PUBLIC MEETING 1
October 19, 2026

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL) STUDY

EAST ST. LOUIS

ALONG IL ROUTE 15 AND BOND AVENUE

Welcome! We'll get started shortly.

Illinois Department of Transportation

Hello! Meet your study team.

Illinois Department of Transportation

Sarah Wells

Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC

Geri Boyer

Kaskaskia Engineering Group, LLC

MaryAnn Taylor Crate

added dimension PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Jacki Murdock

CDM Smith

Before we get started, a few logistics.

Questions & Technical Assistance

- This meeting will be recorded and used for future study outreach
- Click or tap **Q&A** in the Zoom meeting controls
- Type your question in the **Q&A box**.
- Click or tap **Send** to submit your question..
- Questions will be reviewed by the project team and addressed during the **Q&A portion at the end of the meeting**.
- If we are unable to answer your question during the meeting, the project team will follow up after the meeting. Please leave your contact information with your question if you'd like a follow up response.
- For technical difficulties, use the **meeting chat** to request assistance.
- Please remain **muted** unless invited to speak.

Captioning

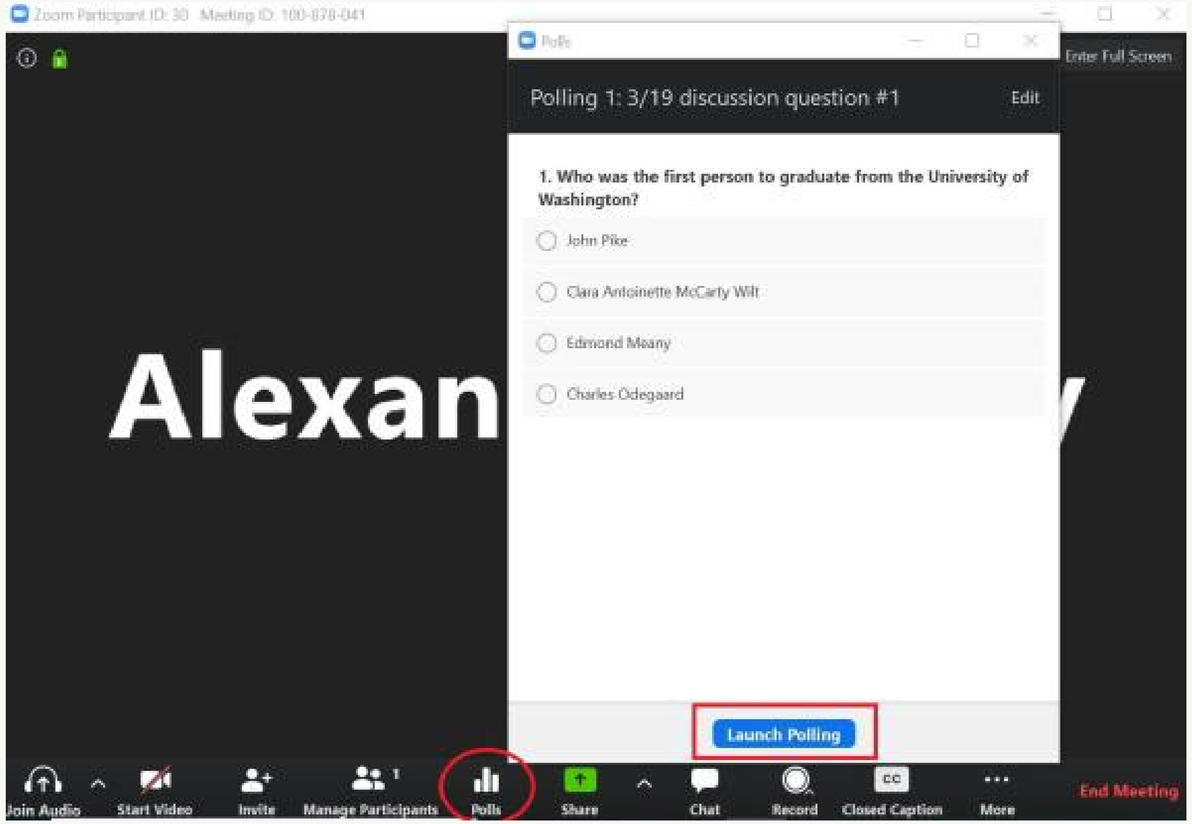
- **Live captions are available** during the meeting.
- Select **More (•••)** on the toolbar, then select **Language and speech** → **Turn on live captions**.
- Captions will appear at the bottom of your screen and can be turned off at any time.

