



336 Update

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROUTE 336 COALITION

SPRING
2000

Route 336 Spring Luncheon Planned Transportation Secretary Brown Featured Speaker

Mark your calendars for April 25th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a buffet style luncheon at the Grand Room of the Heritage Inn in Canton. Area legislators, business leaders and 336 Coalition members will again come together to promote the extension of Route 336 from Macomb to Peoria.

The 336 Coalition has made great strides since its inception. With \$7.5 million from the Governor's Illinois First Program targeted for Phase I Engineering and coming off a successful Fall rally in Bushnell, Coalition members have a lot to be enthused about. But, rather than revel in past accomplishments, it is now time more than ever to raise the bar and push the momentum to a higher level.

Future progress depends on a growing and proactive membership. We need people who are willing to write letters, attend meetings and get involved. Private citizens, business owners, community leaders and elected officials have to work together to get this project through. Let's impress upon Secretary Brown the strong support behind Route 336 with a good showing at the luncheon.

The 336 Coalition to encouraging everyone to come to the luncheon and bring at least one

guest. Each individual 336 Coalition member and each member business will receive a ticket that will allow one free entry to the luncheon. Any guests of individual members and additional employees of businesses can attend the luncheon for \$10.00. Or, for \$25.00, the cost of an individual membership, guests and employees can attend the luncheon and also become a member of the 336 Coalition.

Please call 309-647-2677 for reservations.

"Coalition members have a lot to be enthused about. But, rather than revel in past accomplishments, it is now time more than ever to raise the bar and push the momentum to a higher level."

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Hundreds of western Illinois residents filled Delaney's in Bushnell for the fall, 1999 rally in support of the Route 336 project. The next event is set for Canton April 25th.



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I.D.O.T. Update

336 Study Objectives and Process

The objective of this study will be to determine the best location for a four-lane highway between Macomb and Peoria. In general, these types of studies are divided into two parts - the "Corridor Phase" and the "Alignment Phase".

The "Corridor Phase" is completed first. This phase develops potential corridors consisting of half a mile or more wide bands within the study area. Several of these bands are developed to encompass all potential locations for a highway. Once the bands or corridors are established, comparisons are performed to select the preferred corridor in which to locate the proposed alignment or highway. The comparison looks at both the positive and adverse engineering, economic, and environmental impacts a new highway may impose on a particular corridor. These impacts are determined through a screening process that looks at issues such as traffic patterns, agricultural and environmental constraints, and economic implications. These comparisons will provide the information needed by the Department to select the best corridor in which to locate the highway.

The corridor phase for the Peoria to Macomb portion of IL 336 has been partially completed. In 1970 a corridor was approved. This approved corridor will be re-evaluated to determine if it is still the best location for the highway. This re-evaluation may look at widening the approved corridor or possibly changing the location of portions of the approved corridor. The results of the corridor re-evaluation will be presented at a public meeting.

Once a preferred corridor is approved, the "Alignment Phase" is started. This phase will focus on developing an alignment or exact location of the proposed highway including the right-of-way limits. The same issues as in the corridor study will be looked at but in a much more detailed manner. Numerous alignments 300 to 350 feet wide will be placed within the preferred corridor and then analyzed for engineering, economic, and environmental

impacts. The initial screening process will eliminate unsuitable alignments and the remaining alignments will be fine-tuned and carried over more detailed screening. This process will be repeated until a preferred alignment has been determined. This preferred alignment will then be presented to the public at a public hearing.

The completed study will provide the Department several documents that will outline in detail the process that was used to arrive at the final alignment. The amount and type of public involvement, the reasoning behind decisions, any mitigation required and the agency coordination will all be detailed in the Environmental Impact Statement. The engineering details and policies applied such as the alignments, geometrics, design features, access, and right-of-way will be outlined in a Location/Design report. These two documents are what are required for the Department to proceed with any further activities such as land acquisition or plan preparation.

