



# ILLINOIS ROUTE 53/120 Project Overview

The Illinois Route 53/120 Project is proposed to be a 21st century urban highway – **a modern boulevard with a small footprint to protect the natural environment and preserve the character of Lake County.** It is envisioned as a multi-modal, sustainable and innovative transportation system that will address specific needs for congestion relief and provide greater connectivity.



## BACKGROUND

An Illinois Route 53 northern extension has been considered since the 1960s. However, due to the lack of consensus among various interests, the project has not yet come to fruition. The Illinois Tollway established the Illinois Route 53/120 Blue Ribbon Advisory Council (BRAC) in 2011 to develop regional consensus on whether the Tollway should move forward with the project. The BRAC outlined its work and findings in the June 7, 2012 Resolution and Summary Report, which concluded that there is consensus for the Tollway to move forward with the project and provided the scope, configuration and design elements of the new roadway. The report also suggested potential methods for financing the project. The BRAC identified necessary next steps for the project, which serve as the basis for this current phase of work.

The BRAC defined a set of guiding principles to ensure the outcomes are clearly defined and the project fulfills its goals. The most important of these principles is to use innovative and environmentally beneficial design solutions to strike a balance between improving mobility and access while minimizing negative environmental and long-term developmental impacts.

### The current proposal includes the following improvements:

#### Extension of Illinois Route 53 – four lanes at 45 mph

- From Lake Cook Road to just south of Illinois Route 120

#### Upgrade of existing Illinois Route 120 (west end) – four lanes

- From U.S. Route 12 to west terminus of Illinois Route 120 Bypass

#### Illinois Route 120 Bypass – four lanes at 45 mph

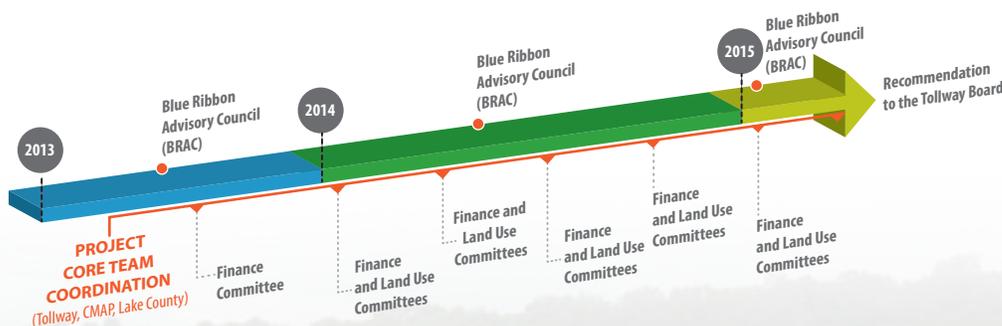
- From east of Wilson Road to east of U.S. Route 45

#### Upgrade of existing Illinois Route 120 (east end) – four lanes

- From east terminus of Illinois Route 120 Bypass to the Tri-State Tollway (I-94)

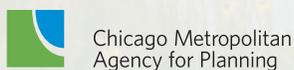
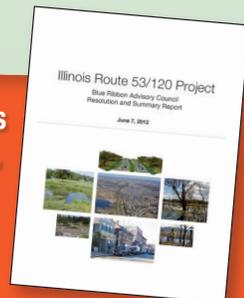
## Current Phase of Work

The current phase of this project builds on the recommendations and framework outlined by the Blue Ribbon Advisory Council (BRAC). The Illinois Tollway, the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) and Lake County will partner on a combined, two-pronged effort to examine the feasibility of the project with respect to financing and land use. To facilitate this effort, new Finance and Land Use Committees will help provide a recommendation to the Illinois Tollway Board of Directors as to whether the Tollway should continue to move forward with the project.

