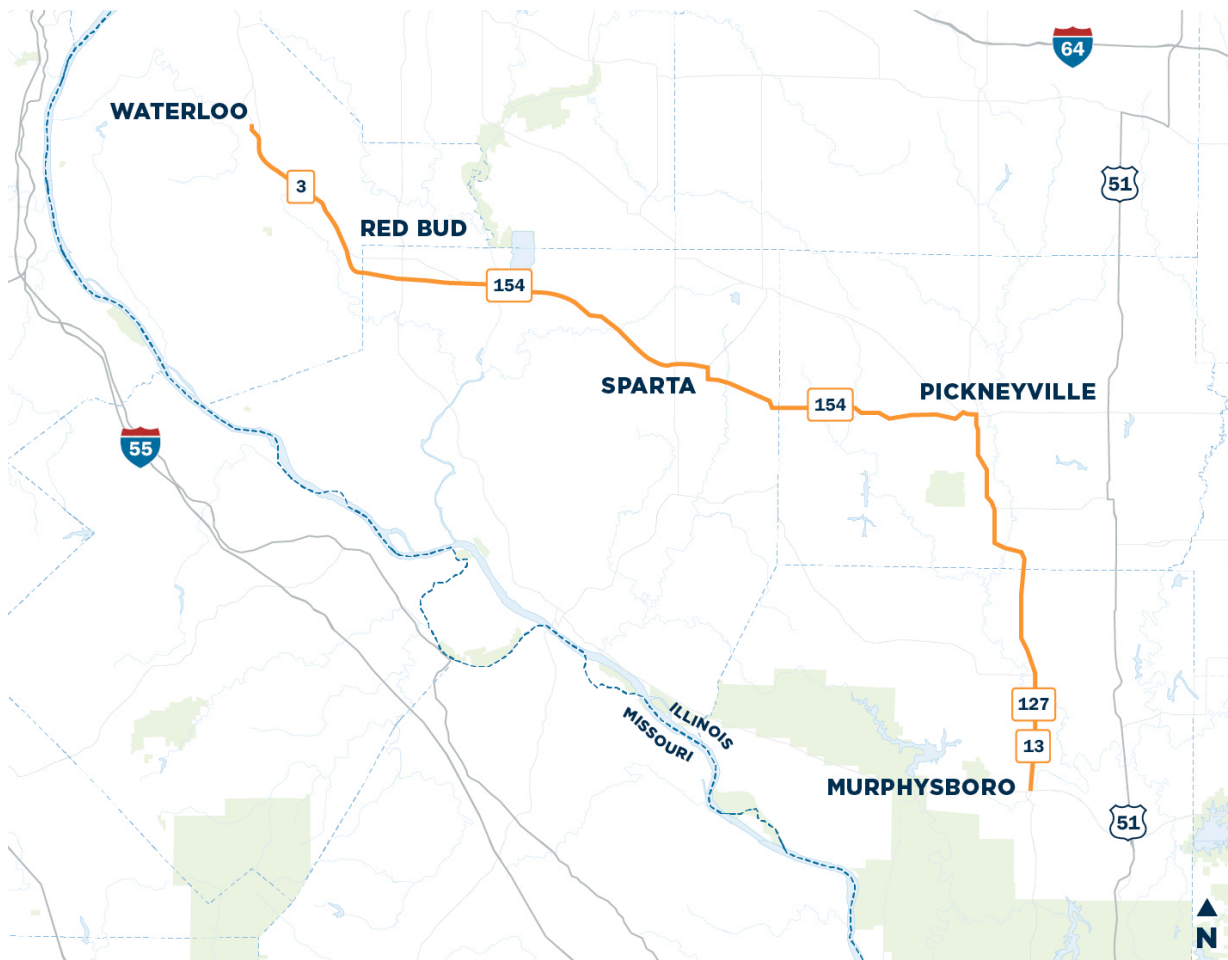
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# 1.0 Study and Communication Management

## 1.1 Introduction and Overview

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is conducting a Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) Study of Illinois (IL) Route 3 / 154 / 13 / 127 (Corridor) through Monroe, Randolph, Perry and Jackson counties in Southwest Illinois. The study will create a plan to consider potential improvements to the route from the City of Waterloo to the City of Murphysboro. Specific tasks include planning, environmental studies, forecasting, travel demand modeling, developing a purpose and need, alternatives development, cost estimating, project phasing, and public involvement. **Figure 1** shows the Study area.

**Figure 1. Map of the Study Area**



This Public and Stakeholder Involvement Plan (Plan) has been developed to explain and summarize the public outreach that will be conducted in support of the PEL Study. The Plan is developed in accordance with IDOT and Federal Highway Administration public involvement policies.



The Plan outlines the Study’s approach to and objectives for public and stakeholder involvement throughout the PEL Study. It will be implemented at the beginning of the Study and will continue to be used through the publication of the final PEL Study Report. This Plan may also be amended or updated throughout the PEL Study and will serve as a guide in the transition to the NEPA compliance process.

## 1.2 Study Background

The potential for improving the highway connectivity between Monroe, Randolph, Perry, and Jackson counties to the St. Louis Metro East area has been discussed for several decades. The Corridor has been previously studied in 1967, 1976, 1986, 1995, and 1996. During the 1990’s, improvements to the corridor were considered as part of the proposed Southwest Illinois Tollway. In 2019, the Four County Highway Coalition, made up of municipal, government and business leaders from Monroe, Randolph, Perry and Jackson Counties, produced a task force report at the direction of the Illinois General Assembly detailing the need for Corridor improvements. In 2007, IDOT completed a Phase I study for upgrading approximately 23 miles of Corridor in Perry and Jackson counties from City of Pinckneyville to the City of Murphysboro. Phase II and Phase III for this portion of the corridor are pending funding availability. A federally required update to environmental documentation for this portion of the Corridor will be completed as part of the PEL Study.

# 2.0 Planning and Environmental Linkages Process and Communication

## 2.1 National Environmental Policy Act and PEL Communication

The PEL process is an approach to transportation decision making that considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the planning stage to minimize redundancies, promote efficient and cost-effective solutions, and enhance project implementation. The PEL process also allows decision makers and stakeholders to narrow the range of alternatives to be considered and to identify and prepare for issues to be addressed in subsequent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and project design phases. Public and agency input at milestone stages of a PEL Study are key components that allow the study analyses to be incorporated into future NEPA documents.

The PEL process is a valuable approach for supporting project delivery. IDOT is engaging the public and stakeholders in the PEL Study to help guide the development and delivery of transportation investments in the Study area. A PEL Study allows IDOT to develop and screen improvement alternatives with committees, agencies, and the public to narrow down alternatives to carry forward into the NEPA and project design development phases.

The results of the PEL Study will be recommended solutions for improving overall safety, connectivity, and reliability throughout the corridor.

Feedback from the community and stakeholders is central to the development of design

concepts and is a requirement of the PEL process (23 United States Code [U.S.C.] 168 and 23 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 450.212 and 450.318.

**Figure 2** depicts how public and stakeholder input is incorporated throughout the PEL process.

**Figure 2. PEL Steps and Public Involvement Input Integration**

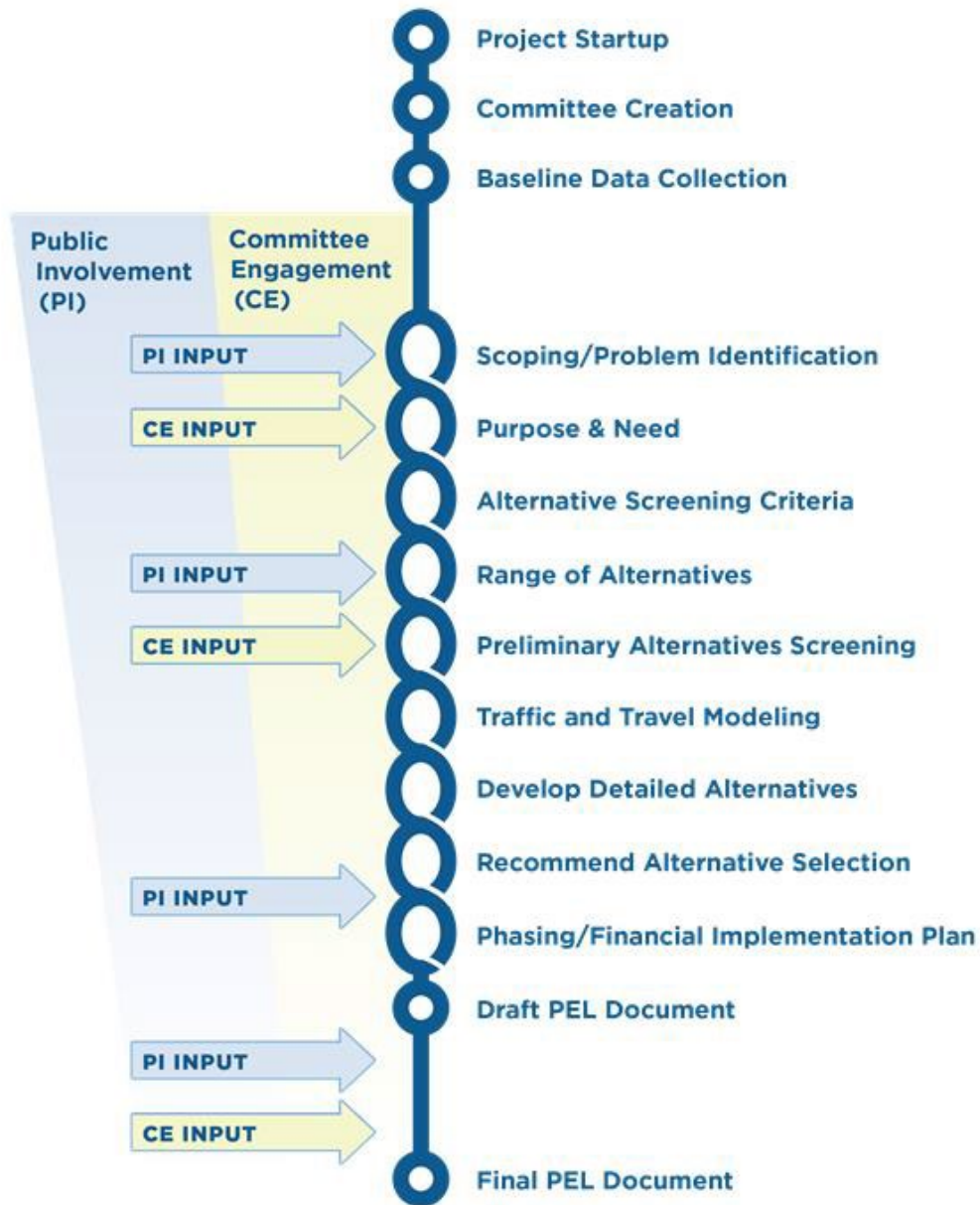






Figure 3 outlines IDOT and FHWA concurrence points during PEL Study development.

Figure 3. Concurrence Points During PEL Study

| CONCURRENCE POINT  | REVIEW   |
|--|--|
| <br><b>Purpose &amp; Need</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Purpose and need statement has a rational basis</li> <li>▪ Uses up-to-date data</li> <li>▪ Includes analytical methods</li> <li>▪ Uses modeling techniques that are reliable, defensible, reasonably current, and meet data quality requirements</li> </ul>   |
| <br><b>Alternatives Development &amp; Screening Methodology</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Planned range of alternatives and the alternatives development process are reasonable, rational and logical</li> <li>▪ Appropriate methodologies are identified</li> <li>▪ Level of detail planned for alternatives development and evaluation is appropriate</li> <li>▪ Stakeholder involvement plan is appropriate</li> <li>▪ Planned screening process, including screening criteria, is rational and logical</li> </ul>   |
| <br><b>Alternatives Screening Results</b>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Results of alternatives development and screening</li> <li>▪ Conclusions are reasonable and logical</li> <li>▪ Sufficient documentation is provided to justify eliminating or advancing alternatives</li> <li>▪ No alternatives are eliminated that are necessary for compliance with future NEPA or for compliance with a permit or approval from another federal agency</li> </ul>  |
| <br><b>Draft PEL Study</b>                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Public and agency involvement is adequately documented</li> <li>▪ The ten conditions identified in 23 U.S.C. 168 have been followed</li> <li>▪ Planning products and analyses are adequate for incorporation into future NEPA</li> <li>▪ Impacts and mitigation are appropriately documented</li> <li>▪ The basic description of the environmental setting is adequate</li> <li>▪ The implementation plan contains reasonable steps for the project to move forward into the NEPA process</li> <li>▪ The planning products are documented in such a form as to be easily identifiable and available for review during the NEPA scoping process and can be appended to or referenced into a NEPA document</li> </ul> |



## 3.0 Communication Objectives, Approach and Schedule

### 3.1 Objectives

This Plan will help accomplish two objectives:

- Provide opportunities for the public and stakeholders to be informed about and participate in the Study; and
- Engage the communities on the corridor in the development of alternatives during the Study

The Plan is a living document that will be updated as needed during the Study. The Study Team will assess the effectiveness of this Plan and adjust strategies and tactics as necessary to meet the Plan objectives. Measure of effectiveness may include:

- Social and/or digital media metrics;
- Survey results;
- Media engagement;
- Email open rates;
- Number of comments received; and
- Quality of comments received.

