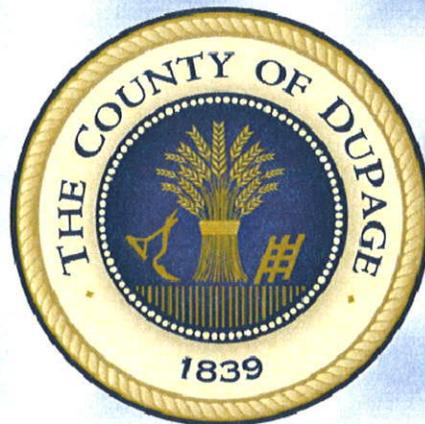


# 2011 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



DUPAGE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

*DuPage County  
CDBG Funding:*

We understand that Congress is considering significant cuts in spending for domestic programs and expected to see reductions in FY 12 however we did not anticipate the proposed level of cuts now being discussed five months into the current fiscal year. Such cuts, especially almost half-way through FY 11, would have a devastating blow to DuPage County government and its non-profit partners. If implemented at the deepest level currently proposed, the County could be faced with reducing its own program staff by as many as 37. The loss of Federal funds would also have a severely effect on many non-profit agencies that depend on our support.

Now in its 36<sup>th</sup> year, the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in particular, is arguably one of the Federal Government's most successful domestic programs. CDBG provides assistance to low and moderate income persons and persons with special needs by supporting housing activities, public improvements and public services. These programs provide a direct benefit to DuPage County elderly, people with disabilities, families in crisis and the homeless population that would not be possible without this federal-local partnership.

Over the years, DuPage County has allocated monies through CDBG to organizations such as Family Shelter Service, the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Little Friends, Prairie State Legal Services, Catholic Charities, DuPage PADS, the People's Resource Center, Metropolitan Family Services, Teen Parent Connection (formerly DuPage MYM), Habitat for Humanity, Neighborhood Resource Centers, Access Community Health and the DuPage Dental Clinic (see attached chart).

Considering the strain already placed on non-profit agencies by the State's financial crisis, significantly reducing or eliminating funding support under CDBG may cause several local entities to cease operations.

This week, the County Board adopted recommendations for 2011 Funding Awards under CDBG that includes \$500,000 (over two years) towards the cost of building a new joint facility to serve clients under the Child Advocacy Center and the Family Center.

DuPage County would appreciate the opportunity to work with your office to look for administrative efficiencies wherever possible in order to reduce the impact potential cuts will have on our programs and residents. We would respectfully request your careful review of the proposed spending cuts and the impact these significant reductions will have long-term on our communities and quality of life.

## Federal Programs Administered by the Department of Community Services

### *Current Federal Funding, Persons Served, and Headcount*

Program	Current Funding*	Persons Served**	Approved Headcount*	
			Full-Time	Part-Time or Temp
CDBG	\$ 4,260,803	41,745	12	0
CSBG	\$ 821,968	18,508	5	1.5
LIHEAP	\$ 6,592,674	25,586	9	2
Weatherization	\$ 1,260,700	1,860	11	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,936,145</b>	<b>\$ 87,699</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3.5</b>
* does not include ARRA funds or ARRA funded positions				
**for most recently completed grant year.				

### *Fiscal Impact of Roll Back to 2008 Levels*

Program	Current Funding*	2008 Funding	Change
CDBG	\$ 4,260,803	3,476,208	(784,595)
CSBG	\$ 821,968	683,309	(138,659)
LIHEAP	\$ 6,592,674	2,233,172	(4,359,502)
Weatherization	\$ 1,260,700	2,187,051	926,351
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 12,936,145</b>	<b>\$ 8,579,740</b>	<b>\$ (4,356,405)</b>
* does not include ARRA funds			

## Sample of Large Construction Projects Partially Funded by DuPage Community Development Commission

Project #	Description	CDBG/HOME \$\$	TOTAL \$\$
HM08-04 HM09-02	<p><u>ALDEN FOUNDATION</u>: New construction of a supportive living apartment building for the elderly which included HOME funded units in Bloomingdale, Illinois.</p> <p><u>Size/Units</u>: 86 units, 76 HOME assisted/full service dining/nursing office/recreation rooms</p> <p><u>Start Up</u>: November 2009</p> <p><u>Completion</u>: December 2010 (14 months)</p> <p><u>Total Contractors</u>: 35</p> <p><u>Calculated Monitoring Tally</u>: 172.50 hrs</p>	\$1,300,000  6.2%	\$20,985,133



Documents on the left are those required to demonstrate compliance with HOME and CDBG regulations.