We want to hear from you!

Throughout today's meeting, we will ask a few short polling questions to better understand:

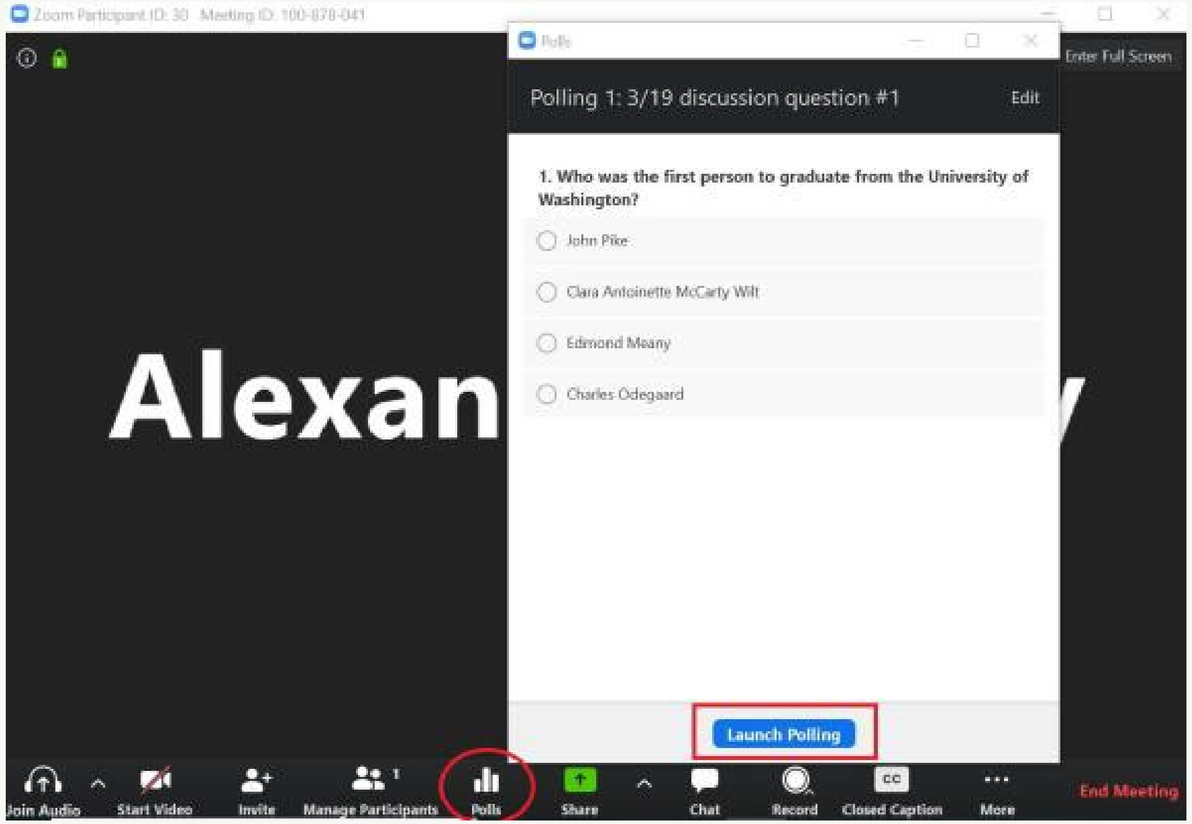
- How you use the corridor
- The challenges you experience
- Your priorities for future improvements
- Your vision for the corridor

