



## Office of the Will County Board

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# **143rd Street improvement plans in Homer Glen revised, most unmountable medians eliminated**

*Majority of public feedback opposed to medians, reduces cost of project*

JOLIET, IL- Will County Board Members Steve Balich (R-Homer Glen) and Mike Fricilone (R-Homer Glen) today announced that 143rd Street corridor road improvements in Homer Glen will not include unmountable medians, except at major intersections.

"In an effort to include all stakeholders, the original design was brought to the citizens at a public meeting held January 29th," said Balich. "The meeting was an open house format with two large plan drawings of the proposed improvements, and exhibit boards for review. Meeting attendees were encouraged to view the plans, ask questions of the project team in attendance and leave their feedback."

The January 29th public meeting was attended by over 110 people, including elected officials, local organizations, and residents of Homer Glen. Since then, 99 written comments have been received and the majority of those expressed opposition to the inclusion of unmountable medians. Both Balich and Fricilone agreed.

"The medians would have affected over 65 residents and businesses whose driveways access 143rd Street," said Fricilone. "We greatly appreciate the feedback received from all stakeholders and believe the new design addresses their concerns."

Fricilone and Balich worked in cooperation with Bruce Gould, Will County Director of Transportation, and Walter Adamic (D-Joliet), chairman of the public works committee, to eliminate all but four of the unmountable medians. The four intersections that will have unmountable medians are Bell Road, Golden Oak (west side only), Parker Road, and State Street. The new design will include 16 foot wide mountable asphalt medians which will allow both east and west access to all driveways linked to 143rd Street.

"Aside from the public's concerns over roadway accessibility, the concrete unmountable medians would have added to the total cost of the project," said Balich. "This ends up saving the county money, while meeting the needs of our constituents."

The 143rd Street corridor project extends three miles from State Street east to Golden Oak Drive. The project includes complete reconstruction of the two lane roadway to a five lane with curbs and gutters, an enclosed drainage system, upgraded and new traffic signals at various intersections, and other additions. The total cost is approximately \$15 million for design, right-of-way acquisition, and construction.

*(more)*

The project is planned in three phases, with the design phase starting later this year and construction beginning by 2016. The entire corridor is expected to be completed by 2020.

"This is an important and significant roadway improvement for our county, and it was vitally important we address the concerns of our citizens before proceeding with the project's design," said Adamic. "We can now move forward with upgrading 143rd Street to provide better access for our residents travelling to and from I-355 and Homer Glen."

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