Documents on the right are those required to demonstrate compliance with cross-cutting regulations, primarily Davis Bacon.

CD10-28	<p><u>NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK</u>: New construction of a food distribution center in Geneva, Illinois to serve local food banks in six counties.</p> <p><u>Size/Units</u>: 147,000 Sq Ft/dry storage/refrigeration/ Production kitchen and food preparation space/offices, and conference rooms</p> <p><u>Start Up</u>: November 2010</p> <p><u>Completion (Forecast)</u>: August 2011 (Ten months)</p> <p><u>Total Contractors (to date/projected)</u>: 21/36</p> <p><u>Calculated Monitoring Tally</u>: 75 hrs</p> <p><u>Projected Monitoring Tally</u>: 147.50 hrs</p>	<p>\$425,000</p> <p>3.3%</p>	<p>\$13,000,000</p>
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Documents on the left are those required to demonstrate compliance with HOME and CDBG regulations.

Documents on the right are those required to demonstrate compliance with cross-cutting regulations, primarily Davis Bacon.

**NOTE: This project is only 60% complete. The pile on the right will continue to grow.**

## CDBG SUCCESS STORIES

Habitat Pioneer Prairie Project CD08-21F located in West Chicago, DuPage County, Illinois partially funded (\$400,000 CDBG funds) infrastructure improvements for the creation of the Pioneer Prairie subdivision of 11 homes to be constructed by Habitat. To date, DuPage Habitat has installed the sanitary sewer, roadway, street lighting, and the portions of sidewalk and parkway trees that are associated with homes sold or under construction. Infrastructure work was completed September 2009. The block group that includes this area is 60% low-moderate income (1842 total population). So far 4 homes have been sold, two will be sold in early 2011, and the final five will be constructed in 2011. Habitat serves families below 65% MFI. Funding for the project included \$400,000 in CDBG funds, \$600,000 in HOME funds, State Tax Credits of \$419,223, and cash donations of \$1,367,746.

Before:





After:



## CDBG SUCCESS STORIES

Ray Graham Association: Iona Gloss Specialized Living Center Rehabilitation:

The Ray Graham Iona Gloss Specialized Living Center (SLC) Rehab project is located in the Village of Addison, DuPage County, Illinois and consists of (6) resident buildings and (1) administration building. The SLC is home to 100 residents who are severely disabled and in the HUD extremely low-income bracket (0-30% MFI). In 2007 the County made a 5-year commitment totaling \$1,421,957 for site improvements and critical interior repairs. These improvements include a fire sprinkler system retrofit; new flooring; replace air-conditioning; replace asphalt driveways and parking areas; replace the roof and windows of administration building; rehab and paint 26 bathrooms; install security system; installation of special privacy windows which include the window covering inside the two panes of glass, a requirement of the Illinois Department of Public Health.