Open and transparent communications among the public and stakeholders will be necessary to:

- Gain productive input leading to well informed decision making; and
- Meet the PEL process requirements of 23 U.S.C. 168 and 23 CFR 450 for public, agency, and tribal involvement.

Throughout the PEL process, the Public Involvement Team will:

- Build awareness of the Study and PEL process through strategic communication, public involvement, and public relations tactics.
- Inform and involve a broad group of stakeholders, which includes residents of potentially affected areas; commuters; area businesses and employees; local, state, and federal agencies; community organizations; and others.
- Communicate study information and opportunities to comment in an open and transparent public involvement process that inspires trust in the Study team and the information presented. Participants should know that their input is heard and considered, and they should understand how their comments will be used.



- Provide a variety of opportunities for the public and stakeholders to stay informed and provide input.
- Comply with Title VI, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Respond promptly to Study-related inquiries, comments, and requests, and document feedback for Study consideration.
- Document and measure the progress and effectiveness of this Plan.
- Provide public notification that planning products may be adopted during a subsequent environmental review process.
- Obtain concurrence from state and federal permitting and approval agencies with the planning products that are developed.
- Demonstrate consideration of and timely response to input received.

## 3.2 Approach

The communication approach with the public and stakeholders in this Plan includes:

- Consideration – considering the opinions, actions, and relevant information from all parties.
- Cooperation – ensuring that the parties involved work together toward common goals.
- Consultation – conferring with other parties and considering their views before acting.
- Coordination – developing alternatives and recommendations, as well as refinements, in a cooperative manner striving for consensus.

The Study Team understands that individuals, stakeholder groups, committees, agencies, and organizations involved in the PEL Study may have competing priorities, preferences, and differing opinions. As part of the approach to achieving communication objectives and gathering the needed public input, the Study Team will address potential conflicts with a listening mindset and identify methods and processes to build agreements.

## 3.3 Schedule

The Study schedule is approximately 36 months. To meet this schedule, the Study has been divided into phases that coincide with PEL Study milestones and public outreach efforts. **Figure 4** provides a communication roadmap to demonstrate how the Study phases, PEL Study milestones, and public outreach efforts align with the overall Study schedule.



Figure 4. Communication Roadmap

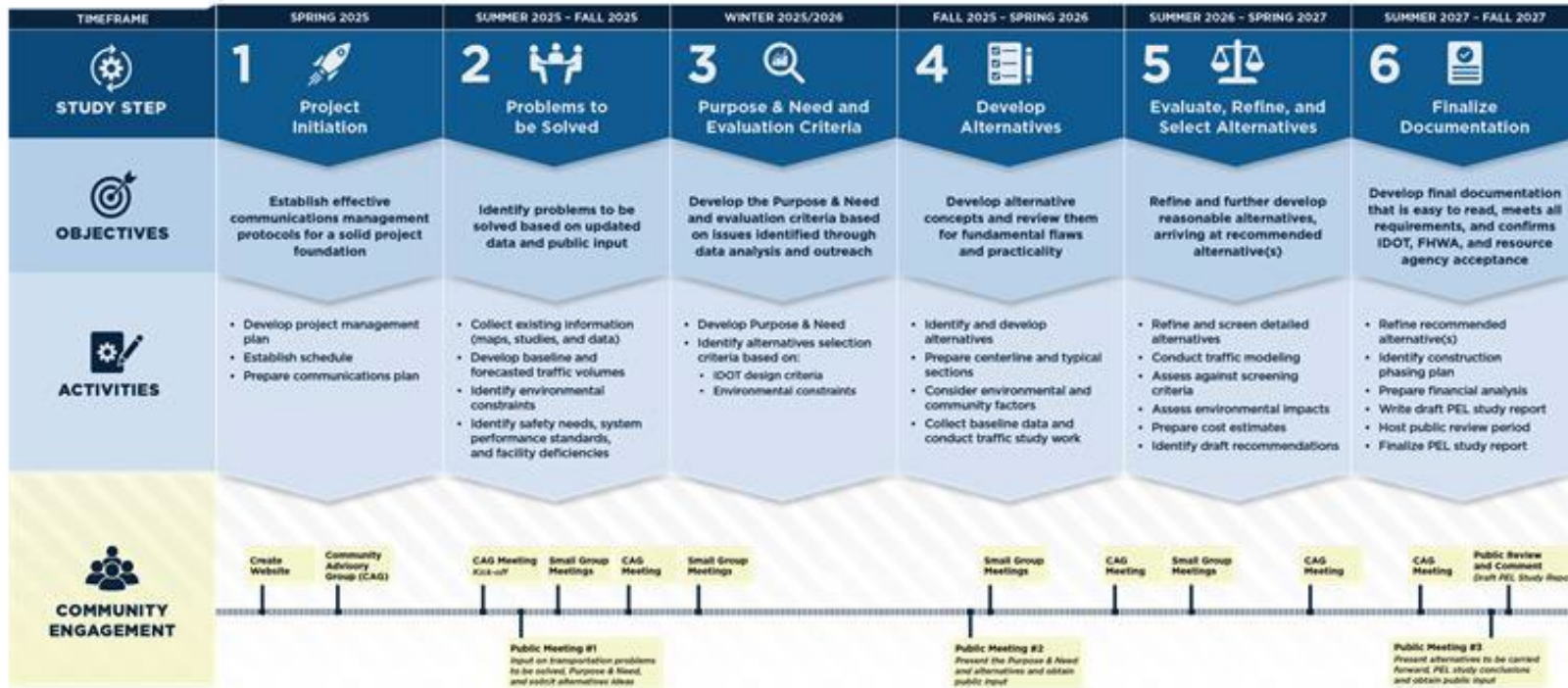


Figure 4 is subject to change. Actual dates will coincide with Study activities and deliverables. Refer to the Study schedule available on the website at [www.southwestconnector.com](http://www.southwestconnector.com).



## 4.0 Outreach Methods and Activities

The sections below outline the outreach steps, methods, tactics, and activities that will be used to encourage the public and stakeholders to meaningfully contribute to the PEL Study. The activities build upon each other to solicit public comments that will be incorporated into the PEL Study Report.

The activities described below are not listed in chronological order. Many will occur concurrently throughout the Study. Actual dates will coincide with Study activities, milestones, and deliverables, as shown in Figure 4 above.

### 4.1 Stakeholder Identification

During each phase of this PEL Study, the Study Team will engage several stakeholder groups, which are identified as:

- Nearby residents and businesses
- Committees
- Agencies
- Specific stakeholders (e.g., legislators, property owners, non-motorized users)

The communication strategies and tactics in this Plan will provide opportunities for all stakeholders to provide input and comments at each stage of the PEL process. **Appendix A** provides a report of the community analysis performed for the Study area.

**Table 1** includes a brief management strategy for each major stakeholder group identified. See Section 4.2 for details on the communication approach to stakeholders.

**Table 1. Stakeholder Group Management Strategy**

| Stakeholder Group     | Management Strategy   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Committee             | Involve different stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how the public input influenced decisions. |
| Agencies              | Partner with agency representatives for advice and innovation in forming solutions into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.   |
| Specific Stakeholders | Collaborate with specific stakeholders to incorporate input into each aspect of the decision making through individual stakeholder interviews and small group meetings.   |

#### 4.1.1 Stakeholder Database

All potential Study stakeholders will be identified and listed in a stakeholder database, along with their contact information. Stakeholder classifications (see Section 4.1.2) will also be included in the database. The stakeholder database will be used as a mailing or email list and is a living document that will be updated over the life of the Study.



#### 4.1.2 Stakeholder Classification

Stakeholders will be classified using three categories: affiliation, support, and issue(s). Each category includes several possible classifications for each stakeholder, and these will be included on the stakeholder register. The categories and classifications shown in **Table 2** will be applied for each stakeholder.

**Table 2. Stakeholder Classification**

| Stakeholder Category | Stakeholder Classification  |
|----------------------|---|
| Affiliation          | Public<br>Business<br>Government<br>Agency<br>Contracting Agency                          |
| Support              | Supporter<br>Neutral (default)<br>Resistor  |
| Issue(s)             | Regulatory<br>Economic<br>Right-of-Way<br>Environmental<br>Safety<br>Health Care<br>Other |

These are examples; classifications will be added as needed.

Again, communication techniques will be targeted to the various categories to maximize participation.

#### 4.1.3 Stakeholder Categories

Stakeholders will also be grouped for use in developing stakeholder management strategies.

**Table 3** provides a preliminary list of key stakeholders in each category for the PEL Study.

Additional agencies, tribes, businesses, and members of the public will be included and added to the stakeholder database as public outreach occurs.



**Table 3. Preliminary Stakeholder Categories Chart**

| General Public   |
|--|
| Residents – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage  |
| Property Owners – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage  |
| Roadway Users – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage  |
| Elected Officials  |
| U.S. Senators – Inform and Invite  |
| U.S. Representatives – Inform and Invite   |
| State Senators – Inform and Invite   |
| State Representatives – Inform and Invite  |
| County Board Members – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                                       |
| Mayors – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage   |
| Utilities  |
| Power – Inform, Invite, Consult  |
| Gas – Inform, Invite, Consult  |
| Water/Wastewater – Inform, Invite, Consult   |
| Phone/Broadband – Inform, Invite, Consult  |
| Tribal Entities  |
| Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation – Inform, Invite  |
| Agencies   |
| Federal Highway Administration – Illinois Division – Inform, Invite, Consult                 |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Inform, Invite, Consult                                       |
| Illinois Environmental Protection Agency – Inform, Invite, Consult                           |
| Illinois Department of Natural Resources – Inform, Invite, Consult                           |
| East-West Gateway Council of Governments – Inform, Invite, Consult                           |
| Historic Preservation Office – Inform, Invite, Consult                                       |
| Community Partners   |
| Southwest Connector Coalition – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                              |
| Greater Egypt Regional Planning - Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                            |
| St. Louis Freightway – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                                       |
| Randolph County Economic Development – Invite, Inform, Consult, Engage                       |
| Farm Bureau – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage  |
| Illinois Trucking Association – Inform, Invite, Engage                                       |
| Illinois Municipal League – Inform, Invite, Engage   |
| Illinois State Association of Counties – Inform, Invite, Engage                              |
| Illinois Realtors – Inform, Invite, Engage   |
| County and Municipal Staff   |
| County Administrator – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                                       |
| County Engineer – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage  |
| City Engineer and/or Public Works Director – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                 |
| Emergency Responders   |
| Illinois State Police – Inform, Invite, Consult  |
| County Sheriff – Inform, Invite, Consult   |
| Local Fire Districts – Inform, Invite, Consult   |
| Ambulance Companies – Inform, Invite, Consult  |
| Businesses/Organizations   |
| Pinckneyville-Du Quoin Airport – Inform, Invite  |
| World Shooting and Recreational Complex – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                    |
| Kaskaskia Port District – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                                    |
| Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville and Carbondale – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage |
| Southwest Illinois College – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                                 |
| Pinckneyville Community Hospital - Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                           |
| Regional Hospital Networks – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                                 |
| Knighthawk Coal Mining – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage                                     |
| Peabody Coal Mining – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage  |
| Railroads – Inform and Invite  |
| School Districts – Inform, Invite, Consult   |



|   |
|---|
| Transit Agencies (Jackson County Mass Transit, South Central Transit and RIDES) – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage |
| Greyhound Bus – Inform, Invite  |
| Tourism – Lakes, Rec Areas, Wineries – Inform, Invite, Consult, Engage  |

## 4.2 Outreach Methods and Techniques

Public and specific stakeholder outreach is planned to inform and solicit input during each stage of the PEL process.

The primary methods and techniques used for stakeholder management and communication for this Study are listed in **Table 4**.

**Table 4. Primary Outreach Methods and Techniques**

|  |
|--|
| Community Advisory Group                         |
| Partnering Working Groups                        |
| Public Meetings (Hybrid and online-only)         |
| Social Media                                     |
| Website  |
| Media Relations (News Releases, Media Briefings) |
| Emails   |
| Postcards  |
| Videos   |
| Community Events                                 |
| One-on-one/Small Group Meetings                  |
| Handouts   |

A description of each communication method, technique, and tactic is included in the following subsections.

