



# JOE PAGE BRIDGE PROJECT

ISSUE 1 | SPRING 2023



**Study Launched!**  
**WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK**

The Illinois Department of Transportation, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration, has initiated the Joe Page Bridge Phase I Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Study.

The Joe Page Bridge serves as the vital connection for nearby farming communities and river town locals – especially considering that the closest alternate crossing is by ferry boat (weather and river conditions dependent) 10 miles north to the Kampsville ferry or 23 miles south to the Brussels ferry. The bridge serves the communities of Batchtown, Beechville, Fieldon, Gilead, Hardin, Jerseyville, Meppen, Nutwood, and Rosedale, and the counties of Calhoun, Greene, and Jersey.

The Joe Page Bridge is a truss bridge that includes a 311 foot long vertical lift span and was originally built in 1931. The total structure length is 2,150 feet with a roadway width of 22 feet. While this structure has had periodic maintenance, including steel repair in 2015, the last major rehabilitation took place in 2004. This work included structural, electrical, and mechanical rehabilitation at a cost of \$16 million.



**The Joe Page Bridge is in Hardin, Illinois and carries Illinois Route 16 and Illinois Route 100 across the Illinois River linking Calhoun and Greene Counties and is the southernmost bridge on the Illinois River.**

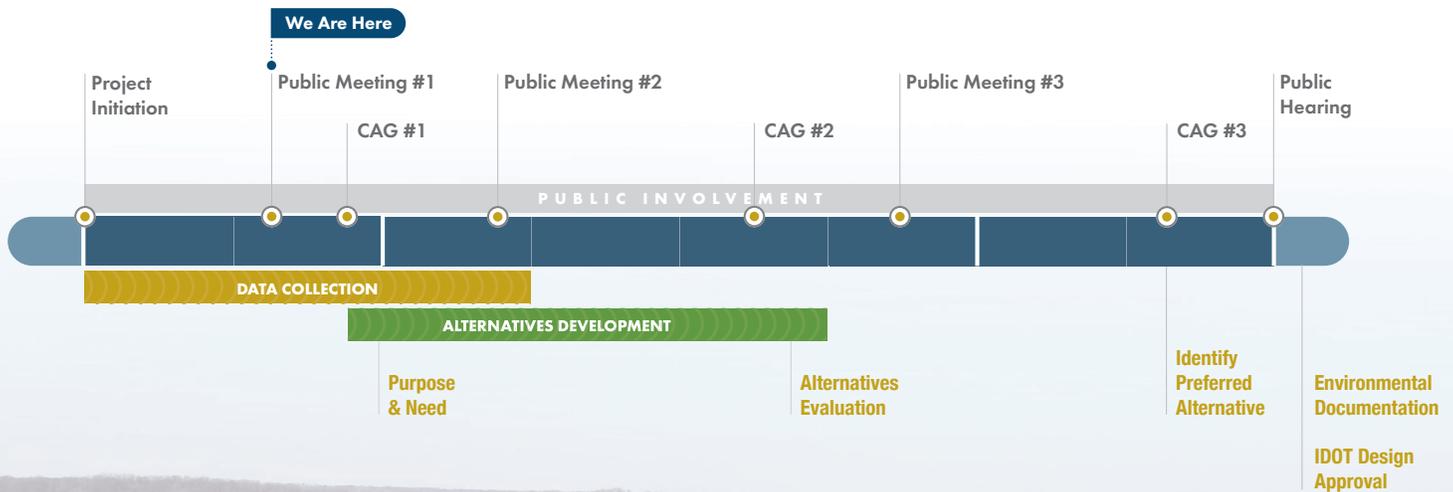
# What Are We STUDYING?

The Joe Page Bridge Phase I Engineering and Environmental Study will investigate options for the rehabilitation or removal and replacement of the existing bridge and will follow the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Project Study Group will consider a variety of factors that may have an impact on the environment and community, and will submit the final findings to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and to the public for review.

The bridge does not meet current design standards and the costs for operations and maintenance continue to increase. Over \$2 million was spent in the last three years with over \$100,000 increase in costs from 2020 to 2022.



## PROJECT TIMELINE



## Project Study Group

The Project Study Group (PSG) for this project is made up of IDOT staff, its engineering consultant, and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). They will inform the Community Advisory Group (CAG) of the environmental process, transportation planning guidelines, design guidelines, and the relationship between transportation needs and project alternatives. In turn, they will consider input from the CAG and public as they review the engineering and environmental analysis to recommend a preferred alternative. The PSG is responsible for preparing the documentation for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. Following the federal project development process allows the project to be eligible for possible federal funding in the future.

