



Illinois Department of Transportation I-80 Will Reconstruction Project

Mandatory Pre-Bid Meeting - Contract 62R23 (I-80 Over Des Plaines River) Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday, February 6 | 10:00 am

Location: Holiday Inn Joliet Southwest/Rock Run Convention Center, 1471 Rock Creek Boulevard, Joliet, Illinois

Attendees

Representatives from IDOT District 1, IDOT Bureaus of Design and Construction, IDOT Business and Workforce Diversity (Small Business Enterprise), design and construction consultant teams, and prospective prime and non-prime contractors.

Meeting Overview

The mandatory pre-bid meeting for Contract 62R23 was convened at 10:00 a.m. by Issam Rayyan, IDOT Project Implementation Engineer, Region One. Attendees were reminded that this meeting is mandatory for all prime contractors intending to bid and that sign-in was required. Copies of the presentation were provided, and meeting materials and minutes will be posted to the IDOT letting website.

Purpose of Meeting

Issam Rayyan (IDOT) outlined the objectives of the meeting, which included:

- Providing an overview of the I-80 corridor and the I-80 Des Plaines River Bridge project
- Emphasizing the need for coordination with adjacent contracts
- Reviewing suggested maintenance of traffic (MOT) sequencing
- Highlighting key contract requirements and interim and final completion dates
- Encouraging coordination and networking among prospective prime and non-prime contractors

Project Oversight

Issam Rayyan reviewed the project oversight structure, including the roles of the Construction Corridor Manager (CCM) and Design Corridor Manager (DCM), and explained coordination and



communication expectations between the contractor, corridor managers, construction managers and IDOT.

Corridor Overview & Upcoming Construction

Chris Bonus (GFT, Design Corridor Manager) presented an overview of the I-80 corridor, existing and ongoing construction, and upcoming contracts within the Des Plaines River Bridge area.

Three interrelated contracts were identified:

- Center Street Interchange (Contract 62R22) – was on the September 2025 letting and is currently underway
- Chicago Street Interchange (Contract 62F94) – was on the January 2026 letting and is anticipated to begin in Spring 2026
- Advance Steel Fabrication (Contract 80C53) – January 2026 letting and fabrication is underway

The success of the corridor work was noted as dependent on contractor coordination and adherence to interim milestones.

Maintenance of Traffic (MOT) Sequencing, Schedule

Mohamed Ahmed (WSP, Design Team) reviewed the suggested MOT sequencing for Contract 62R23, coordinated with adjacent contracts.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2026 with substantial completion by October 31, 2028.

Major sequencing milestones include:

- 2026 – Start WB/EB DRB structures
- 2027 – Complete WB DRB structure & Comp Storage
- 2028 – Complete EB DRB structure

The Contract 62R23 letting is scheduled for February 27, 2026, with an addendum anticipated week of February 9, 2026. An expedited award is expected.

Contract Special Provisions & Requirements

David Sierakowski (Bowman, CCM) reviewed the contract Special Provisions, emphasizing the aggressive schedule and the need for extended work hours and winter work as necessary.



A pre-bid site inspection of the Ozinga property is scheduled for February 11, 2026 at 9 AM at 504 Railroad St, Joliet, Illinois.

Key schedule requirements include:

- Baseline schedule due within five calendar days of contract execution
- Monthly schedule updates required
- Recovery schedules required if delays occur
- Winter work anticipated with no price adjustments

Work restrictions were reviewed. The contractor must submit a schedule and Maintenance of Traffic Plan at least 30 calendar days in advance of any stage changes, extended lane closures or full expressway closures.

Critical coordination items include adjacent project contracts, the advance steel fabrication contract, railroad and City of Joliet coordination, permitting, utility relocation, and settlement/geotechnical timeframes. It was noted that the Will County Laraway Road Reconstruction and Widening project from U.S. 52 to Cherry Hill Road (letting anticipated May 2026) is anticipated to affect the 62R23 contract and detours will need to be coordinated with the county. In addition, IDOT conducts annual bridge inspections in April/May.

General Construction Requirements

David Sierakowski reviewed requirements related to railroad coordination, demolition plans, Construction Access Plan, in-stream work, permits, Extended Life Concrete Pavement, survey control, regulated substances planning, Joliet's NASCAR Race Event, storage locations, MOT and construction sequencing, and tree removal restrictions. Contractors were advised that all special provisions and contract requirements will be strictly enforced.

Small Business Enterprise

Anna Ramirez (IDOT-SBE) provided an overview of current DBE program regulations and guidance. The Illinois UCP directory of certified DBE firms remains available on IDOT's website.

Questions and Closing

Attendees were invited to ask questions. Attendees asked questions related to:

- Electrical utility conflicts on U.S. 6
- Anticipated timeframe for demolition of the westbound I-80 bridge over the Des Plaines River
- Provisions for the required Coast Guard permit



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Contractors were reminded that specific contract questions must be submitted through the IDOT letting website.

Issam Rayyan thanked attendees and encouraged them to visit the Small Business Enterprise resource table.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11 a.m.

Attachments

- Attendee sign-in sheet
- Presentation materials