



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764
Telephone 217/782-5597

December 6, 2006

Mr. Pete Johnson
Federal Co-Chairman
Delta Regional Authority
236 Sharkey Avenue; Suite 400
Clarksdale, MS 38614

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I want to personally thank you for allowing the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to participate in the Delta Regional Authority Transportation Study. We enthusiastically endorse and support the Delta Development Highway System (DDHS) and we look forward to working with you and your staff in the near future and improving the corridors identified in Illinois.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Timothy W. Martin', written over a horizontal line.

Timothy W. Martin
Secretary

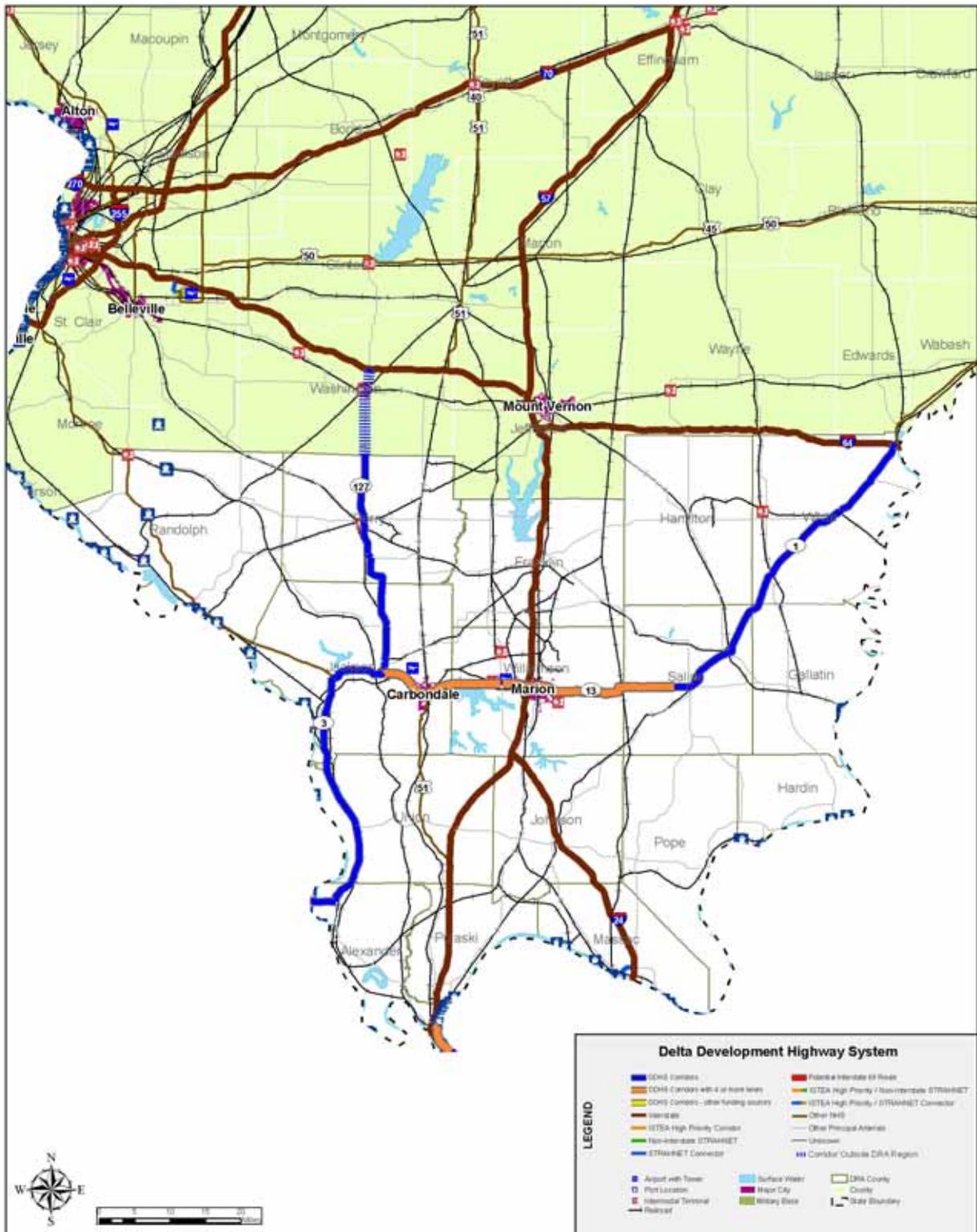
6. ILLINOIS

There are 16 counties in Illinois that are a part of the DRA region. There are a total of 174 DDHS miles identified in Illinois, which constitutes 4.5 percent of the total DDHS miles, of which 126 miles are 2-lane facilities. The Illinois DDHS improvements consist of widening and upgrading portions of IL 146/3, IL 127, IL 13, US 45 and IL 1. **Table 7** provides a project description, priority and cost estimate details on each DDHS corridor in Illinois and **Figure 9** shows the Illinois DDHS.