How to use Polling



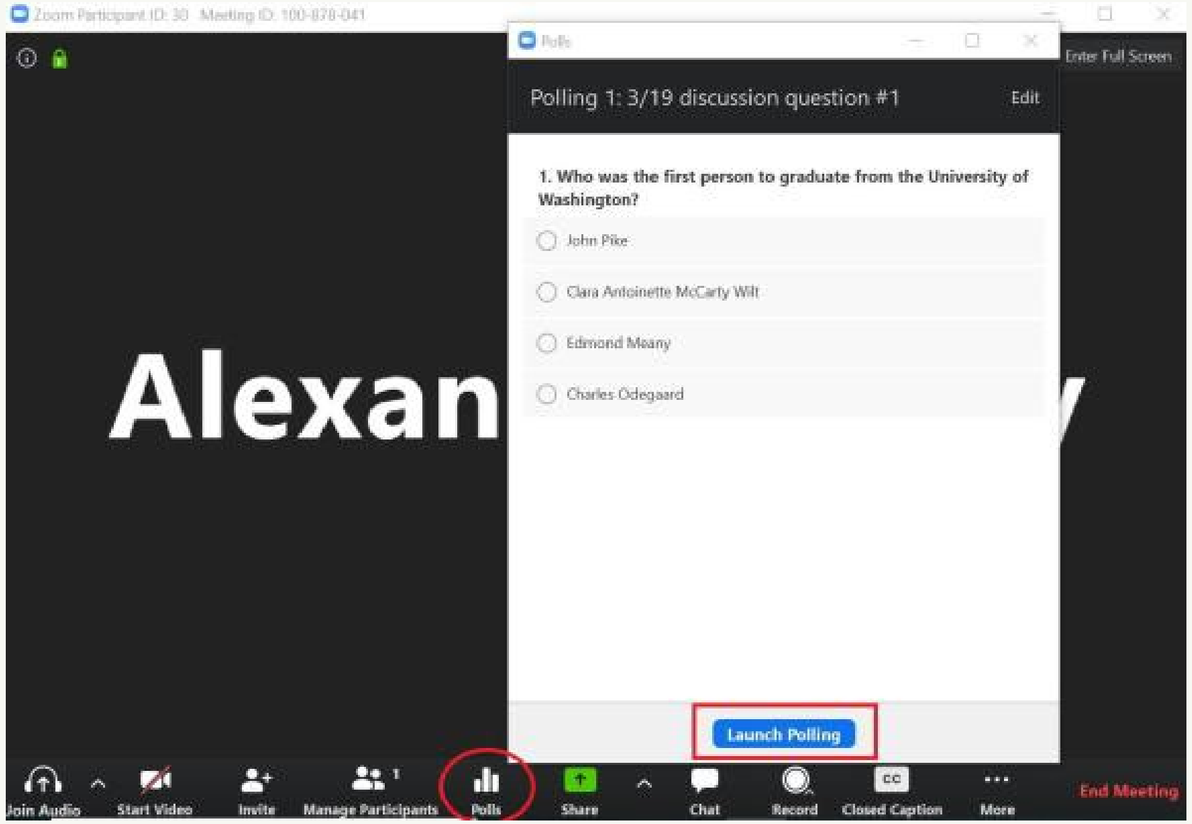
Meeting attendees will see the question-and-answer options in a poll notification that appears in the middle of their meeting screen.

How to use Polling



Once attendees have selected their answer(s), select **Submit**.

How to use Polling



Meeting attendees also have the option of **not participating** in the poll by closing the poll notification that appears in the middle of their meeting screen. This can be done without picking an answer or selecting Submit.

Today's Plan

Agenda

Study Overview

Livability Framework

Purpose & Need

Question-and-Answer Session

Closing & Next Steps

Goals

Introduce Study

Understand Needs

Document Existing Conditions

Gather Your Input!

