



Eye on the Ike

Eisenhower/I-290 Planning Process Overview and Information Resources

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has big plans in the works for I-290 (aka the Eisenhower Expressway or “The Ike”). After years of study, IDOT is heading toward a critical decision on a plan to help ease traffic congestion on the segment of the Ike that runs through Oak Park.

Although reconstruction is several years off, IDOT is deciding now which of the plans under consideration will emerge as the final plan for rebuilding the Eisenhower. For Oak Park, there are pluses and minuses, risks and opportunities. The Village Board is committed to ensuring that our community’s voice is heard loud and clear as IDOT moves toward a decision expected in late 2015.

Overview: what’s on the table

- IDOT’s plan would move exit and entrance ramps at Harlem and Austin to the right side of the expressway, increasing their height above existing surface street grade.
- I-290 would be widened from six to eight lanes in all of the four plans now under consideration, though the expanded highway would remain with the existing walls.
- Reconstruction could provide an opportunity to widen bridges across the Ike in Oak Park, allowing for more pedestrian and bicycle activity and possibly retail space.
- Collaboration between CTA and IDOT could result in improvements to the existing Blue Line infrastructure, including significantly improved station area access and provisions for a future westward Blue Line extension.
- As it stands now, IDOT’s plan has four alternatives for reconstruction, each of which includes a new lane in each direction – either general purpose, carpool, tolled or some combination thereof.

Stay informed, ask questions, get involved in the conversation

- Check www.oak-park.us/eyeontheike for updates and sign up for [Village enews](#)
- Visit the IDOT Eisenhower project website at www.eisenhowerexpressway.com
- Visit CTA project website at www.transitchicago.com/bluweststudy
- Attend important upcoming IDOT public forums as they are announced, and take advantage of the formal 30-day public comment period following the meetings
- The most effective comments are presented by letter during the 30-day comment period to the IDOT contact identified at the public meeting. However, you may also comment at any point during the study at www.eisenhowerexpressway.com/informed

Questions? Need more information?

Contact Assistant Village Manager Rob Cole – 708.358.5791 or cole@oak-park.us