



336 Update

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROUTE 336 COALITION

FALL
1999

Route 336 Funding Included in Budget

\$7.5 Million Designated for Planning Peoria to Macomb Portion

Governor George Ryan's Illinois First Program includes \$7.5 million for 336. The monies will be used for Phase I engineering and design studies for construction of Route 336 from Peoria to Macomb.

The proposed highway will link the area with other major transportation arteries in the region both to the East and West. The project will be a continuation of Illinois Route 336 currently being constructed from Quincy to Macomb and will run directly through Fulton County. The road will link up with I-474 West of Peoria.

This is one of the most important projects for our future and has been a long time coming," said State Representative Mike Smith of Canton. "I believe a four-lane highway is essential for economic development in our area. This project holds great potential for residential, commercial and industrial development."

Smith, along with State Senator George Shadid of Edwards and Congressman Ray LaHood of Peoria, met with Governor Ryan to discuss the importance of the Route 336 project to the entire region of the state. The legislators, along with the 336 Coalition of local business persons and residents, continued their efforts as Ryan's Illinois FIRST plan was being developed. After several meetings with Illinois Department of

Transportation officials and another session between the Governor and the legislators, a commitment was made to provide the requested funds.

Illinois FIRST - A Fund for Infrastructure, Roads, Schools and Transit - is the Governor's \$12 billion public works program to rebuild and expand the state's roadways, improve schools and meet various needs in local communities.

"The acquisition of funding for Phase I is an enormous accomplishment," said 336 Coalition President Mark Johann of Canton. "This is a tremendous step in the right direction. Now, we have to stay with the project to ensure its timely completion."

For over thirty years, local groups and area legislators have been requesting the construction of the four-lane highway linking Peoria to Macomb through Fulton County. The 336 Coalition was formed last year to bring all of the parties advocating the highway together in one coalition.

"When business and industry consider constructing new facilities in a particular region, they first assess the quality of roads and local infrastructure," noted State Senator Shadid. "If we are to make our area more attractive to potential employers, we must be certain that the funding for local transportation projects like 336 is available."

"The lesson to be learned from our efforts to date is 'keep at it'," noted Johann. "There is little time to stop and congratulate ourselves. We must continue to keep this project in the forefront of our legislators, continue to gain new members in the 336 Coalition, and continue to secure state and federal dollars to turn this road into a reality."

Meanwhile, construction continues on the western portion of the 336 project in Adams county with four lanes extending north of Quincy and four-lane construction underway near Lorraine.

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Quincy to Macomb Leg Makes Progress

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This has been a busy summer for road crews in northern Adams County. The Route 336 four-lane project has moved a few miles closer to completion with work progressing toward Loraine.

A new four-lane highway from US 24 to Illinois 61 near Mendon was opened to traffic in 1996. This year, grading and structures for four lanes from Illinois 61 to 3 miles south of Illinois 94 (West Point Road) and paving two lanes from Illinois 61 at Mendon to Illinois 61 at Loraine is nearing completion.

Meanwhile, engineering for contract plans from Mendon to 3 miles south of Carthage is in progress. Phase I engineering and soil studies are underway for a segment from south of Carthage to Macomb. \$9.8 million is earmarked during FY 2000-2004 for engineering work to complete contract plans and soil studies from Carthage to Macomb.

Construction to complete 30.3 miles of the four lane from Illinois 61 at Mendon to south of Carthage is programmed during FY 2000-2004 at a cost of \$68.2 million. Of this total, \$20.2 million is programmed in FY 2000 to complete 9.3 miles. 3.8 million has already been earmarked for the project, however, more state revenues are needed to complete the project.



Look at the sign of progress! Four lanes of Route 336 are open from Mendon south to Quincy.



Much of the work this summer on the Quincy to Macomb leg was from north of Mendon to Loraine.

Community Friendship Breakfast and 336 Information Set for Canton

The Canton Area Chamber of Commerce and the 336 Coalition are teaming up to sponsor this year's Community Friendship Breakfast. The event will be held from 7:00-9:00 a.m. on September 18 at Jones Park in Canton, prior to the 10:00 Friendship Festival Parade.

This is a great opportunity for people to come together and show their support for the 336 project. Members of the 336 Coalition will be on hand to speak to the public. All 336 members are encouraged to attend.

The event is underwritten by the Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, HyVee, Kroger and Ludlum IGA.



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Rally Set for Bushnell

Mark Your Calendar for October 6

5:00pm to 7:30pm

Delaney's on East Main Street in Bushnell

Momentum is the key word for the Route 336 four-lane highway project. With construction well underway on the Quincy to Macomb leg of the project, and funding secured in this fiscal year for development work through Fulton County, event organizers say, "this is the time to keep the ball rolling."

"I am excited and encouraged by the participation of people, counties and communities in support of Route 336," said Mark Johann, Chair of the Route 336 Coalition. "Last year we had 400 people attend the fall rally in Canton, and we're looking forward to a great turnout in Bushnell, too."

Project supporters have been invited from Peoria, Canton, Macomb, Farmington, Lewistown, Hanna City, Trivoli, Bushnell and many other communities. Many of these supporters have joined the growing enthusiasm for the project within the past year.

In addition, several dignitaries have been invited to attend, including Governor George Ryan, Illinois Senators Durbin and Fitzgerald, Representatives Lane Evans and Ray LaHood, State Senators Laura Kent Donahue and George Shadid, and State Representatives Rich Myers and Mike Smith. Other dignitaries invited include: Western Illinois University President Don Spencer, Illinois Department of Transportation officials, area mayors, county board chairs and members and other public officials.

"One of the problems with this project in the past has been the lack of momentum," noted Johann. "We simply will not let that happen, now that we've crossed a major first hurdle with initial funding."

"We are involved in a total, area-wide effort to make West Central Illinois accessible geographically, which will impact us directly as we move to become more economically vibrant," said Johann. "That's why we're working to constantly keep this project before the legislators, state road officials and area residents."

People with comments or suggestions for the Bushnell Rally should contact Don Swartzbaugh or Mike Steelman at Farmers & Merchants State Bank in Bushnell at (309) 772-2171 or info@bushnellbank.com.

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 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

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336 Coalition Officers

President	Mark Johann, Norwest Bank
Vice President	Dr. Keith Miller, Spoon River College
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Secretary	Tony Rolando, Canton Chamber of Commerce

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