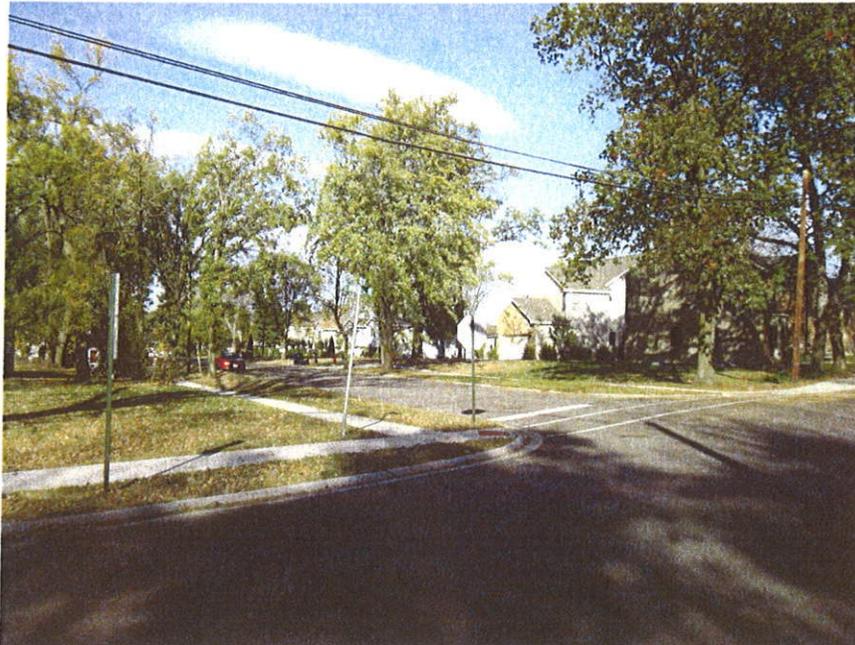
## CDBG SUCCESS STORIES

The Wood Avenue & Ellis Street Reconstruction Project (CD09-01) was located in Bensenville, DuPage County, Illinois. The purpose of the project was to reconstruct streets including street, sewer, water and sidewalk improvements. It was completed July 2010 and will serve 285 people of which 70% (200) are low-moderate income. \$488,985 CDBG funding was leveraged by \$488,985 funding received from the Village of Bensenville.

Before:



After:



## DuPage County

### Information sheet: What we do, who we help, how many.

#### How would proposed cuts impact the program?

DuPage County Workforce Development Division (WDD) at the workNet DuPage Career Center is the recipient of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds for DuPage County.

*We currently have 43 DuPage County staff* providing services throughout the Center and staffing the Workforce Investment Board (WIB).

Over 7,000 job seekers came to the Center last year.

We have over 300 employer customers, took over 3,000 job orders, had 31 on-site recruiters and 18 Job Fairs.

As part of the Rapid Response Team, we worked with 18 companies that were closing down or laying off their over 1,400 employees to offer our services.

We worked with 15 Trade certified companies with over 1,100 workers to provide retraining.

Through Incumbent Worker Training grants, we helped 26 DuPage County businesses retrain or upgrade their over 1,000 current workers to expand their business, retain qualified workers, and avert layoffs.

We helped over 1,100 WIA eligible DuPage County resident Adults and Dislocated Workers receive Individual Training Accounts for vocational/occupational training in high growth rate, high demand occupations.

Dislocated Workers that completed WIA funded services and obtained employment had average earnings of more than \$24.00 per hour for full time employment.

Over 350 Youth both in-school and out of school were helped to complete school or get a GED, received valuable work experience, and got vocational/occupational training to be able to enter the workforce.

We provide priority services to Veterans and their covered spouses to reenter the civilian workforce.

Services to Job Seekers include: Job Search workshops, Job Club, Advanced professional development workshops, Career assessment and counseling, Resource room and library, Occupational training scholarships, Job Fairs, connection to employers and job leads.

*The legislation provides for the elimination of all funding for WIA for PY'11 and a rescission of prior year funds. These funds will zero out all new programs under WIA.*

*For DuPage County, that would mean staff layoffs and closing of the Career Center that is 100% funded by WIA.* Job Seekers with funds obligated to them for training beyond June would have to be notified of no future funds available. There are over 40,000 unemployed residents in DuPage County per Unemployment statistics, probably many more. These services that are vitally needed at this time to help create and retain jobs, provide needed skills and transition assistance to workers, support businesses, and enhance economic growth in DuPage County would end.

## **workNet DuPage Business Services Testimonials**

"I'm very happy to let you know that we have hired a quality inspector and it was a candidate that came to us through workNet DuPage! He has been working at Adams Magnetic Products for 6 months now and is a great addition to our staff.

workNet DuPage is a responsive, local solution to our recruiting needs and we will continue to use it and encourage other businesses to utilize its services as well."

*Sharon S. Rakowski, Director of Human Resources, Adams Magnetic Products, Elmhurst, IL*

"Hi Kathy I worked with you on a position a few months back. We happily hired Heather from our ad with workNet DuPage! I have 3 openings and I will attach the job description for each. We are looking for 2 additional sales professionals and a service technician. Should you have any questions please contact me, I am hoping for great results again. By-the-way, you folks do a tremendous job thank you!"

*Dan Whittington, Director of Sales, Illinois Business Systems, Downers Grove, IL*

"I wanted to drop you a note to share some positive feedback. One of our hiring managers commented on the candidates for our open position who heard of the opportunity through workNet DuPage. She specifically mentioned the excellent cover letters and resumes of those candidates. The caliber of the candidates themselves is impressive. The training you provide seems very effective in how candidates present themselves. Thank you for being an excellent resource for the City of Naperville as an employer and for the community we both serve!"