## COMMUNITY Advisory Group

IDOT is forming a Community Advisory Group (CAG) to assist with gathering input throughout the project development process. The CAG will help the project study group identify the transportation needs and provide input into the development and evaluation of project alternatives. The CAG will consist of community leaders, local businesses, interest groups, area residents, members of the public, and stakeholders with interest in environmental, land use, drainage, transportation, and economic development. Periodic meetings are planned and will be scheduled to correspond with key project milestones.

Other stakeholders and interested residents that are not part of the CAG will be able to participate through attending public meetings and adding their names to the project mailing list to receive electronic meeting invitations, newsletters, and e-mail notifications. Comments and input can be submitted through the project website or by mail/e-mail throughout the entire project duration.

**Applications to volunteer for CAG participation are available here today.**

## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

IDOT is developing the study using the principles of Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS). CSS is a collaborative approach where we gather and consider input from all stakeholders in the development of a transportation solution. The goal is to provide safety and mobility enhancements that fit into the surroundings and preserve scenic, aesthetic, historic, and environmental resources. Taking this approach encourages design flexibility to incorporate environmental and community values as well as meet transportation needs.

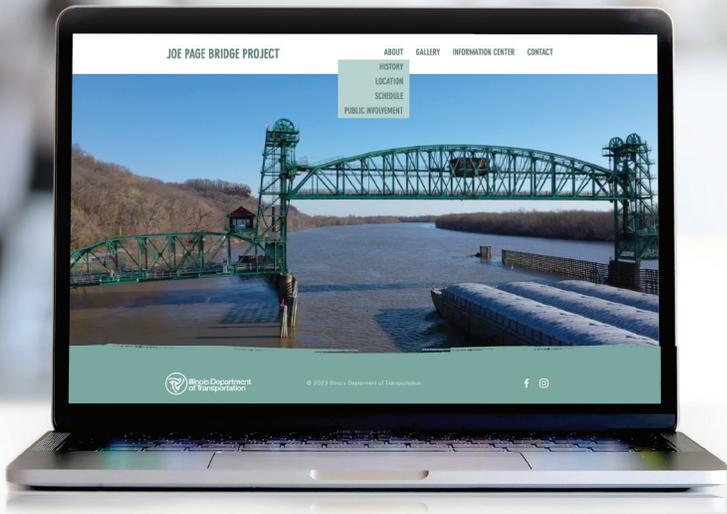
Public involvement is a key component of CSS and is strongly encouraged during the study. Stay up to date with project progress and other opportunities for participation on the project website [www.JoePageBridge.com](http://www.JoePageBridge.com).



## STAY INVOLVED

Public Involvement is a key component of the Joe Page Bridge project, and the project website will be an important resource to keep you connected as the project moves along. The website will be a collection point for all the project information, reports, and publications. On the project website ([www.JoePageBridge.com](http://www.JoePageBridge.com)) you will be able to sign-up for email notifications, find meeting dates, find contact information, and provide comments.

Visit the project website to get involved and stay informed. All public meeting materials will be posted to the website within 24 hours of the meeting.



## PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

IDOT is committed to providing opportunities for public involvement throughout the process. Here are some of the ways you can participate and stay up to date on project milestones:

- ▶ Attend Public Meetings
- ▶ Read Newsletters
- ▶ Visit the Project Website  
[www.JoePageBridge.com](http://www.JoePageBridge.com)

## Your Feedback is WELCOMED!

Your input is valuable, and it is our commitment to include stakeholders in this process. Provide comments in one of the following ways:

-  Submit comments through the project website [www.JoePageBridge.com](http://www.JoePageBridge.com)
-  Mail your comments directly to IDOT  
Illinois Department of Transportation – District 8  
c/o Annie Prothro, Project Studies Engineer  
1102 Eastport Plaza Drive  
Collinsville, IL 62234
-  Email us at: [Annie.Prothro@illinois.gov](mailto:Annie.Prothro@illinois.gov)

## What Are the Next Steps?

Over the next few months, the study group will meet with stakeholders, gather input and data, and finalize the Purpose and Need. This groundwork will then be the basis for the development and evaluation of alternatives.