### 4.2.1 Community Advisory Group (CAG)

This group will be composed of individuals that represent Study stakeholder groups, impacted communities, and specific entities who will provide feedback, ideas, and input to the Study team as a collective group. This committee will also serve as a sounding board for public information dissemination and as a community liaison for the PEL Study. **Appendix B** contains a list of organizations and individuals included in the Community Advisory Group.

### 4.2.2 Partnering Working Groups (PWG)

These groups will be composed of individuals that represent specific geographic areas within the Corridor or specific topics or issues of concern that inform or impact the Study. These groups will provide feedback, ideas, and input to the Study team on their specific areas of interest. **Appendix C** contains a list of organizations and individuals included in Partnering Working Groups.

### 4.2.3 Public Meetings

Public meetings will be held in a hybrid format (in-person meeting paired with an on-demand, self-paced virtual meeting available online at the study website) or online-only. It is anticipated that there will be three public meetings during the Study. The first public meeting will be online-only. The second and third public meetings will be hybrid. In-person public meetings will be held



in an open-house format. The format of the virtual public meetings will vary depending on the goal of each meeting and the desired outcome.

Each meeting will be easily accessible; visual- and hearing-impaired-compliant; widely communicated; and inclusive in its approach, with translation services available if needed. The goal of each meeting will be to provide every attendee with the opportunity to provide comments for the PEL Study.

The three public meetings are planned in conjunction with the Study milestones and are designed to solicit public input on PEL Study milestones. These meetings include:

- **Public Meeting #1 Vision/Purpose and Need/Call for Alternatives** – introduce the Study, educate the public, build participation, solicit input on study considerations, receive input on the draft Purpose and Need Statement, and request feedback to inform alternatives development based on existing conditions data.
- **Public Meeting #2 Alternatives Development and Evaluation** – present the range of alternatives and prospective evaluation criteria for the alternatives being considered.
- **Public Meeting #3 Recommended Alternatives** – present the recommended alternatives to be carried forward to the public and stakeholders for input.

**Table 5** summarizes the planned messaging for each public meeting and the associated PEL Study milestones.

**Table 5. Content/Messaging for Each Public Meeting**

| Public Meeting | Public Meeting Content/Messaging  | PEL Study Components Coverage   |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1              | Learn about the Study, provide initial potential impacts, contribute to purpose and need, generate possible alternatives and sign up for study updates/become engaged | Study introduction, Purpose and Need Statement, Alternatives Development                  |
| 2              | Learn alternatives for evaluation, provide screening criteria feedback  | Screening Criteria Input; Alternatives Screening  |
| 3              | Review recommended alternative(s), provide feedback   | Alternatives Screening Results; Recommended Alternative(s) Detail; Draft PEL Study Report |

In preparation for public meetings and committees, the Study Team will prepare detailed messaging to be communicated for each public meeting. Each public meeting will have specific objectives and measurements for success. In-person public meetings are expected to last up to two hours.

**Public Meetings Advertising**

Two newspaper legal notices to be published are planned for each public meeting, with additional communication methods planned to remind stakeholders of the comment period dates and opportunity to comment. The first newspaper legal notice will be published at least 15 days prior to the date of an in-person public meeting or the date an online public meeting



becomes available on the study website. The second newspaper legal notice will be published at least seven days prior to the date of an in-person public meeting or the date an online public meeting becomes available on the study website. Publication of each legal notice will be included as documentation in the PEL Study Report. Each legal notice will be published in at least one newspaper serving each of the four counties in the Corridor. To comply with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) standards, required legal language will be inserted into the newspaper legal notice. The newspaper legal notice will be submitted to the IDOT for approval prior to submittal for publication.

Advertising will begin at least 15 days prior to the public meeting date. Public meeting advertisements will include public meeting details, comment period, engagement opportunities and ways to comment. Beyond newspaper legal notices, each public meeting will be advertised using social media, newsletters, postcards, emails/e-blasts, study website, listening posts, handouts, and news releases. Specific communication and advertising technique details are also listed in Sections 4.2.6 through 4.2.11.

#### **4.2.4 Website**

The Study Team will develop, host, and maintain a Study website available at XXX. The Study website will be capable of hosting an on-demand, self-paced virtual meeting and receiving public comments. The study website will contain the following sections:

- Study description
- Map of the Study area
- Schedule
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Marketing Facts/Key Messages
- Final Study documents
- Public Involvement Activities:
  - Newsletters
  - Public Meeting Materials
  - Videos
- Submission Form to Join Email List
- Comment Submission Form
- Contact Information to Reach the Study Team
- Resource Links

All content and updates will be reviewed and approved by IDOT before being published to the website.

#### **4.2.5 Social Media**

All social media content will be reviewed and approved by IDOT prior to posting. IDOT will provide a member of the Study public involvement team with access to existing social media accounts for posting organic and paid social media posts and monitoring and responding to comments as needed. It is anticipated that Facebook and X(Twitter) will be the primary platforms for social media outreach. Social media content will include, but not be limited to



meeting notifications, meeting reminders, comment period reminders, and study information. Social media content will include links information and visuals whenever possible. Social media posts and comments are not part of the official public record. Specific details on public meeting advertising and content are provided in Section 4.2.3.

#### **4.2.6 Videos**

The Study Team will prepare videos to provide an overview of the Study, introduce Study deliverables, and support public involvement. These may include short videos such as interviews with Study Team members or longer videos with animation, infographics, visualizations, and longer-form interviews with Study Team members or stakeholders.

#### **4.2.7 Postcards**

Postcards will be used to provide notice of public meetings or other specific public events. The Study Team will design, print, and mail postcards for distribution to contacts on the Study mailing list. IDOT will review and approve postcards prior to printing. A local postcard mailing service will be utilized for printing and mailing. It is anticipated that postcards will be mailed at least two weeks prior to each public meeting.

#### **4.2.8 Emails**

Email may be used for information distribution in addition or as an alternative to newsletters and postcards. The Study Team will maintain the email distribution list and send emails or e-blasts as directed by IDOT. E-blasts are like emails but use a communication service to track engagement and provide analytics, including open rate, read rate, and reach. E-blasts will announce public meetings, include Study information, and support the Study communication strategy.

#### **4.2.9 One-on-One/Small Group Meetings**

The Study Team will participate in one-on-one meetings and small group meetings with stakeholders as needed during the Study. The intent of this effort is to keep Study Team members informed of changing issues and stakeholder perspectives as well as provide stakeholders with progress updates and answer questions as the Study progresses. Stakeholder meetings may be virtual, by phone, or in-person.

#### **4.2.10 Community Events**

The Study Team will participate in community events during the Study. The intent of this effort is to raise awareness of the Study and encourage public participation by meeting people where they are at medium and large events taking place in the Corridor, such as fairs, festivals, and community gatherings. At each community event, the Study Team will display informational exhibits, provide handouts, be available to answer questions, and offer opportunities for public input.

#### **4.2.11 Media Relations**

The Study Team will engage media outlets, such as newspapers, radio stations, television stations, and online publications in the Corridor to encourage public and stakeholder involvement in the study. The IDOT Public Information Officer will be the media contact for the



Study. The Study Team will support IDOT with news releases, media advisories, briefing materials, and talking points as needed.

### 4.3 Communications Support

Communications support for the Study consists of the tasks or deliverables mentioned above, as well as the following ongoing communication tasks:

- The Study Team will serve as the point of contact for public and stakeholder inquiries regarding the Study, regardless of the source, as directed by IDOT.
- The Study Team will provide written and oral responses to Study-related comments, questions, and requests for information, and will draft letters to stakeholders as requested by IDOT. The Study Team will also track all Study-related comments and responses on an electronic spreadsheet.
- The Study Team will maintain and update the stakeholder database, Study website, and public involvement materials, and will provide updates to IDOT.
- Major website updates are anticipated to correspond with key Study milestones; minor updates are anticipated monthly.
- The Study Team will provide ongoing strategic advice to IDOT on public communication over the life of the Study.
- The Study Team will direct media inquiries to the IDOT Public Information Officer and IDOT Project Manager.

### 4.4 Timeframe and Frequency of Communication Activities

**Table 6** provides the timeframe and frequency of anticipated communication activities during the PEL Study.



**Table 6. Timeframe and frequency of Communication Activities**

| Coordination Phase  | Timing                         | Communication Tools  | Purpose  |
|---|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Ongoing Participation   | Ongoing                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mailing lists</li> <li>• Email/E-blast</li> <li>• One-on-one/Small Group meetings</li> <li>• Study Website</li> <li>• Social Media</li> <li>• Comment database</li> <li>• Study deliverables distribution review and comment</li> <li>• Meetings at key points with CAG and PWGs</li> <li>• Translation of meeting notices and vital documents into target languages and accessible formats, when applicable</li> <li>• Videos</li> <li>• Community Events</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration – considering the opinions, actions, and relevant information from all parties</li> <li>• Cooperation – ensuring that the parties involved work together toward common goals</li> <li>• Consultation – conferring with other parties and considering their views before acting</li> <li>• Coordination – developing alternatives and recommendations, as well as refinements, in a cooperative manner striving for consensus</li> </ul> |
| Project Initiation  | Spring 2025                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public and Stakeholder Involvement Plan</li> <li>• Stakeholder Database</li> <li>• CAG and PWG initiation</li> <li>• Website</li> <li>• Initial Study materials</li> <li>• Initial kick-off meetings</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Internal planning, coordination, and planning for Study initiation and Phase 1 communications</li> </ul>  |
| Phase 1 – Purpose and Need <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study introduction</li> <li>• Public meeting #1 (Vision, Purpose and Need, generate possible alternatives)</li> <li>• Identify Issues and Concerns</li> <li>• Initial alternatives development</li> </ul> | Summer 2025 – Winter 2025/2026 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish Legal Notice in local newspapers</li> <li>• Notification of public meeting #1</li> <li>• Email/E-blast #1</li> <li>• Offer media briefing</li> <li>• News Release</li> <li>• Hold public meeting #1 (Summer 2025); 30-day comment period</li> <li>• CAG and PWG meetings</li> <li>• 1-1/small group meetings</li> <li>• Respond to comments</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate and explain the PEL process</li> <li>• Validate the preliminary PEL purpose and need statement</li> <li>• Clarify the audience and stakeholders</li> <li>• Solicit for concerns and issues</li> <li>• Build a robust and diverse contact list</li> <li>• Generate ideas for possible alternatives</li> </ul>  |



|  |                                       |   |   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <p>Phase 2 – Alternatives Development &amp; Evaluation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the Range of Alternatives</li> <li>• Initial Screening Criteria</li> </ul>                             | <p>Spring 2026 – Winter 2026/2027</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish Legal Notice in local newspapers</li> <li>• Notification of public meeting #2</li> <li>• Email/E-blast #2</li> <li>• News Release</li> <li>• Hold public meeting #2 (Spring 2026); 30-day comment period</li> <li>• CAG and PWG meetings</li> <li>• 1-1/small group meetings</li> <li>• Respond to comments</li> <li>• Publish Purpose and Need Statement</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the range of viable alternatives, based on the purpose and need statement established in Phase 1</li> <li>• Explain the impacts of each alternative</li> <li>• Present preliminary design and traffic analysis, as well as preliminary environmental and technical analysis of the alternatives</li> <li>• Solicit input for screening criteria</li> <li>• Identify alternatives impacts and benefits using screening criteria</li> <li>• Obtain concurrence from state and federal permitting or approval agencies</li> </ul> |
| <p>Phase 3 – Recommended Alternatives to be Carried Forward &amp; PEL Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening of Alternatives to Identify Recommended Alternatives to be Carried Forward</li> </ul> | <p>Spring 2027 – Fall 2027</p>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Publish Legal Notice in local newspapers</li> <li>• Notification of public meeting #3</li> <li>• Email/E-blast #3</li> <li>• News Release</li> <li>• Hold public meeting #3 (Spring 2027); 30-day comment period</li> <li>• CAG and PWG meetings</li> <li>• 1-1/small group meetings</li> <li>• Respond to comments</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the screening criteria and results</li> <li>• Present and explain the Recommended Alternatives to be Carried Forward</li> <li>• Communicate next steps</li> </ul>  |
| <p>Draft PEL Study Report</p>  | <p>Fall 2027</p>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CAG and PWG meetings</li> <li>• Make draft PEL Study Report available on the study website</li> <li>• Request comments during a 30-day period</li> <li>• Publish Notice of Availability (NOA) in local newspapers</li> <li>• Email/E-blast #4</li> <li>• News Release</li> <li>• Respond to comments</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present the draft PEL Study Report</li> <li>• Receive comments on the draft PEL Study Report</li> <li>• Communicate next steps</li> </ul>  |



|                        |             |  |  |
|------------------------|-------------|--|--|
| Final PEL Study Report | Winter 2027 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CAG and PWG meetings</li><li>• Make the final PEL Study report available on the study website</li><li>• Publish NOA in local newspapers</li><li>• Email/E-blast #5</li><li>• Offer media briefing</li><li>• News Release</li><li>• Request comments during a 30-day comment period</li><li>• Respond to comments</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Present the final PEL Study Report</li><li>• Receive comments on the final PEL Study Report</li><li>• Communicate next steps</li></ul> |
|------------------------|-------------|--|--|

Table 6 is subject to change. Actual dates will coincide with Study activities and deliverables.