*Lisa Tooley, Human Resources Technician, City of Naperville, Naperville, IL*

"I have worked with workNet DuPage for over two years. workNet DuPage Career Center has been an invaluable resource for our business. The employees who lost jobs at my organization as a result of our production moving to Mexico were able to take advantage of a variety of transition resources. I have heard from many of them, and they always made a point to mention how helpful it was to have access to job search assistance and training. I am anticipating more layoffs and I am hoping that our employees will continue to have access to these resources. In addition, the career center provided me with access to quality candidates for the positions which are staying in our U.S. location. I have recently hired a candidate who applied on the workNet DuPage job board."

*Ewa Hartsfield, Human Resources Generalist, AMETEK Instrumentation & Specialty Controls Division, West Chicago, IL*

As Human Resources Director I have found workNet DuPage Career Center to be a very valuable resource. Our local board promoted the participation of private sector employers through connecting, brokering, and coaching activities. The DuPage Employer Liaison was an essential partner. She assisted my organization with meeting our hiring needs by directly supporting our recruiting efforts and offered access to skilled workers through job clubs, job fairs and sharing of our job leads. Without money to advertise for open positions this past year, we were able to hire two excellent candidates through workNet DuPage Career Center's efforts on our behalf, at no charge.

*Pamela Bodzioch, SPHR, Director of Human Resources, Hassett Air Express, Elmhurst, IL*

## **Streamline Project Delivery**

### **Background**

While the federalization of projects affords agencies with a substantial amount of the financial resources necessary to contract a project, it also requires additional coordination and oversight that often times works against the timely delivery of projects. For local agencies within the State of Illinois, state statutes have been enacted that allow counties and municipalities to enter into Agreements of Understanding (AOU) with the State Department of Transportation (IDOT) to construct and/or maintain highways or streets using motor fuel tax funds (MFT), or other State funds administered under MFT policies and procedures, without the approval and supervision of IDOT. The local agency must show that it is adequately organized, staffed, equipped, and financed to discharge satisfactorily such statutory requirements and duties. The State DOT and local agencies both benefit from this arrangement; the State DOT does not need to be directly involved with reviewing and approving every local agency project allowing it to better direct its limited staff resources and the local agencies have greater control over the programming, planning, design, construction and scheduling of their projects.

The above process does not apply to projects funded in whole or in part with federal funds. Once federal funds are allocated to any phase of a project, the entire project and process is subject to federal requirements. In Illinois, this means that the State DOT, and to a lesser extent the FHWA, must be directly involved in the review and approval of the planning, design, land acquisition and construction phases of a project. Depending on the complexity of the project this additional oversight and coordination may add a considerable amount of time to the project development and delivery process with, at times, minimal improvement in the overall quality of the project.

### **Recommendation**

Federal procedures should allow for local agencies to enter into similar AOU's for the development and implementation of federal projects with only minimal Federal/State oversight. The extent of Federal/State involvement would depend on the complexity of the environmental document (Categorical Exclusions, Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement) and phase of a project (preliminary engineering, design, land acquisition and/or construction).

## **Sustainable Revenue Stream**

### **Background**

The current federal motor fuel tax is not able to replenish the Highway Trust Fund at adequate levels to meet the demand for transportation investments. The National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Commission estimated that the average annual capital needs for the country's highway and transit systems will be \$96 billion per year over the next few decades, but the current revenue levels will only meet 33% of that need at \$32 billion per year.

While multi-modal transportation opportunities add to the quality of life for residents, the livable community/healthy roads/transit initiatives take funding away from the core transportation investment----the roads and bridges that need to be maintained and modernized to enable and enhance economic development. The advent of uncertainty in fuel prices, the subsequent demand for fuel efficient vehicles including electric vehicles, and changes in economic conditions and availability of travel mode choices has resulted in a declining revenue stream. Until we can move away from the funding model of a fixed amount of revenue per gallon of fuel consumed, funding levels will continue to decline.

### **Recommendation**

A sustainable revenue stream is critical to all agencies that rely on motor fuel tax as their major source of funding when investing in transportation. But the model of a fixed amount of revenue per gallon of fuel consumed is no longer sustainable, as fuel consumption continues to decline.