Table 7 – Illinois DDHS (planning-level cost estimates are in millions)

Corridor / Route	Project Description	Cost Estimate	Priority
IL 146/IL 3	4-lane Partial Access Control. IL 146 at East Cape Girardeau east to the intersection with IL 3 and IL 146; then north on IL 3/IL 146 to intersection with IL 146 continue north on IL 3 to intersection with IL 149 continue east on IL 149 to Murphysboro at the IL 13, IL 127 and IL 149 intersection	572.0	Long-Range
IL 127	4-lane Partial Access Control. IL 13, IL 127 and IL 149 intersection in Murphysboro north on IL 13/IL 127 to intersection with IL 13, IL 127 and IL 154 in Pinckneyville continue north on IL 127 to the Perry/Washington County line	366.0	Short-Range
IL 13	4-lane Partial Access Control. IL 13 from the IL 13, IL 127 and IL 149 intersection east to IL 13, US 45, IL 34, IL 145 intersection east of Harrisburg	14.0	Short-Range
US 45 and IL 1	4-lane Partial Access Control. US 45 from IL 13, US 45, IL 34, IL 145 intersection east of Harrisburg north to the US 45 and IL 1 intersection continuing north on IL 1 to the interchange with I-64	487.0	Medium-Range
TOTAL		1,439.0	

Figure 9 – Illinois DDHS Corridors



6.1 Highest Priorities

IDOT's top three (3) projects regardless of cost are:

1. Construction of 4-lane expressway between IL 3 and East Cape Girardeau.

A new bridge was recently constructed across the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau Missouri at a cost of \$130 million. Missouri constructed an expressway from this bridge connecting to I-55. Illinois constructed a 5-lane approach section through East Cape Girardeau and reduced the roadway to a rural 2-lane cross section. The proposed project will construct a 4-lane expressway from the 5-lane section at East Cape to Illinois Route 3 (approximately 2 miles). This is the logical termini of the expressway from Illinois Route 3 to I-55 in Missouri. The project has \$1,485,000 Delta Funding. This funding will fund the land acquisition project for \$500,000. The remaining \$985,000 will be applied toward future funding to construct the project. Total Cost Estimate - \$5.5 million.

2. IL 13/127 from Murphysboro to the Washington-Perry County line.

IDOT has almost completed a Phase 1 Engineering Study on this corridor from North of Murphysboro to North of Pinckneyville. When this study is complete, land can be purchased along the corridor and final construction plans can be prepared. This project will be constructed in segments as funds become available. Original engineering funds came from TEA-21 funding.

Given unlimited funds, the PE study limits would be extended to the Washington County line and the entire expressway constructed. Washington County segment is not in the DRA Region and thus funding would come from another source. This corridor is critical to providing an expressway from Southern Illinois to I-64. Interstate 64 provides easy access to St. Louis to the West and I-57 to the East. Total Cost Estimate - \$366 million.

3. US 45 – IL 1 from Eldorado to Interstate 64.

A 4-lane expressway in this corridor would link the Harrisburg – Eldorado area to I-64 providing critical access to the interstate highway system. Easy access to I-64 would stimulate economic development in this area. Total Cost Estimate - \$487 million

IDOT's top three (3) project segments if provided a total of \$15 million are:

1. Construction of 4-lane expressway between IL 3 and East Cape Girardeau.

A new bridge was recently constructed across the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau Missouri at a cost of \$130 million. Missouri constructed an expressway from this bridge to I-55. Illinois constructed a 5-lane approach section through East Cape Girardeau and reduced the roadway to a rural 2-lane cross section. The propose project will construct a 4-lane expressway from the 5-lane section at East Cape to Illinois Route 3 (Approximately 2 miles). This is the logical termini of the expressway from Illinois Route 3 to I-55 in Missouri. The project has \$1,485,000 Delta Funding. This funding will fund the land acquisition project for \$500,000. The remaining \$985,000 will be applied toward future funding to construct the project. Total cost estimate - \$5.5 million

2. IL 13/127 from Murphysboro to the Washington-Perry County line.

IDOT has almost completed a Phase 1 Engineering Study on this corridor from North of Murphysboro to North of Pinckneyville. When this study is complete, land can be purchased along the corridor and final construction plans can be prepared. This project will be constructed in segments as funds become available. Original engineering funds came from TEA-21 funding. This corridor is critical to providing an expressway from Southern Illinois to I-64. Interstate 64 provides easy access to St. Louis to the West and I-57 to the East.

With funding of \$15 million, the first usable segment could be constructed. Total segment length would be based on the available funds. Total Cost Estimate - \$6.5 million.

3. US 45 – IL 1 from Eldorado to Interstate 64.

A 4-lane expressway in this corridor would link the Harrisburg – Eldorado area to I-64 providing access to the interstate highway system. Easy access to I-64 would stimulate economic development in this area.

With a Funding Level of \$15 million, the Phase 1 engineering study could be completed for \$3 million. The remaining funds could be used for Phase 2 engineering and land acquisition. Total Cost Estimate - \$3 million

IDOT's top project segment, given \$5 million:

1. Construct 4-lane expressway between IL 3 and East Cape Girardeau.

A new bridge was recently constructed across the Mississippi River at Cape Girardeau Missouri at a cost of \$130 million. Missouri constructed an expressway from this bridge connecting to I-55. Illinois constructed a 5-lane approach section through East Cape Girardeau and reduced the roadway to a rural 2-lane cross section. The propose project will construct a 4-lane expressway from the 5-lane section at East Cape to Illinois Route 3 (Approximately 2 miles). This is the logical termini of the expressway from Illinois Route 3 to I-55 in Missouri. The project has \$1,485,000 Delta Funding. This funding will fund the land acquisition project for \$500,000. The remaining \$985,000 will be applied toward future funding to construct the project. Total Cost Estimate - \$5.5 million.