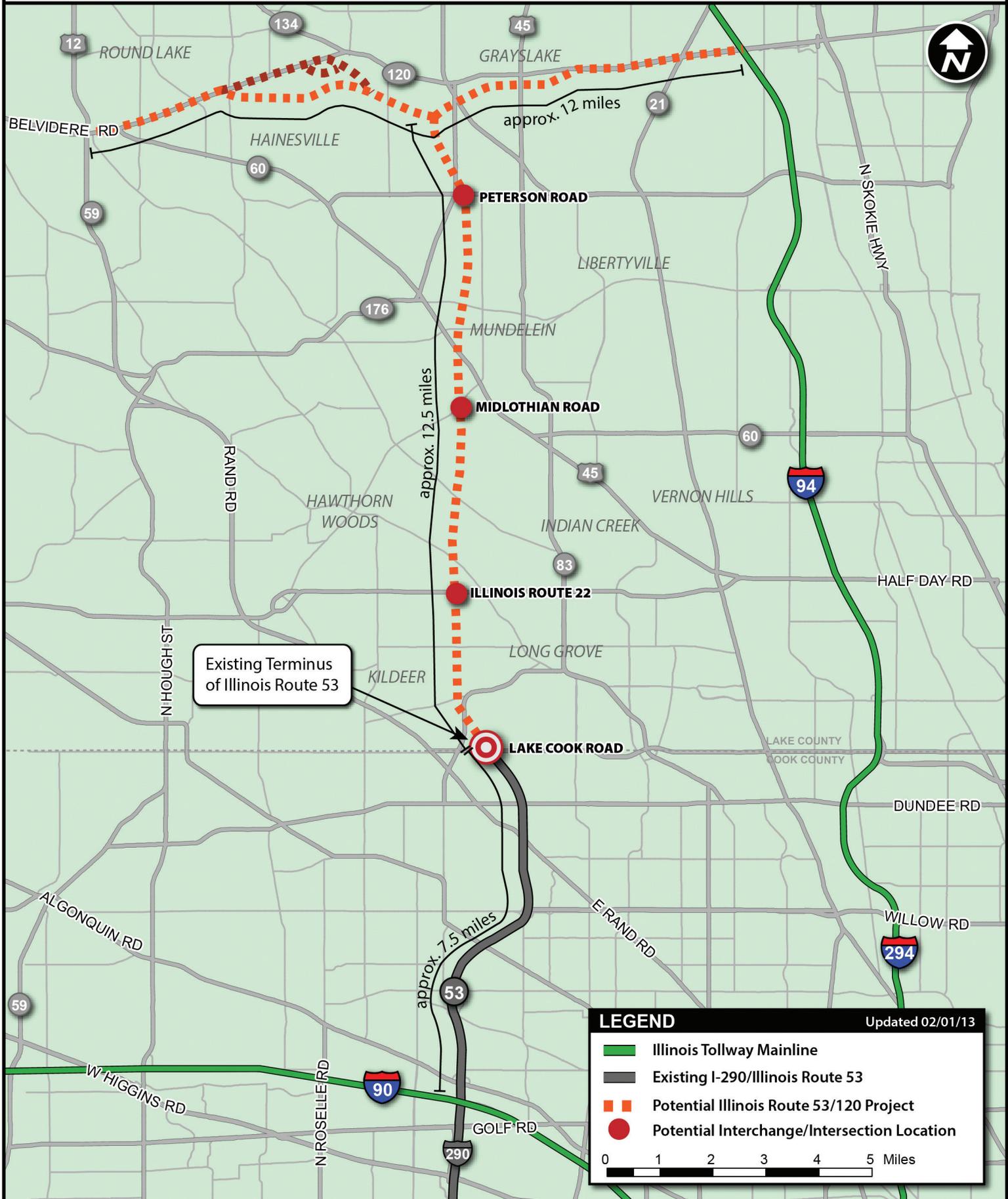


To determine the feasibility, the analysis will focus on five key study areas: design, environmental, financing, operations and regulatory. CMAP's Land Use Plan will feed into the design, environmental and financing aspects of the analysis. The outcome of this effort will help to answer the overarching questions "Is the project feasible?" and "Should the Tollway build the project?"

To view the BRAC's recommendations, as captured in the **June 2012 Resolution and Summary**, please go to the "Construction/Planning" section of [www.illinoistollway.com](http://www.illinoistollway.com) click on "Community Outreach", then click on "Illinois Route 53/120."



# Potential Illinois Route 53/120 Project



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As of February 2013, subject to change.