## 5.0 Comment Management

### 5.1 Comment Tracking and Response to Comments

Comments received on the Study will be collected and collated in a summarized narrative format. Comments will be inserted verbatim into a tracking spreadsheet, which will include summarized responses. The Study Team will use an Excel spreadsheet to streamline the tracking of public, agency, and stakeholder coordination, comments, and responses.

The Study public involvement team will be responsible for identifying comments that require immediate responses and for soliciting information and feedback from Study Team members to prepare responses.

A systematic approach to involvement that increases the type and extent of involvement if an interested party has substantial concerns about the PEL study, as required by 23 CFR 450.210, is shown in **Figure 5**.

**Figure 5. Approach to Involvement for Substantial Concerns**



### 5.2 Comment Protocol

The following protocol (see **Table 7**) has been developed to streamline tracking, integration, and response to comments received from the public and agencies. This protocol will be managed by the public involvement team and implemented by all Study Team representatives. Compliance will be monitored, and the protocol can be adjusted as necessary throughout the Study.



**Table 7. Comment Collection Protocol**

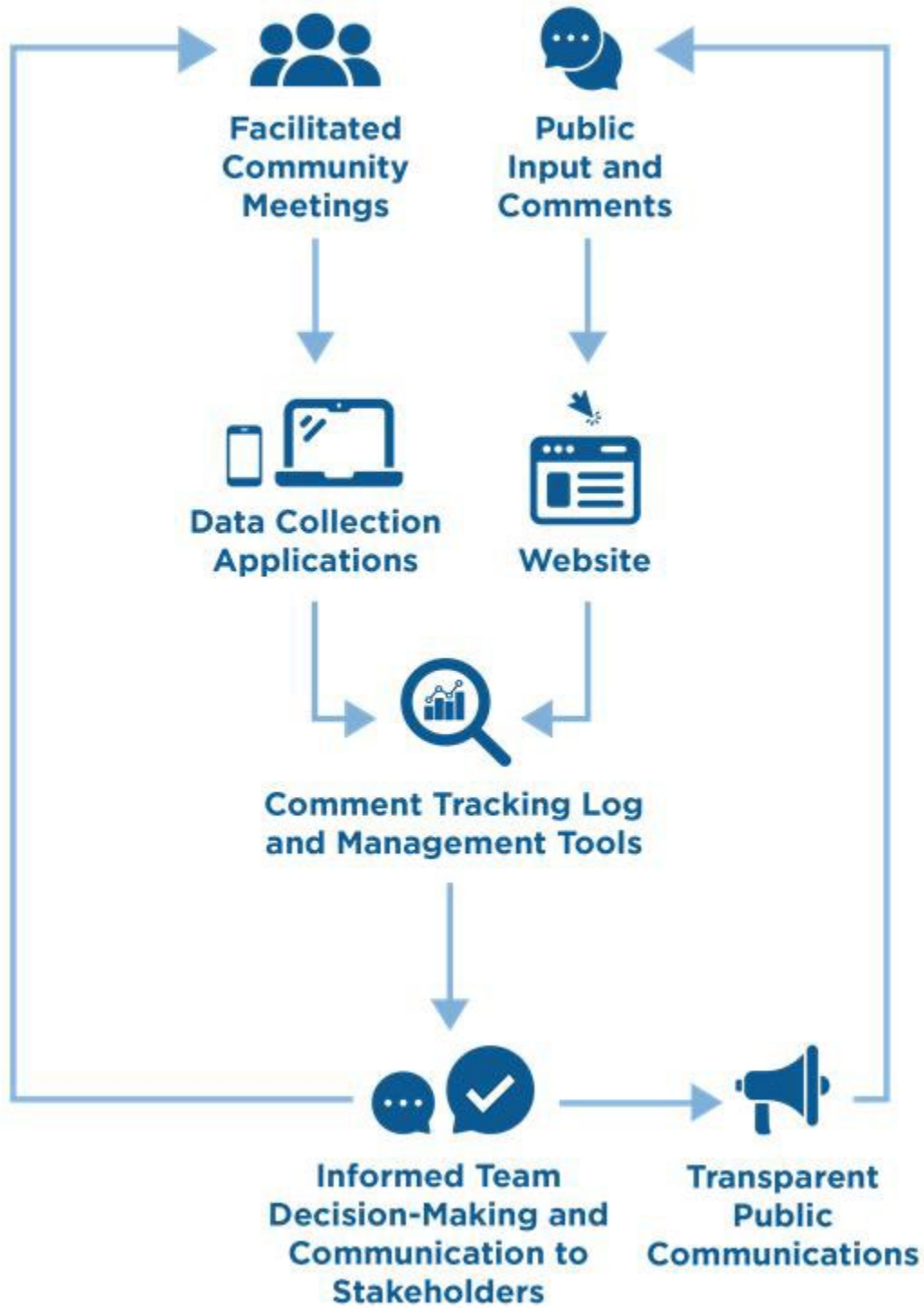
| Comment Type                    | Procedure   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Webpage and Email Inquiries     | The web comment form will be programmed to submit directly to the public involvement team via the Study email address. Any emails received from the public or agencies will be forwarded to the public involvement team for inclusion in the comment tracking spreadsheet. Email will be converted to electronic, text-selectable Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF) files and stored in the Study files. |
| Inquiries Mailed to IDOT        | Mail delivered to IDOT will be date stamped, scanned, and emailed to the public involvement team to enter into the comment tracking spreadsheet and will be stored electronically in the Study files.   |
| Comment Forms                   | Comment forms mailed to IDOT will be date stamped, scanned, and forwarded to the PI Lead to be incorporated into the comment tracking spreadsheet. Forms collected at public meetings will be delivered to the public involvement team for entry into the comment tracking spreadsheet. Online comment forms submitted by email will be entered into the comment tracking spreadsheet.                      |
| Telephone Calls                 | The call receiver will summarize the call in the comment tracking spreadsheet.  |
| Face-to-Face Conversations      | Comments received in face-to-face conversations will be summarized in an email to the public involvement team.  |
| Standard Responses              | Standard responses to anticipated or frequently asked questions will be drafted to help facilitate the ease and consistency of responses to standard inquiries.   |
| Media Inquiries                 | All media inquiries will be directed to the IDOT Public Information Officer.  |
| Social Media Posts and Comments | Comments and questions submitted via social media will not be responded to or included in the comment tracking spreadsheet.   |

### 5.3 Comment and Communication Flow Charts

In each Study phase, public comments will be collected and recorded in the comment tracking spreadsheet and will be addressed or responded to, as appropriate upon prior written approval from IDOT. The Study Team will serve as the point of contact for public inquiries on the Study regardless of the source and will prepare and provide written and oral responses to comments, questions, and requests for information. The Study Team will prepare draft letters to stakeholders as requested by the IDOT. All comments received from various methods will be documented and captured in the comment tracking log and considered in the PEL Study.

Public comments and information received from the methods described in Table 7 will follow the communication flow shown in **Figure 6**.

Figure 6. Comment Flow Chart





## 5.4 Communication/Public Involvement Summary Reports

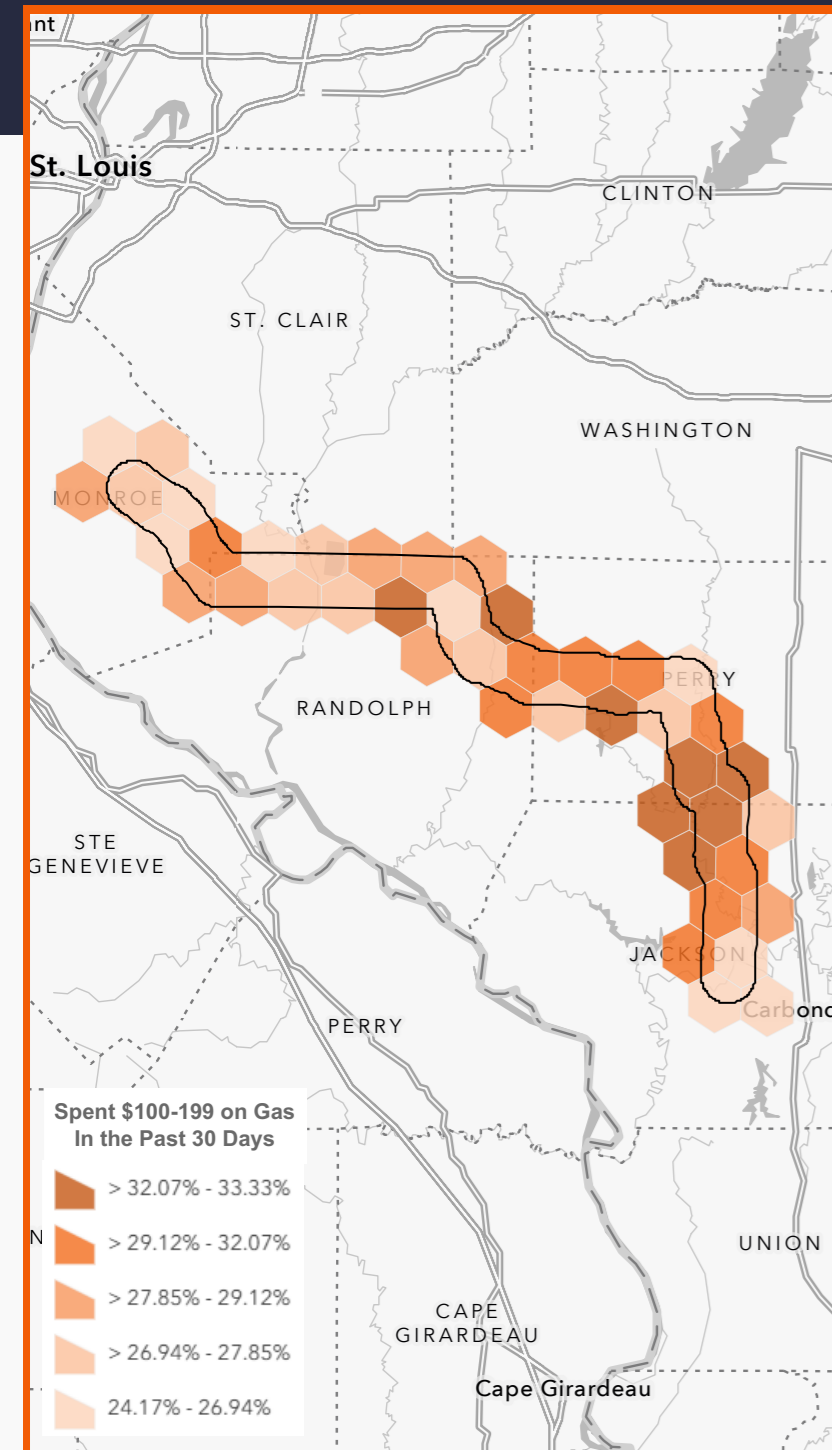
A summary report will be prepared within two weeks after the close of each public meeting comment period. The summary report will include the number of meeting attendees, key stakeholders present, outreach methods, materials, media mentions, results of communication efforts, staff notes, and the comment tracking spreadsheet. Each summary report will become an appendix to the PEL Study Report to document the communication and PI effort conducted throughout the Study and satisfy the PEL process.