Audience Poll #1

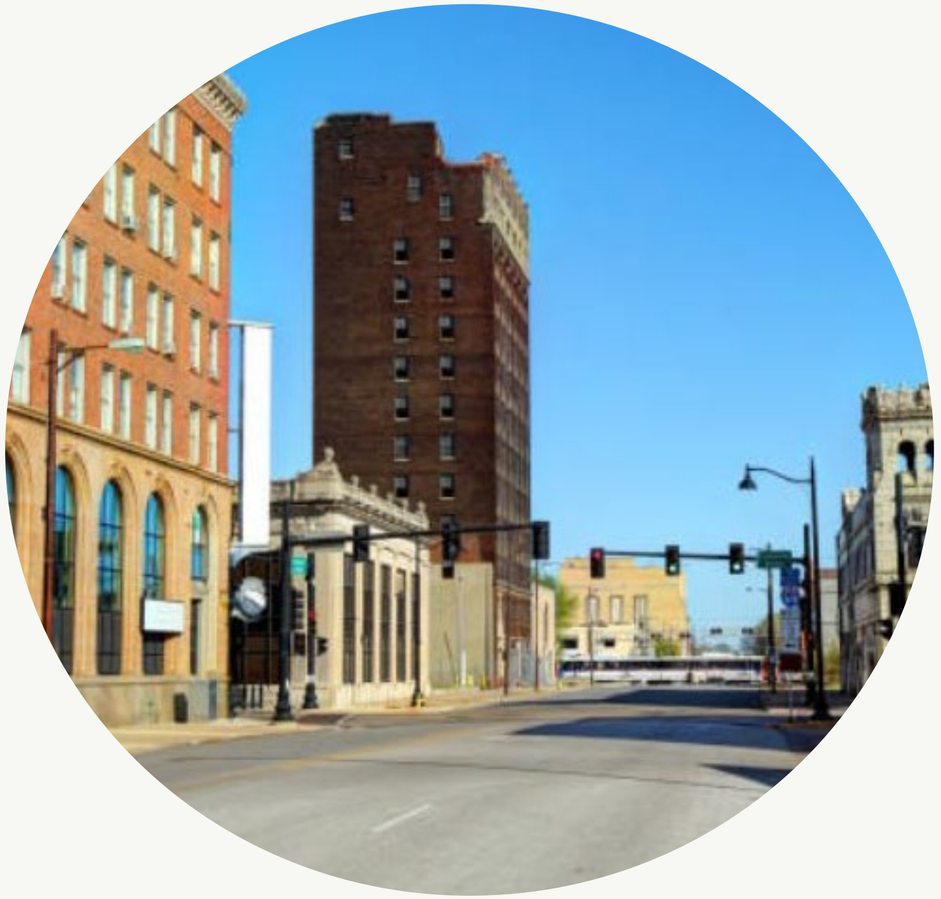
What best describes your connection to the area?

Audience Poll #2

How do you primarily use

IL Route 15 or Bond Avenue?

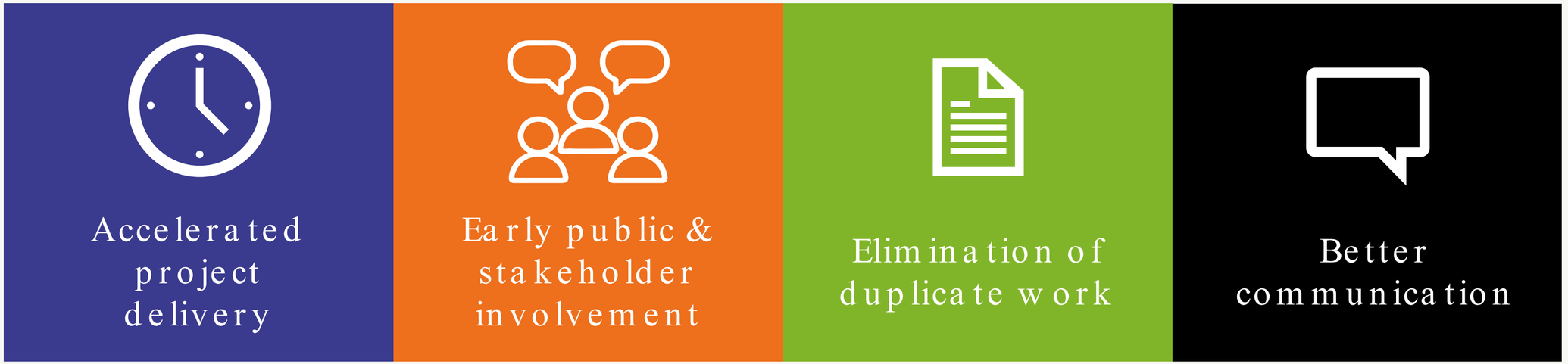
Study Overview



What is a PEL?