Joseph E. Crowe, P.E.
I.D.O.T. District Engineer
District 4

Eric S. Therkildsen, P.E.
I.D.O.T. Program Development Engineer



Ready for more pavement, work is set to begin this month on Route 336 in Adams county. The picture above is where the road currently stops at Loraine. The next phase will bring 4 lanes to the Adams/Hancock County line this year.

Questions and Answers Regarding the 336 Coalition and the Highway from Peoria to Macomb



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***What is the 336 Coalition and what is its background?**

The 336 Coalition is a group of concerned citizens, business people, and government officials. The group started its efforts in late 1998 and evolved out of a community mapping effort that identified the lack of adequate four-lane surface transportation as the most critical need to bring growth to the Fulton County area. The lack of a modern four-lane highway was also viewed as the greatest cause of stagnant to declining populations and economies in many of the surrounding communities and for the area having one of the highest unemployment rates in the state of Illinois. The Coalition later discovered strong support in Peoria and Macomb for the benefits 336 could bring to those areas of Illinois. The Greater Peoria Airport would also be a benefactor of our efforts.

The 336 Coalition has grown to include members from most, if not all, of the communities between Peoria and Macomb. There are over 40 resolutions of support from various city and county governments in addition to other important organizations such as the Fulton County Farm Bureau.

***What are the real chances for this highway between Peoria and Macomb being built?**

No one can say for sure but what can be said is that the prospects for the highway being built are better now than they EVER have been. Securing funding for Phase I Planning in the Illinois First Infrastructure initiative was a huge step toward seeing Route 336 become a reality.

***Why is it referred to Route 336?**

Route 336 is the name of the route that is currently under construction from Quincy to Macomb. The route from Peoria to Macomb would be the logical extension of that same highway.

Join The 336 Coalition **TODAY!**

It's extremely important that individuals and organizations join the efforts of the 336 Coalition. For this project to become a reality, a strong and consistently committed effort must be shown to state and federal agencies. Your support facilitates effective communication with these agencies, and keeps you informed on the progress being made to benefit our region through economic development.

WHY SHOULD YOU JOIN?

- * *You and your company are concerned about the future of Western Illinois*
- * *You want to provide a high quality of life, both in the near future and for years to come*
- * *You acknowledge the need for safe and efficient travel in the area*
- * *You want to see business and industry grow in this region*



YES! I want to keep the momentum moving for a four-lane highway in Western Illinois. Sign me up for a two year membership in the 336 Coalition.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** ____ **Zip** _____

Company (if applicable) _____

**Donations of all sizes will be accepted. Please make checks payable to the "336 Coalition" and mail to:
336 Coalition, P.O. Box 761, Canton, IL 61520**

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

*Individual - \$25 • Business and Industry under 20 employees - \$100 • Business and Industry over 20 employees - \$200 • Cities, Townships and Municipalities - \$500 • Counties - \$1,000
Memberships are renewable every two years*

Macomb

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336 Coalition Officers

President	Mark Johann, Norwest Bank
Vice President	Dr. Keith Miller, Spoon River College
Treasurer	Jim Fassino, MidAmerica National Bank
Secretary	Tony Rolando, Canton Area Chamber of Commerce

336 Coalition Directors

Paul Heeg, Illinois Department of Transportation
 Rod Ahitow, Illinois Department of Corrections
 Leonard Barnard, Fulton County Board Liaison
 Elaine Stone, Fulton County Farm Bureau
 Ed Cox, Spoon River Electric Cooperative
 Jim Davis, Maurer-Stutz, Inc.
 Joe Higgs, Bank of Farmington
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 Carol Merna, Congressman Ray LaHood's Office
 Bob Molleck, Assistant to Senator George Shadid
 Mike Smith, State Representative
 Jim Snider, City of Canton
 Don Swartzbaugh, Farmers & Merchants State Bank of Bushnell

Directors Emeritus

Dave Gould
 Ken Henry
 Harold Wilson
 Charles "Tuffy" Wright

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