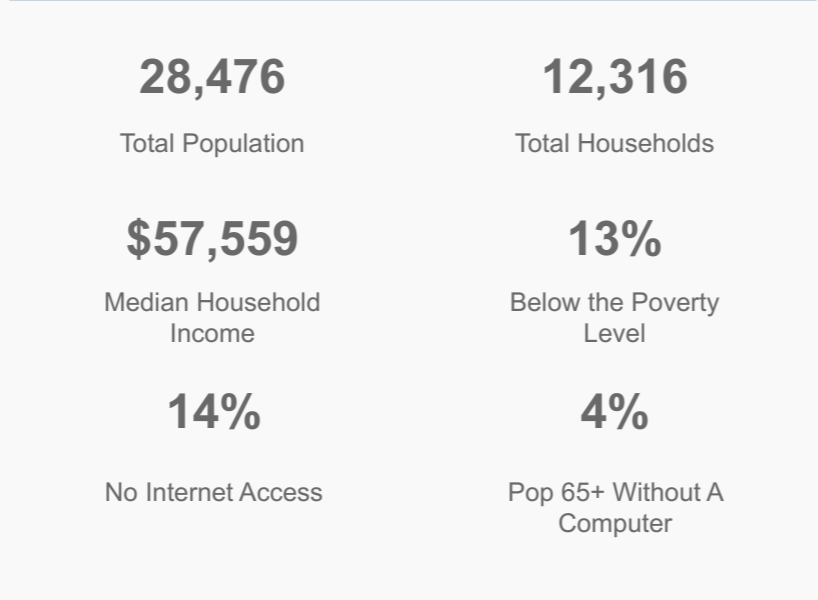
# Appendix A: Community Analysis

# Community Profile

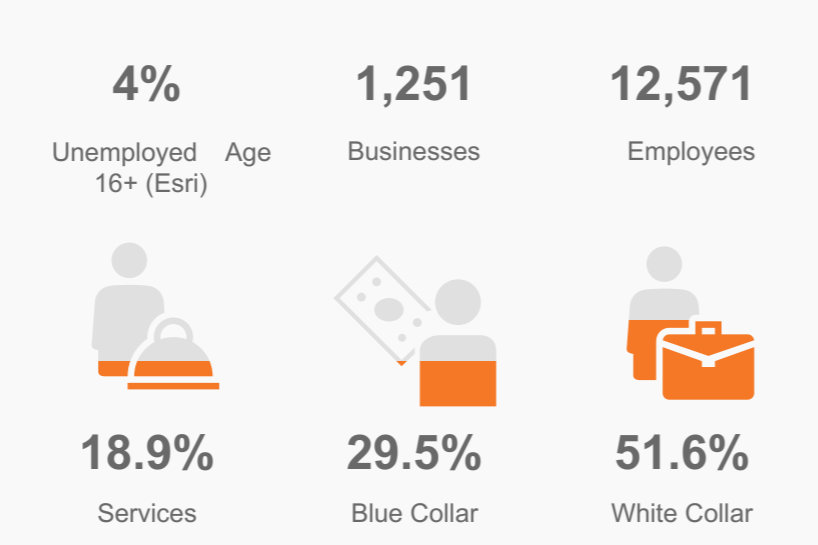
## Southwest Illinois Connector - Two-Mile Buffer



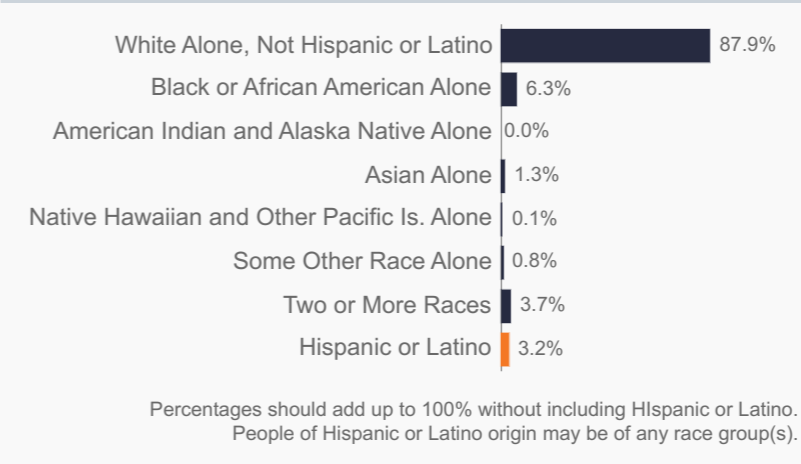
### Population and Households (ACS)



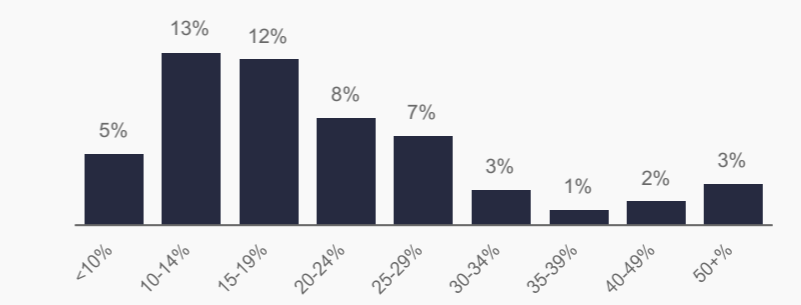
### Employment (ACS)



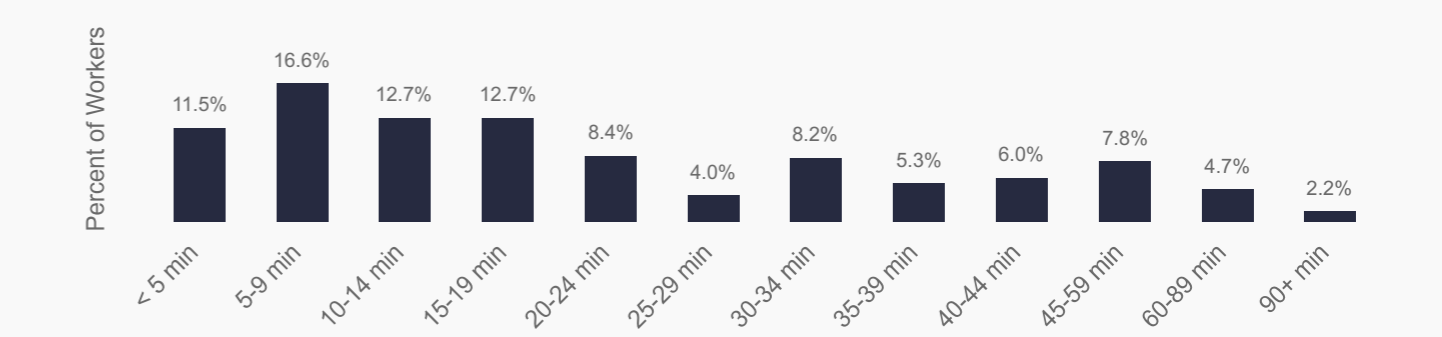
### Race/Ethnicity (ACS)



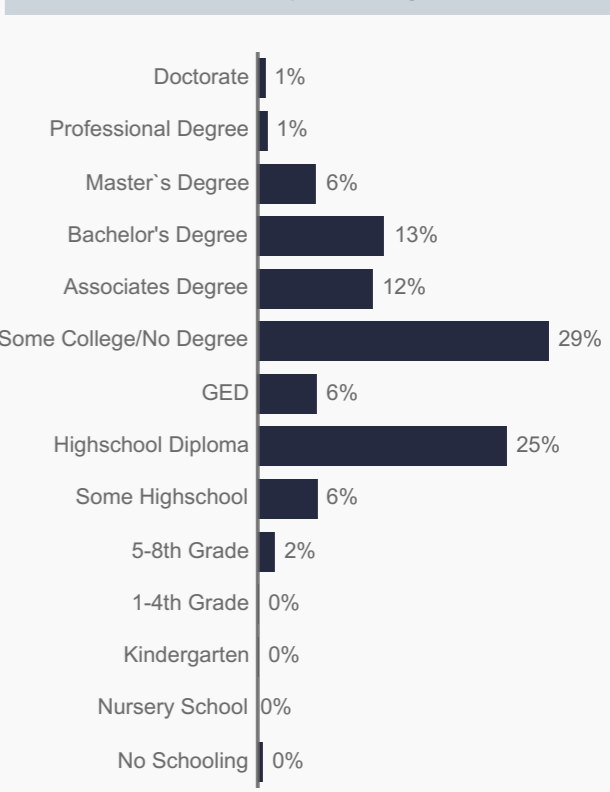
### Mortgage as Percent of Salary (ACS)



### Travel Time to Work (ACS)



### Educational Attainment (ACS) Population Age 25+



Source: This infographic contains data provided by ACS (2018-2022), Esri (2024), Esri-Data Axle (2024), Esri-MRI-Simmons (2024).



### Hard-To-Reach Stakeholders (ACS)



13%

Households Below the Poverty Level



2%

Owner Households with No Vehicles



17%

Percent Minority (2024 Esri)



7%

Females 20-64 in Work Force with Child <6



16%

Households Receiving Food Stamps/SNAP



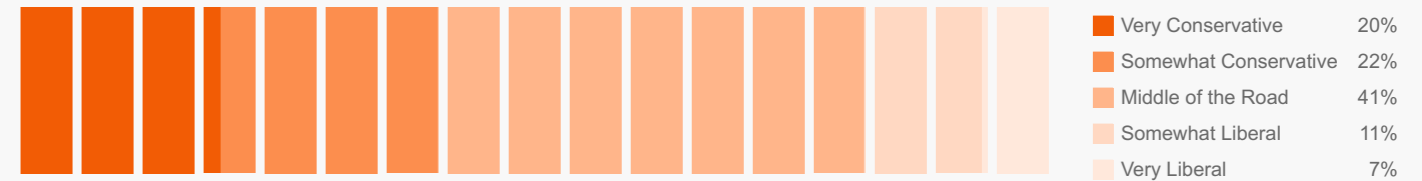
32%

Households with 1+ Persons with a Disability

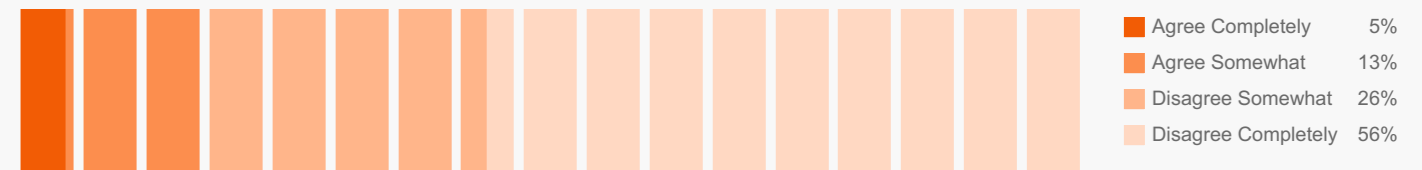
| Language Spoken (ACS)                | Age 5-17 | 18-64 | Age 65+ | Total |
|--------------------------------------|----------|-------|---------|-------|
| Spanish & English Not Well           | 0        | 7     | 8       | 15    |
| Spanish & No English                 | 0        | 73    | 0       | 73    |
| Indo-European & English Not Well     | 0        | 0     | 5       | 5     |
| Indo-European & No English           | 0        | 0     | 0       | 0     |
| Asian-Pacific Isl & English Not Well | 0        | 1     | 0       | 1     |
| Asian-Pacific Isl & No English       | 0        | 0     | 0       | 0     |
| Other Language & English Not Well    | 0        | 0     | 0       | 0     |
| Other Language & No English          | 0        | 0     | 0       | 0     |

### Perceptions (MRI Simmons)

#### Political Outlook



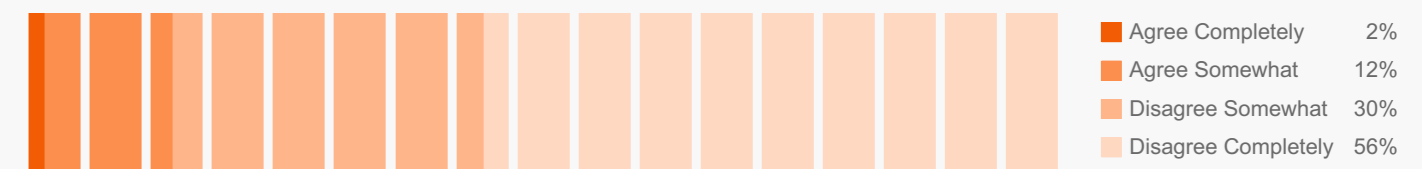
#### Travel Options Lessen My Need For A Car



