



Citizens Against the

SPRAWLWAY

In Kendall and Kane Counties

October 27, 2017

Secretary Randall S. Blankenhorn
Illinois Department of Transportation
Hanley Building
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

Dear Secretary Blankenhorn,

Citizens Against the Sprawlway is a local, grassroots organization, formed in 2001 to address transportation issues in the western edge of the Chicago metropolitan area and, specifically, to oppose the proposed Prairie Parkway. The organization was a plaintiff in the federal lawsuit which resulted in the withdrawal of federal approval of the Prairie Parkway project.

A revision to Sec. 4-510 of the corridor protection statute in 2011 requires that a public hearing on any existing corridor protection be held within 10 years of the date of the recording of the corridor.

The record of hearing for the revised Prairie Parkway corridor was issued November 8, 2007.

Accordingly, a public hearing should have been scheduled to comply with the 10 year requirement. We have seen no notice of such a hearing and have found no evidence online that one has been scheduled.

Does the Department intend to hold such a hearing or, as an alternative, cancel the corridor protection? As provided in the statute, the Department may determine that the construction of the roadway is 'no longer feasible' and abolish the protected corridor.

Property owners in the recorded corridor have had a "cloud" over their property because of the restrictions on development imposed by the corridor protection statute. Some landowners have been subject to these restrictions since it was originally recorded in 2002.

Given that the federal funding for the “north-south connector” has been withdrawn and transferred to other projects and, further, given the budgetary limitations on state transportation projects, we urge the Illinois Department of Transportation to terminate the Prairie Parkway corridor protection.

Affected property owners should no longer have a development restriction placed on their land.

Sincerely,

Jan Strasma
Chairman

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