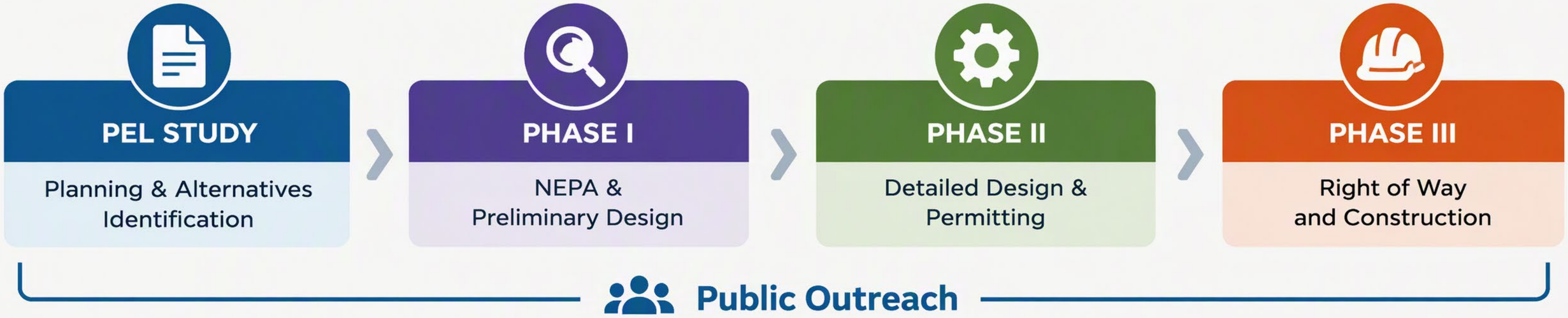
A **Planning & Environmental Linkages Study** is a collaborative approach involving local and state DOTs, federal agencies, and resource agencies that links transportation planning to the environmental review process while considering **environmental, community,** and **economic goals** early in the process.

Why use a PEL?



IDOT Project Development Process

From PEL Study to Eventual Construction



Study History

1994 & 2009

Two previous studies focused on the I-64 ramps at Tudor-Piggott and IL Route 15 Connection

2016/2017

IL 15/Tudor-Piggot Feasibility Study

- Limited support for bypass routes that could isolate or displace neighborhoods
- Desire to preserve local connectivity
- Sensitivity to potential environmental and social impacts.