#### I Access Internet Mainly Though the Phone



#### I Trust Information Shared On Social Media





### Social Media Usage - Past 30 Days (Esri)



67.3%

Facebook



29%

Instagram



12.2%

Twitter



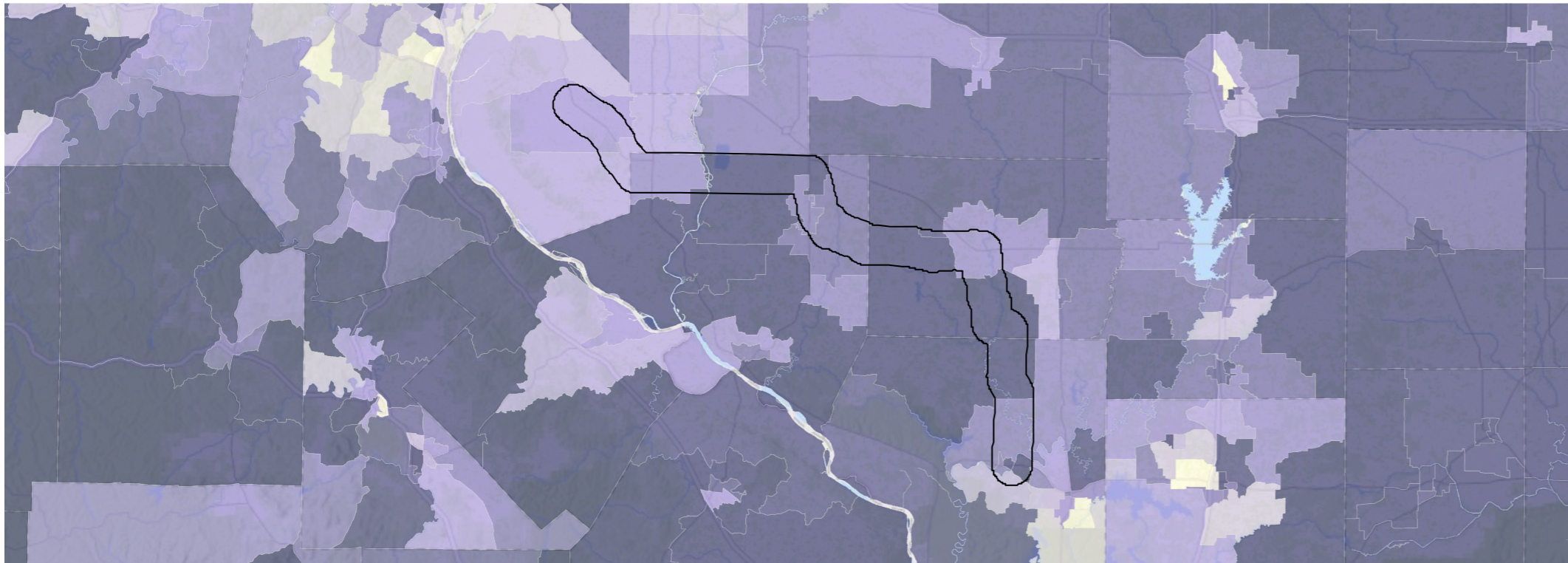
7.6%

LinkedIn

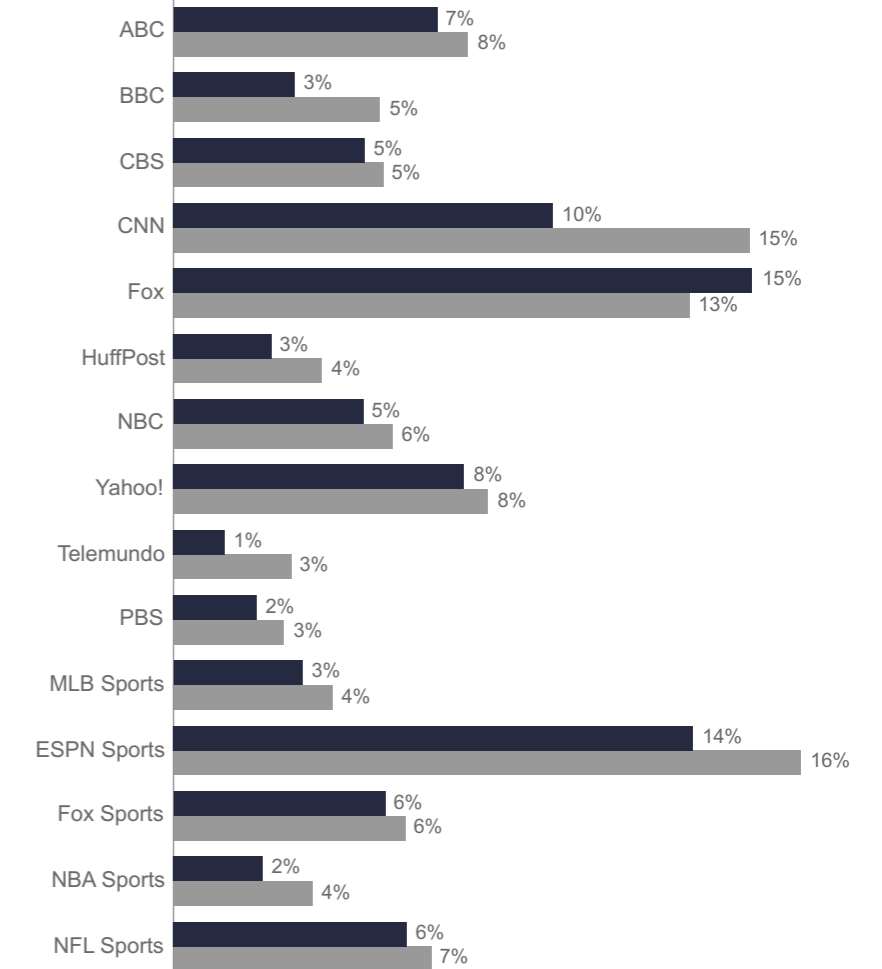
### Internet and Device Ownership (2024 Esri)

|   | HH % |
|---|------|
| 2024 Used Computer to Access Internet/30 Days (%) | 72%  |
| Fiber Optic Internet at Home                      | 13%  |
| Cable Modem Internet at Home                      | 13%  |
| Broadband or High Speed Internet at Home          | 92%  |
| Satellite Internet Connection at Home             | 5%   |
| Watched TV program online (%)                     | 19%  |
| Used Spanish language website in last app (%)     | 2%   |
| Own a Tablet                                      | 54%  |
| Own a Smartphone                                  | 93%  |
| Own a iPhone                                      | 48%  |
| Own a Android                                     | 46%  |

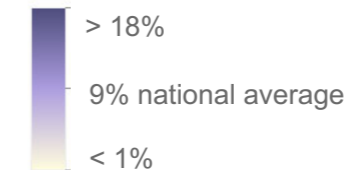
### Percent of Households with No Internet Access (ACS)



### Online News Consumption (Past 30 Days)



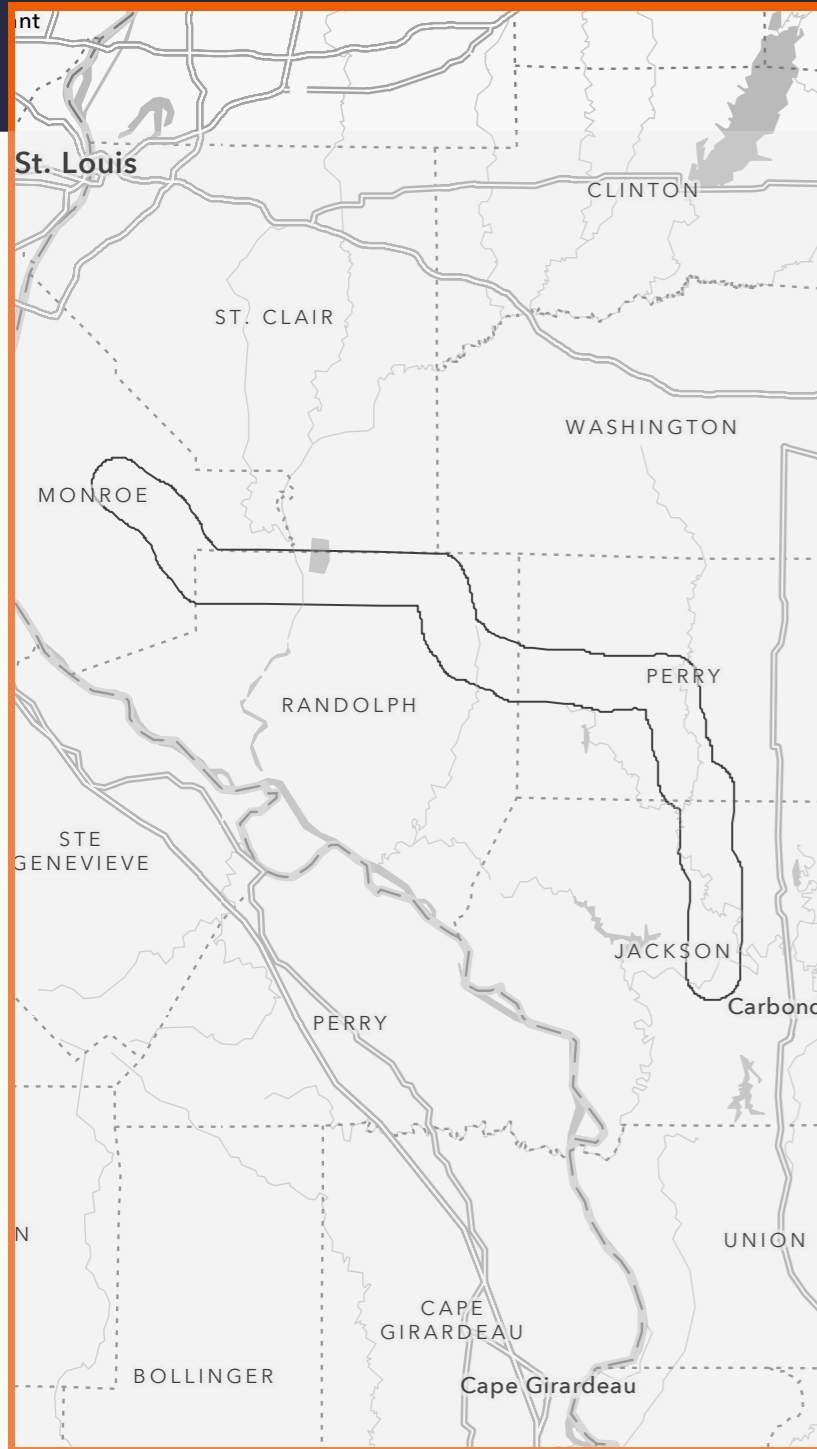
Bars show comparison to **Illinois**



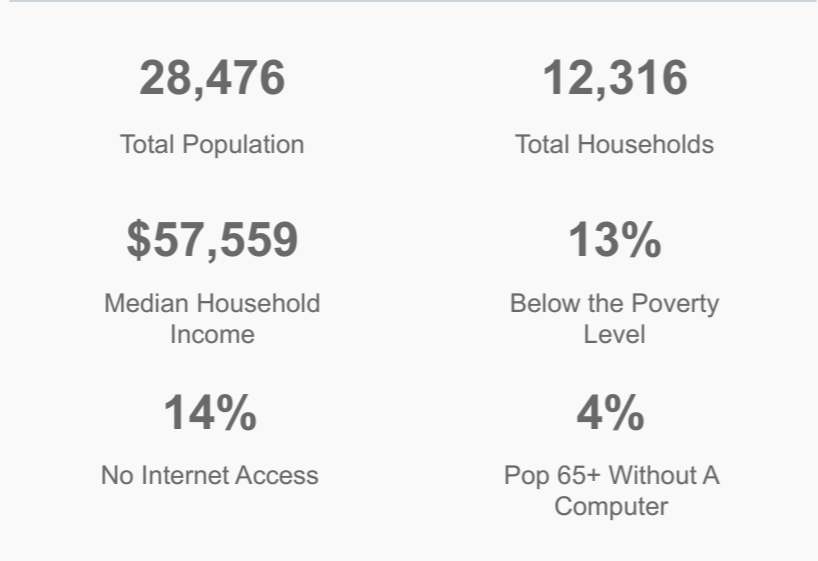


# Community Profile

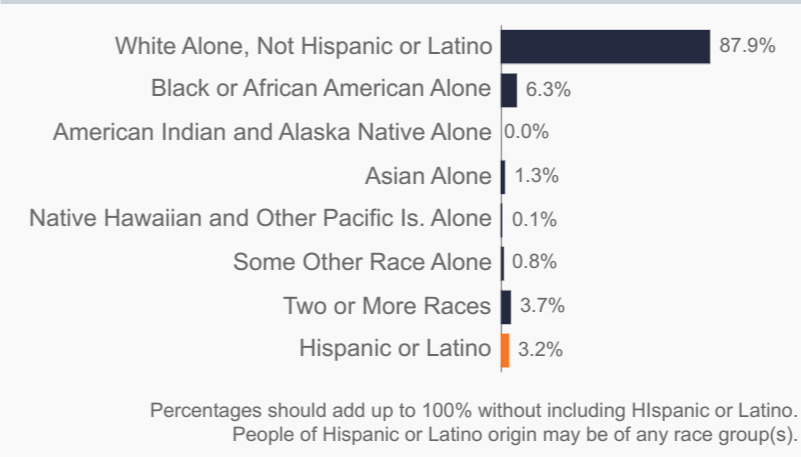
## Southwest Illinois Connector - Two-Mile Buffer



