Welcome to the Inaugural Newsletter for Will Connects 2040!

Will County recently launched an exciting opportunity to plan for the future of transportation. “Will Connects 2040” is an initiative to update the County’s Long Range Transportation Plan. Led by the Will County Division of Transportation (DOT), Will Connects 2040 will consider all modes of transportation, from roads and bridges to bike paths, and respect the unique needs of each part of our County.

We have made significant investments in our county highways in recent years through Build Will and other programs. The requirements to sustain a safe and sound multimodal transportation system for a growing population will be a challenge for us going forward. Will Connects 2040 will help establish a strategic direction and set priorities for future transportation investments to ensure Will County remains a great place to live, work, and do business.

Over the next 18 months, we’ll be asking for your input, as a resident, worker, business owner, transit user, freight operator, bicyclist, or member of the general public, to help develop our transportation system that addresses needs and issues important to all of us. I encourage everyone from throughout the County to get involved in this new initiative.

I am committed to proactively planning for growth in Will County to enable our residents and businesses to prosper here and continue to enjoy a high quality of life. Working together, we can plan for the continued success of Will County!

Sincerely,

Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive

Help Shape Will County’s Transportation Plan!

Will County residents, business owners, and all interested stakeholders are encouraged to attend our upcoming Open Houses to provide input on the plan underway.

April 28th, 4-7pm
Joliet Junior College
1215 Houbolt Road
Concourse C*1031
Joliet, IL 60431

April 29th, 4-7pm
Wilmington City Hall
Council Chambers
1165 S. Water Street
Wilmington, IL 60481

May 5th, 4-7pm
New Lenox Village Hall
Community Room
1 Veterans Parkway
New Lenox, IL 60451

May 12th, 4-7pm
Governors State University
Hall of Honors
One University Parkway
University Park, IL 60484

Learn more about how you can get involved at www.WillConnects2040.org.
A Long Range Transportation Plan for Fast Growing Will County

Will County has experienced record growth over the past decade and regional projections show the County’s population growing from approximately 680,000 to more than 1.2 million by the year 2040, adding over 520,000 residents and over 241,000 jobs! In fact, Will County is on track to become the second most populated county in Illinois by 2040. To help us understand what this means for our multimodal transportation network over the next 25 years, the Will County DOT is undertaking an update to its current Long Range Transportation Plan, an initiative known as “Will Connects 2040.”

Will Connects 2040 will serve as our roadmap for transportation that will guide investments for everyone who lives, works, and plays here. Will County has made significant investments in its multimodal infrastructure, which must not only be maintained, but also strategically enhanced to accommodate residents and businesses. To foster the continued prosperity of residents and businesses and the high quality of life we enjoy here, we are proactively planning for growth by establishing a strategic direction and setting priorities for future transportation investments through Will Connects 2040.

Key Activities for Will Connects 2040 Project

- Evaluate the transportation system in light of forecasted population and employment growth through 2040.
- Identify transportation trends, issues, and challenges facing the County.
- Establish a strategic direction and priorities for transportation project investments and ways to track progress.
- Assess a range of alternative future scenarios to understand impacts to the transportation system and how to address them.
- Conduct a financial analysis and ultimately recommend a set of future multimodal investments.

We Want You To Weigh In!

Starting this January, Will County DOT launched an online community engagement tool on its project website, www.WillConnects2040.org, to gather input early in the planning process. Residents, business owners, transportation users and the general public are invited to weigh in on issues, needs, and priorities for Will County’s transportation system. Your input will have a direct effect in shaping the future of transportation initiatives across the County.

Take Will County’s transportation survey at www.WillConnects2040.org and share this flyer or survey information with your friends, neighbors, and colleagues!

Will Connects 2040 Advisory Committee

Will Connects 2040 has an Advisory Committee that will be involved throughout the planning process.

Members include:
- Will County Executive’s Office
- Will County Board
- Will County Sheriff
- Will County Land Use
- Will County Farm Bureau
- Will County Governmental League
- Will County Land Use
- Will County Forest Preserve District
- Will County Center for Economic Development
- South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association
- Illinois DOT
- Illinois Tollway
- Pace Suburban Bus
- RTA
- METRA

Other Ways You Can Participate

Everyday our residents and businesses depend on our transportation network to move people and goods, safely and effectively. We encourage you to stay involved in this important planning process!

- Attend an Open House this Spring
- Visit the project website at: www.WillConnects2040.org. While there, take our online survey!
- Join our database so that we can send you updates
- Email us at: highways@willcountyillinois.com
- Mail comments to Will County Division of Transportation, 16841 W. Laraway, Joliet, IL 60433, Attention: Christina Kupkowski

Newsletter is available in Spanish.