2026

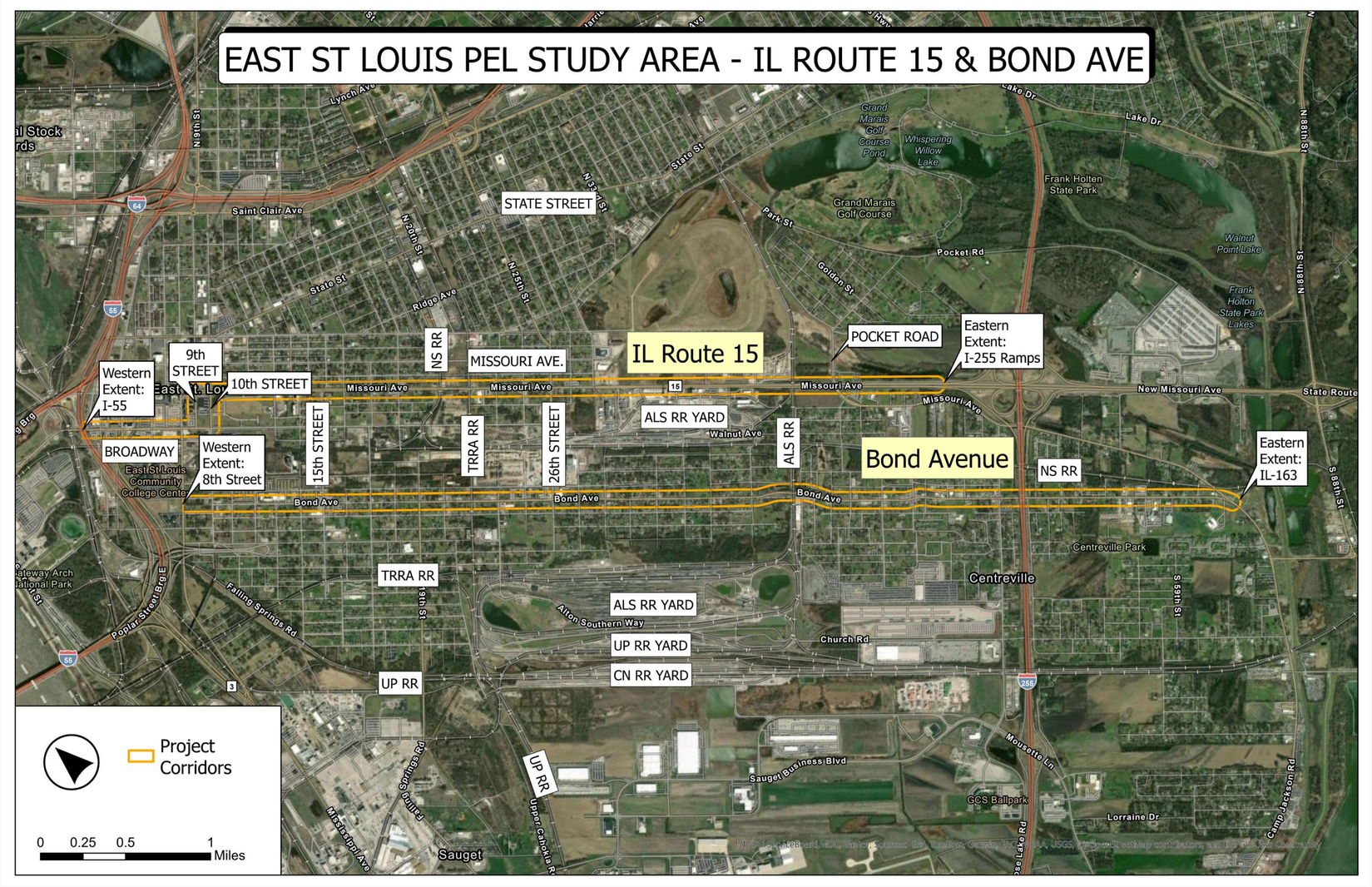
Current PEL Study

What's different this time?

- Strong focus on community needs, neighborhood revitalization, safety, and investment
- Improving the IL 15 and Bond Ave corridor and its access to I-64

Audience Poll #3

How often do you travel along IL Route 15 or Bond Avenue?



IL Route 15
I-255 to I-55

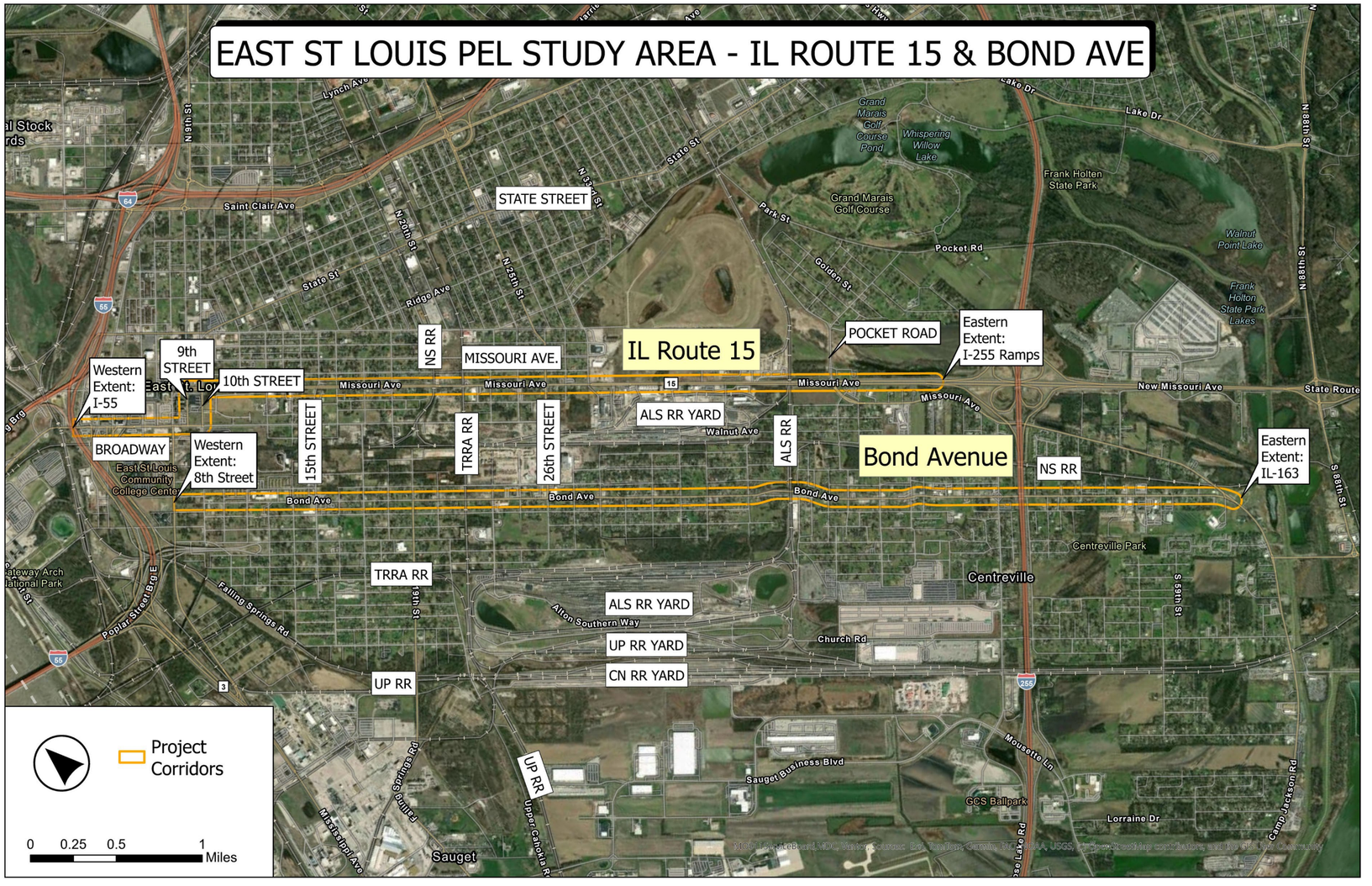
- **3** all-way stop signs
- **7** traffic signals
- **3** at-grade railroad crossings
- Fragmented sidewalks
- 4 to 6 travel lanes

PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES (PEL) STUDY
EAST ST. LOUIS
ALONG IL ROUTE 15 AND BOND AVENUE

Bond Avenue

IL Route 163 to 8th Street

- **8** all-way stop signs
- **1** at-grade railroad crossing
- Fragmented sidewalks
- 2 travel lanes



Existing Conditions

SAFETY

507 crashes occurred throughout study area between 2021 & 2025

The most common crash types were:

ANGLE	FRONT-TO-REAR	TURNING
(143)	(94)	(10)

IL Route 15

Crashes were concentrated at:

- **Pocket Rd**
- **26th St**
- **15th St**
- **9th St**

Bond Avenue

Areas of concern at:

- **I-255 to IL 163**
- **31st St to 37th St**
- **39th St to I-255**

Existing Conditions

TRAFFIC OPERATIONS

IL Route 15

7 **major geometric issues found**
Examples include:

- **Skewed intersection** at 15th & Missouri, **limiting sightlines**
- **Short, steep inclines** from railroad crossings

Bond Avenue

6 **major geometric issues found**
Examples include:

- **Curbs & gutters degraded along the corridor**
- **Steep incline** from railroad overpass

Existing Conditions

MULTIMODAL ACCESS

Transit

6

Bus Routes

1	Main Street – State Street
2	Cahokia Heights
3	Sauget – Water Street
4	19th & Central
5	Missouri Ave – ML King
8	Alta Sita

2

Metrolink

R Red Line

B Blue Line

Walking & Biking

Walking & Sidewalks

Sidewalks inconsistent; narrow in some spots; crossings insufficient

Bicycling

No dedicated bike facilities located in the study area

Accessibility

Most ADA ramps are either **nonexistent** or in **poor condition**

Physical Barriers

Industrial areas and railroad crossings create **barriers**

Existing Conditions

COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT

Community Resources

Churches, health care facilities, schools and community centers throughout the study area.

Wetlands & Floodplains

Wetlands and floodplains located throughout corridor.

Historic District

A National Register-eligible historic district is located at the northwest end of the study area.

Parks

Multiple local and state park resources located within the study area.

Audience Poll #4

Which of the following best describes your typical destinations or reasons for traveling along the corridor?

PEL Study Public Outreach

Community Advisory Group

City and agency representative meetings

Stakeholder Interviews

Discussions with key stakeholders

Focus Groups

Targeted conversations with local groups

Public Meetings

Open houses for broad community input

Survey

Input on challenges and solutions

Website

Stay informed and connect beyond meetings

Community Events

Project team attendance at local gatherings and events

Your participation helps shape the PEL study recommendations.

