

City Hosts Open House for Tollway Project



Above: Bridge Construction to be done by the end of the year with ramps planned for 2019/2020.

On Tuesday August 22nd the City of Marengo held an open house public information meeting to update the community on the proposed interchange project at I-90 and Route 23. During the open house the City's engineers from HR Green presented design concepts, reviewed the proposed roundabouts, solicited feedback and showed a simulation of what the completed interchange will look like.

During the three hour forum nearly 70 people attended to share their thoughts and learn more about the interchange project. The public information meeting was the latest step as the City moves forward in collaboration with the Tollway Authority, the Illinois Department of Transportation and McHenry County on this project. During the last month city engineers and staff have also met with representatives from Riley Township, the Marengo Fire Protection District and Marengo Rescue Squad to review the proposed project design and gather their feedback.

One of the highlights of the public information meeting was a computer simulation of what the interchange at I-90 and Route 23 will look like once it is completed. You can view the video at <http://www.cityofmarengo.com/2017/08/23/video-of-interchange-design-at-i-90-and-route-23/>.

At this time the Tollway Authority is rebuilding and widening the bridge on Route 23 to accommodate for the development of the interchange ramps. Construction on the bridge itself is scheduled to be finished by the end of this year. Over the next twelve months the design engineering of the ramps should be finalized and approved by the city's partners in this project. Shortly thereafter the Tollway will bid the project and it is expected that construction will commence midway through 2019, with construction on the ramps being completed in 2020.

This project is of regional significance as it will be the first and most likely only point of Tollway access in McHenry County. The development of the interchange provides greater access for many businesses, industries and citizens throughout the region. The primary goal of this project from both Marengo and McHenry County's standpoint is to spur economic development in the area. The City's goal is to create industrial development in an effort to provide more job opportunities for our community.