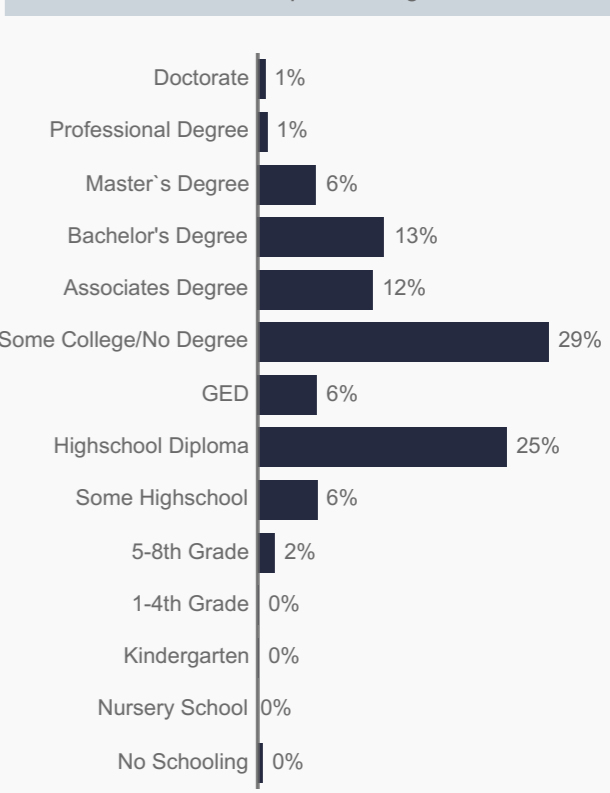
### Population and Households (ACS)



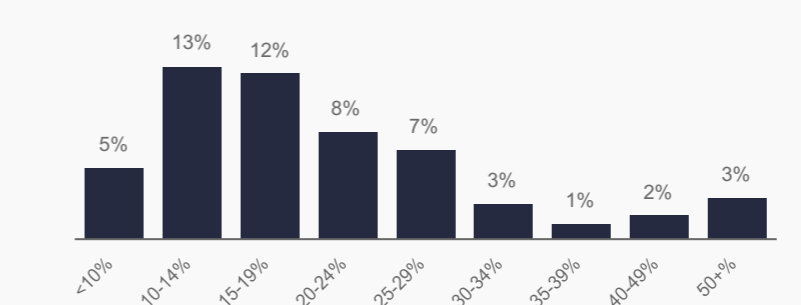
### Race/Ethnicity (ACS)



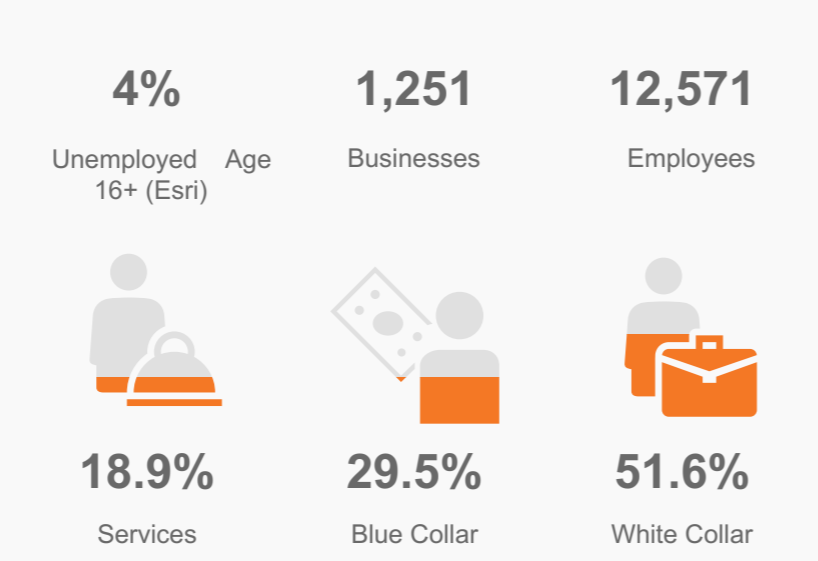
### Educational Attainment (ACS) Population Age 25+



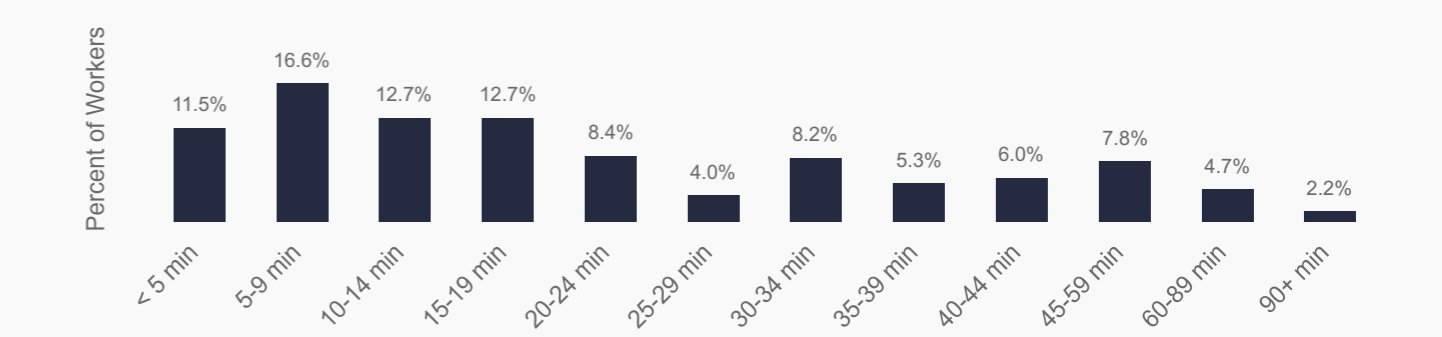
### Mortgage as Percent of Salary (ACS)



### Employment (ACS)



### Travel Time to Work (ACS)



Source: This infographic contains data provided by ACS (2018-2022), Esri (2024), Esri-Data Axle (2024), Esri-MRI-Simmons (2024).



## Appendix B: Community Advisory Group List

| <u>Name</u>         | <u>Title</u>                                    | <u>Agency</u>  |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Dave Holder         | Board Chairman                                  | Randolph County  |
| Grant Deterding     | County Engineer                                 | Randolph County Highway Department                               |
| TBD                 | TBD   | Randolph County Economic Development                             |
| Mark Kiehna*        | Past Chairman                                   | Randolph County/Southwest Connector Coalition                    |
| Chris Martin        |   | Randolph County Progress Committee                               |
| Bruce Morganstern*  | Board Chairman                                  | Perry County   |
| Brian Otten         | County Engineer                                 | Perry County Highway Department                                  |
| John Rendleman*     | Board Member                                    | Jackson County   |
| C.J. Calandro       | Board Chairman                                  | Jackson County   |
| Mitch Burdick, P.E. | County Engineer                                 | Jackson County Highway Department                                |
| George Green        | Board Chairman                                  | Monroe County  |
| Aaron Metzger, P.E. | County Engineer                                 | Monroe County Highway Department                                 |
| Stanley Darter      | Mayor   | City of Waterloo   |
| J.R. Landeck        | Public Works Director                           | City of Waterloo   |
| Susan Harbaugh      | Mayor   | City of Red Bud  |
| Josh Eckart         | Superintendent of Public Works                  | City of Red Bud  |
| Jill Landgraf       | Administrative Officer                          | City of Red Bud  |
| Virgil Chandler     | Village President                               | Village of Baldwin   |
| Beverly Harms       | Village Clerk                                   | Village of Baldwin   |
| Jason Schlimme      | Mayor   | City of Sparta   |
| Angie Peters        | City Clerk                                      | City of Sparta   |
| Robert L. Spencer   | Mayor   | City of Pinckneyville  |
| Sam Peradotta       | Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements | City of Pinckneyville  |
| Donald H. Wisely    | Mayor   | Village of Vergennes   |
| Will Stephens*      | Mayor   | City of Murphysboro  |
| Carolin Harvey*     | Mayor   | City of Carbondale   |
| Herbert Simmons     | President                                       | Southwest Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission |
| James Wild          | Executive Director                              | East West Gateway Council of Governments                         |
| Cary Minnis         | Executive Director                              | Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission       |
| Dawn McClarren      | Executive Director                              | Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce                                  |
| Mary C. Lamie       | Executive Director                              | St. Louis Freightway   |



|                        |  |  |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Margaret Onken         | Chief Engagement Officer                     | Greater St. Louis Chamber of Commerce                |
| Ed Weilbacher          | Chairman                                     | Kaskaskia Regional Port District                     |
| Alyssa Connell         | Executive Director                           | Southern Illinois Airport                            |
|                        |  | Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council        |
| Deborah Barnett        | Executive Director                           | Southern Illinois NOW                                |
| Darlene Chapman        | President                                    | Discover Downstate Illinois                          |
|                        | Manager                                      | Jackson County Farm Bureau                           |
|                        |  | Monroe County Farm Bureau                            |
|                        |  | Perry County Farm Bureau                             |
| Braylee Fink           | Manager                                      | Randolph County Farm Bureau                          |
| Michael McConachie     | Chairman                                     | Randolph County Farm Bureau                          |
| Skip Klinger           | Executive Director                           | World Shooting and Recreation Complex                |
| Jeff Harmon            | Chief Communications and Marketing Officer   | Southern Illinois University - Carbondale            |
| Nick Mance             | President                                    | Southwestern Illinois College                        |
| Anthony Hebron         | VP, Marketing and Communications             | Illinois Realtors                                    |
| Stephanie Redfield     | Communications Coordinator                   | Illinois Municipal League                            |
|                        | Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area | Illinois Department of Natural Resources             |
| Chris Hespen           | Pyramid State Recreation Area                | Illinois Department of Natural Resources             |
| Cindy Zipfel           | Administrative Coordinator                   | Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District   |
|                        |  | Jackson County IL Soil & Water Conservation District |
| Martha Morgenstern     | Resource Conservationist                     | Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District    |
| Cheryl Houghlan        | Administrative Coordinator                   | Randolph County Soil and Water Conservation District |
| Bill Graff             | State Executive Director                     | U.S. Department of Agriculture                       |
| Andrew Schlichting     |  | Natural Resources Conservation Service               |
| Noralyn Kelly          |  | Farm Service Agency                                  |
|                        |  | Illinois Caverns State Natural Area                  |
|                        |  | Randolph County State Recreation Area                |
| Adam Lach              | Chief Executive Officer                      | Rides Mass Transit District                          |
| Jesica Gentry Schlimme | Executive Director                           | Monroe Randolph Transit District                     |



## Appendix C: Stakeholder List

| <u>Name</u>              | <u>Title</u>                       | <u>Agency</u>                              |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Elected Officials</b> |                                    |  |
| Mike Bost                | U.S. Representative                | Congressional District 12                  |
| David Friess             | IL State Representative            | Illinois General Assembly - 115th District |
| Paul Jacobs              | IL State Representative            | Illinois General Assembly - 118th District |
| Terri Bryant             | IL State Senator                   | Illinois Senate - District 58              |
| Dale Fowler              | IL State Senator                   | Illinois Senate - District 59              |
| Richard Durbin           | U.S. Senator                       | U.S. Senate                                |
| Tammy Duckworth          | U.S. Senator                       | U.S. Senate                                |
| Stanley Darter           | Mayor                              | City of Waterloo                           |
| Mechelle Childers        | City Clerk                         | City of Waterloo                           |
| Susan Harbaugh           | Mayor                              | City of Red Bud                            |
| Joanne Cowell            | City Clerk                         | City of Red Bud                            |
| Sheila Wetzler           | Administrative Assistant           | Monroe County Board of Commissioners       |
| Kelton Davis             | Regional Superintendent of Schools | Monroe and Randolph Counties               |
| Dave Holder              | Board Chairman/Budget Director     | Randolph County Board of Commissioners     |
| Virgil Chandler          | Village President                  | Village of Baldwin                         |
| Jason Schlimme           | Mayor                              | City of Sparta                             |
| Angie Peters             | City Clerk                         | City of Sparta                             |
| Robert L. Spencer        | Mayor                              | City of Pinckneyville                      |
| Melanie Johnson          | County Clerk and Recorder          | Randolph County Clerk                      |
| Melissa Kellerman        | City Clerk                         | City of Pinckneyville                      |
| Jennifer Martin          | Commissioner                       | Perry County Board of Commissioners        |
| Joseph Folden            | Commissioner                       | Perry County Board of Commissioners        |
|                          |                                    | Jackson County Board                       |
| Donald Wisely            | Mayor                              | Village of Vergennes                       |
| Rochelle Robinson        | City Clerk                         | Village of Vergennes                       |
| Will Stephens*           | Mayor                              | City of Murphysboro                        |
| Gina Hunziker            | City Clerk                         | City of Murphysboro                        |
| Carolyn Harvey*          | Mayor                              | City of Carbondale                         |
| Matt Buettner            | Alderman - Ward I                  | City of Waterloo                           |
| Joel Vogt                | Alderman - Ward I                  | City of Waterloo                           |
| Jim Trantham             | Alderman - Ward II                 | City of Waterloo                           |
| Jim Hopkins              | Alderman - Ward II                 | City of Waterloo                           |
| Kyle Buettner            | Alderman - Ward III                | City of Waterloo                           |
| Tina Charron             | Alderman - Ward III                | City of Waterloo                           |
| Jordon Riley             | Alderman - Ward IV                 | City of Waterloo                           |
| Gary Most                | Alderman - Ward IV                 | City of Waterloo                           |