PEL Study Timeline

1. **Kick-Off, Data Collection, Goal Setting & Planning**
2. **Develop Draft Purpose and Need**
3. **Develop & Evaluate Conceptual Alternatives**
4. **Review Recommended Alternatives**
5. **Finalize PEL Study & Report**

Public Meetings

TODAY: 1 — 2 — 3

Community Advisory Group

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5

TOMORROW

Focus Groups

2 Completed — Additional Groups

What We've Heard So Far

Community Advisory Group and Focus Groups

"I'm concerned about truck traffic."

"The exit at 13th and Tudor is confusing; I get lost."

"Vacant lots need to be redeveloped."

"Disinvestment has lasted years."

"There's a lack of sidewalks and street lighting."

Audience Poll #5

In the simplest terms - what are your biggest concerns on the corridor today? Or the largest needs?

Livability Framework

Study is Guided by the Livability Framework

A living document used to inform the project team as to what is important to improving the quality of life in the community

Supports this study by guiding a **collaborative**, **inclusive**, and **community-centered** planning process

Livability Framework

Evaluates factors like **public health**, **safety**, **the environment**, and **economic health** to ensure neighborhoods are comfortable, fair, and functional for everyone.

Available on the **project website** and updated as the project progresses

Livability Framework

01 Health & Environment

- Healthier living conditions
- Access to wellness resources
- Stronger neighborhood infrastructure

02 Economic Opportunity

- Redevelopment
- Increase tax base
- Jobs
- Reinvestment

03 Cultural Identity

- Historic
- Cultural
- Artistic
- Neighborhood identity

04 Safety & Wellbeing

- Transportation safety
- Public safety
- Emergency access
- Neighborhood wellbeing

05 Connections & Mobility

- Neighborhood connectivity
- Links residents to jobs, healthcare, parks, and transit

06 Equity & Inclusion

- Public investment benefits everyone

07 Implementation & Governance

- Community-centered implementation
- Sustained partnerships
- Coordinated investment

Our goal isn't just to improve the roadways. It's to understand how improving the roadways can help improve life in East St. Louis.

Recommended Livability Priorities
A Roadmap for Future Action

SHORT-TERM PRIORITIES

1-3 YEARS

- Consider an annual livability and safety reporting program
- Establish recommended criteria for prioritizing future investments
- Explore a High Injury Network safety program
- Consider adoption of a Complete Streets policy

MID-TERM PRIORITIES

3-7 YEARS

- Identify and advance opportunities for catalytic corridor projects
- Expand neighborhood green infrastructure
- Advance transit-oriented development projects
- Modernize streetscapes and lighting systems

LONG-TERM PRIORITIES

7-20 YEARS

- Pursue opportunities for long-term riverfront integration and activation
- Citywide multi-modal network completion
- Sustainable mixed-use redevelopment districts
- Expanded housing choice and affordability
- Environmental remediation of legacy industrial areas

Audience Poll #6

Based on this explanation, what do you feel is the pillar that is most important to you?

Draft Purpose & Need

What is a Purpose and Need Statement?

1 REQUIRED

Required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

2 DIRECTS ACTION

Identifies what action needs to be taken

3 DEFINES THE PROBLEM

Shows problems that exist now, or could emerge without the project

4 JUSTIFIES NEED

Explains why action is warranted

5 SCREENS OPTIONS

Helps define what constitutes a reasonable alternative

A Purpose and Need Statement does not select the solution.

It establishes the case for action and the criteria used to evaluate reasonable alternatives.

Audience Poll #7

In your opinion, which of the following should be the highest priority for future improvements?

Audience Poll #8

What benefit would make the greatest positive impact on your daily life?

Audience Poll #9

When you think about the future of this corridor, which outcome is most important to you?

Question-and-Answer Session

Next Steps

1. Summarize & incorporate feedback
2. Complete existing conditions data collection & analyses
3. Develop draft Purpose and Need statement
4. Develop a range of conceptual alternatives
5. Continue stakeholder engagement and public outreach
6. **Next public meeting**: Purpose and Need and initial range of conceptual alternatives

Thank You

Questions?
Contact the Project Team!

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Sign up for future updates!

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SCAN ME

www.eaststlouispel.com