|                                   |   |  |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Jeremy DeMond                     | Council Member - Ward I                         | City of Red Bud                                |
| Bryce Parsons                     | Council Member - Ward I                         | City of Red Bud                                |
| Kyle Donjon                       | Council Member - Ward II                        | City of Red Bud                                |
| Bill Hanebutt                     | Council Member - Ward II                        | City of Red Bud                                |
| Rodney Nevois                     | Council Member - Ward III                       | City of Red Bud                                |
| Curt Guebert                      | Council Member - Ward III                       | City of Red Bud                                |
| Alan Piel                         | Council Member - Ward IV                        | City of Red Bud                                |
| Patrick Mueller                   | Council Member - Ward IV                        | City of Red Bud                                |
| <b>County and Municipal Staff</b> |   |  |
| Kevin Hicks                       | Commissioner of Public Health and Safety        | City of Pinckneyville                          |
| Sam Peradotta                     | Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements | City of Pinckneyville                          |
| Joshua Kuhnert                    | Commissioner of Public Property                 | City of Pinckneyville                          |
| William Stotlar                   | Commissioner of Accounts and Finance            | City of Pinckneyville                          |
| Alan Young                        | Commissioner of Accounts and Finance            | City of Sparta                                 |
| Mike Kelley                       | Commissioner of Streets and Public Improvements | City of Sparta                                 |
| Bobby Klausing                    | Commissioner of Public Property                 | City of Sparta                                 |
| Gary Hanna                        | Commissioner of Public Health and Safety        | City of Sparta                                 |
| Core Rheinecker                   | City Manager                                    | City of Sparta                                 |
| Jance Curry-Witzman               | Alderman - Ward I                               | City of Murphysboro                            |
| Barbara Hughes                    | Alderman - Ward I                               | City of Murphysboro                            |
| Rick Runge                        | Alderman - Ward II                              | City of Murphysboro                            |
| Michael Austin                    | Alderman - Ward II                              | City of Murphysboro                            |
| W. J. Pittman                     | Alderman - Ward III                             | City of Murphysboro                            |
| Angela Jackson                    | Alderman - Ward III                             | City of Murphysboro                            |
| Gary McComb                       | Alderman - Ward IV                              | City of Murphysboro                            |
| John Erbes                        | Alderman - Ward IV                              | City of Murphysboro                            |
| Don Gladden                       | Alderman - Ward V                               | City of Murphysboro                            |
| Scott Strack                      | Alderman - Ward V                               | City of Murphysboro                            |
| Carol Best                        | Randolph County Administrator                   | Randolph County                                |
| Grant Deterding                   | County Engineer                                 | Randolph County Highway Department             |
| Chris Martin                      | Director  | Randolph County Progress Committee             |
| Bruce Morganstern*                | Board Chairman                                  | Perry County                                   |
| Brian Otten                       | County Engineer                                 | Perry County Highway Department                |
| John Rendleman*                   | Board Member                                    | Jackson County                                 |
| C.J. Calandro                     | Board Chairman                                  | Jackson County                                 |
| Mitch Burdick, P.E.               | County Engineer                                 | Jackson County Highway Department              |
| George Green                      | Board Chairman                                  | Monroe County                                  |
| George Green                      | Chairman  | Monroe County Economic Development Corporation |
| Aaron Metzger, P.E.               | County Engineer                                 | Monroe County Highway Department               |



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|---------------------------|---|---|
| J.R. Landeck              | Public Works Director                               | City of Waterloo  |
| Josh Eckart               | Superintendent of Public Works                      | City of Red Bud   |
| Jill Landgraf             | Administrative Officer                              | City of Red Bud   |
| Jeff Mueller              | Code Administrator/City Engineer                    | City of Red Bud   |
| Dawn McClarren            | Executive Director                                  | Murphysboro Chamber of Commerce   |
| Carrie Gilliam            | Economic Development Coordinator                    | City of Pinckneyville   |
| Donald H. Wisely          |   | Village of Vergennes  |
| Stan Reno                 | City Manager  | City of Carbondale  |
|                           |   | Monroe County Electric Cooperative, INC                                   |
| J.R. Landeck              | Public Works Director                               | Waterloo Electric Department  |
| J.R. Landeck              | Public Works Director                               | Waterloo Gas Department   |
| Eric Whitfield            | Director, Economic Development                      | Ameren Illinois   |
|                           |   | Harrisonville Telephone Company   |
|                           |   | Reliable Sanitation   |
| Kevin Liefer              | President   | Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association                                 |
|                           |   | Southern Illinois Power Cooperative                                       |
| Shawn Kirkland            | Water Plant - Southeast Waste Water Treatment Plant | Water & Sewer Department  |
| <b>Other Agencies</b>     |   |   |
| Deb Grapperhaus, BS, LEHP | Public Information Officer                          | Randolph County Health Department   |
| Brian Eckert              | Assistant Administrator                             | Monroe County Health Department   |
| Margaret Ashmore          | Interim Administrator                               | Perry County Health Department  |
| Dr. Sherry Jones          | Board President                                     | Jackson County Board of Health  |
|                           |   | Carterville Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office                         |
| Pam Poetker               | Executive Director                                  | Monroe County Economic Development  |
|                           |   | City of Red Bud Public Works Department                                   |
| Vershun Tolliver          | Division Administrator                              | Federal Highway Administration - Illinois Division                        |
|                           |   | U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  |
|                           |   | Illinois Environmental Protection Agency                                  |
|                           | Region V Office - Southern Illinois                 | Illinois Department of Natural Resources                                  |
| James Wild                | Executive Director                                  | East West Gateway Council of Governments                                  |
| Jayette Bolinski          | Media Contact                                       | Illinois Department of Natural Resources - Historic Preservation Division |
| Herbert Simmons           | Treasurer   | Southwest Illinois Metropolitan and Regional Planning Commission          |
| Margaret Onken            | Chief Engagement Officer                            | Greater St. Louis Chamber of Commerce                                     |
|                           |   | Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council                             |
|                           | Monroe County Outreach Office                       | Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council                             |
|                           | Randolph County Outreach Office                     | Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council                             |



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|                             | Perry County Outreach Office                 | Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council  |
|                             | Jackson County Outreach Office               | Western Egyptian Economic Opportunity Council  |
| Deborah Barnett             | Executive Director                           | Southern Illinois NOW  |
| Darlene Chapman             | President                                    | Discover Downstate Illinois  |
|                             | Kaskaskia River State Fish and Wildlife Area | Illinois Department of Natural Resources   |
|                             | Pyramid State Recreation Area                | Illinois Department of Natural Resources   |
| Cindy Zipfel                | Administrative Coordinator                   | Monroe County Soil and Water Conservation District   |
|                             |  | Jackson County IL Soil & Water Conservation District   |
| Martha Morgenstern          | Resource Conservationist                     | Perry County Soil and Water Conservation District  |
| Cheryl Houghlan             | Administrative Coordinator                   | Randolph County Soil and Water Conservation District   |
| Bill Graff                  | State Executive Director                     | U.S. Department of Agriculture   Perry, Randolph, Jackson, and Monroe County Farm Service Agencies |
| Andrew Schlichting          |  | Natural Resources Conservation Service   Murphysboro, Pinckneyville, and Sparta Service Centers    |
| Noralyn Kelly               |  | Farm Service Agency - Sparta Service Center  |
|                             |  | Illinois Caverns State Natural Area  |
|                             |  | Randolph County State Recreation Area  |
| <b>Community Partners</b>   |  |  |
| Pat Vaseska                 | President                                    | Monroe County Historical Society   |
| Mark Kiehna                 | Past Chairman                                | Randolph County/Southwest Connector Coalition  |
| Cary Minnis                 | Executive Director                           | Greater Egypt Regional Planning and Development Commission   |
| TBD                         | TBD  | Randolph County Economic Development   |
| Mary C. Lamie               | Executive Director                           | St. Louis Freightway   |
| Matt Hart                   | Executive Director                           | Illinois Trucking Association  |
| Stephanie Redfield          | Communications Coordinator                   | Illinois Municipal League  |
|                             |  | Illinois State Association of Counties   |
| Anthony Hebron              | VP, Marketing and Communications             | Illinois Realtors  |
|                             | Manager                                      | Jackson County Farm Bureau   |
|                             |  | Monroe County Farm Bureau  |
|                             |  | Perry County Farm Bureau   |
| Braylee Fink                | Manager                                      | Randolph County Farm Bureau  |
| <b>Emergency Responders</b> |  |  |
| Carla Heise                 | Director                                     | Monroe County EMS  |
| Kevin Scheibe               | Public Safety Director EMA/911               | Monroe County 911  |
| Neal Rohlfing               | County Sheriff                               | Monroe County Sheriff's Department   |
| Jarrold Peters              | County Sheriff                               | Randolph County  |
| Chad Howard                 | Sheriff                                      | Perry County   |



|                                     |  |   |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Doug Clark                          | E-911 Coordinator                              | Perry County  |
| Kenton Schafer                      | Chief  | Jackson County Abulance Department Headquarters       |
| Orval Rowe                          | Coordinator                                    | Jackson County Emergency Management Agency            |
| Robert Burns                        | Sheriff  | Jackson County Sheriff's Office                       |
|                                     |  | Baldwin Community Fire Protection District            |
| Chief Tom Elliff                    | President                                      | St. Clair/Monroe County Fire Chiefs Association       |
| Joe Gregson                         | President                                      | Hecker Fire Department                                |
| Tim Rucks                           | Fire Chief                                     | Sparta Fire Department                                |
| Curtis Miller                       | Fire Chief                                     | Pinckneyville Fire Department                         |
|                                     |  | Vergennes Fire Department                             |
| Steve McBride                       | Fire Chief                                     | Murphysboro Fire Department                           |
| Charlie Bargman                     | Coordinator                                    | Randolph County Emergency Management Agency           |
|                                     |  | Perry County Emergency Management Agency              |
| <b>Businesses and Organizations</b> |  |   |
| Skip Klinger                        | Executive Director                             | World Shooting and Recreation Complex                 |
|                                     |  | Red Bud Industries                                    |
| Robert Spencer                      | Chariman                                       | Pinckneyville-Du Quoin Airport Board                  |
| Ed Weilbacher                       | Chairman                                       | Kaskaskia Regional Port District                      |
| Jeff Harmon                         | Chief Communications and Marketing Officer     | Southern Illinois University - Carbondale             |
|                                     |  | Southwestern Illinois College - Red Bud Campus        |
| Randall Dauby                       | Hospital Administrator/Chief Executive Officer | Pinckneyville Community Hospital                      |
| Jennifer Gregson                    | Chief Administrative Officer                   | Red Bud Regional Hospital                             |
|                                     |  | Sparta Community Hospital                             |
| Craig Jesiolowski                   | VP, Administrator                              | SIH St Joseph Memorial Hospital                       |
|                                     |  | Knight Hawk Coal, LLC                                 |
| Mary Compton                        | Communications                                 | Peabody Coal Mining                                   |
|                                     |  | Ill Central   |
| Kelton Davis                        | Regional Superintendent of Schools             | Monroe-Randolph Counties Regional Office of Education |
| Brian Charron                       | Superintendent                                 | Waterloo Unit School District No. 5                   |
| Jonathan Tallman                    | Superintendent                                 | Red Bud Community Unit School District 132            |
| Chris Miesner                       | Superintendent                                 | Sparta Community Unit School District 140             |
| Brian Pasero                        | Superintendent                                 | Pinckneyville District 50 Schools                     |
| Jerry Travelstead                   | Superintendent                                 | COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #204           |
| Andrea Evers                        | Superintendent                                 | Murphysboro Community Unit School District #186       |
| Shawn Freeman                       | Director                                       | Jackson County Mass Transit Administrative            |
|                                     |  | South Central Transit - Du Quoin                      |



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|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
|                 |                                 | Greyhound Lines, Inc                 |
| Adam Lach       | Chief Executive Officer         | RIDES Mass Transit District          |
|                 |                                 | Waterloo Sportsman's Club            |
| Bob Polansky    | Executive Director              | Camp Wartburg                        |
|                 | Perry County Soccer Association | Perry County Soccer Complex          |
|                 |                                 | Columbia Quarry Co                   |
|                 |                                 | K-River Motel & Campground           |
|                 |                                 | Gateway FS                           |
|                 |                                 | Sparta Walmart Supercenter #222      |
|                 |                                 | Murphysboro Walmart Supercenter #302 |
| Kenneth Hanshaw | President                       | Murphysboro Baseball Inc             |
| Wayne Keller    | Chariman                        | Illinois Rural Heritage Museum       |
|                 |                                 | Acorns Golf Links                    |
|                 |                                 | Gander Hill Goose Club               |
| Alyssa Connell  | Executive Director              | Southern Illinois Airport            |