Two areas that could be explored include:

- In the short term, indexing the motor fuel tax to inflation to allow for an increase in the amount of revenue as fuel prices increase
- As a long term strategy, a new funding model such as Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT), the ultimate user fee since the revenue generated is directly proportional to miles traveled.

# **Spring Brook Streambank Stabilization Project**

DuPage County Stormwater Management has identified a 1,650 foot stream segment within the Spring Brook Watershed, a tributary to Salt Creek within the Lower De Plaines River Watershed, where streambank stabilization is necessary. The identified area has been targeted based on its severity and location within the watershed. The reach is characterized by very steep, eroded, unstable banks with some of the existing infrastructure undermined at several locations, presenting an imminent threat to public safety. In addition, tremendous loads of sediment are entering the waterway. Sediment, recognized by federal authorities as a major pollutant in the nation's waterways, negatively impact aquatic life within the stream.

## **I. Upstream Reach**

A portion of Spring Brook in Bloomingdale, IL, located in north-central DuPage County, is experiencing serious streambank erosion and requires stabilization measures. The reach is approximately 600 feet in length, extends from an unimproved Forest Preserve District road to Circle Avenue, and is very constrained laterally. In the upstream segment, the south bank is characterized by several failing and undermined timber retaining walls in combination with near vertical earthen slopes. The north bank is an eroded steep earth slope. The steep earth banks on both sides of the stream are likely a result of erosion and over-steepened banks constructed at the time the channel was most recently realigned.

The preferred solution for the segment involves creation of a low, wide stream terrace designed to allow channel evolution to occur with minimal hindrances. This can be accomplished via excavation of a terrace onto already publicly-owned Forest Preserve District property within the upstream segment.

The total project cost for this reach, including design, permitting, and construction, is \$469,488.

## **II. Downstream Reach**

Single family homes abut the north side of the stream channel in the downstream segment. Fences are undermined and/or have washed out and make-shift bank stabilization measures (e.g. stone placement, retaining walls, etc.) exist in several locations. Most of these make-shift stabilization efforts are minimally to non-effective. This segment of the stream is evolving at a rate that threatens adjacent property and, therefore, merits stream restoration and/or streambank stabilization measures in the immediate future.

Due to lateral constraints caused by the close proximity of existing developments toward upstream portion of this reach, which extends approximately 1,050 feet from Circle Avenue downstream to a trail bridge, traditional bank stabilization methods are required to arrest ongoing bank failures and to protect property and infrastructure in this area. The furthest downstream portion of the reach offers opportunity for channel restoration; however, land acquisition or an easement is needed. If permission can be obtained from the owner, a stream terrace similar to that described above can be constructed. If construction of a stream terrace is not possible, the entire easternmost 1,050 foot length of the north bank of the reach could be treated with traditional bank stabilization methods. The south bank could simply be excavated to a flatter slope, thereby increasing slope stability. Both options result are approximately the same cost; however, a stream terrace would offer much greater benefits for aquatic life within Spring Brook.

The total project cost for this reach, including design, permitting, and construction, is \$857,325.

***Kerr McGee/Tronox  
Background:***

Since 2005, the West Branch of the DuPage River and a Tributary, Kress Creek (The Kress Creek Sites), have been in the process of being “cleaned up” under the supervision of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a CERCLA “Superfund” site. These rivers run through the communities of West Chicago, Warrenville, Naperville and unincorporated DuPage County. In addition to all the affected private land holdings, contaminated land is owned by a School District, the State of Illinois, DuPage County, the West Chicago Park District and the most impacted landowner, the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County.

The work of the cleanup was initially funded by a company called “Tronox”, which is a spinoff from the old Kerr McGee Corporation who was absorbed in a buyout by Anadarko Oil. In Late 2009/early 2010, Tronox filed for bankruptcy. Tronox and the Justice Department filed a suit against Anadarko for, among other things, the setup of a company fraudulently (Tronox by Kerr McGee) in order to abandon environmental liabilities. While that suit is continuing, the EPA and Justice have worked to ensure that the environmental cleanup, so well started, could be continued through the bankruptcy. The cleanup of the River was put under the responsibility of a Trust, set up under the bankruptcy, with a funding mechanism that relied on a number of sources. The main source of funds for the River cleanup comes from Department of Energy “Title X” funds. These funds are for a program in which the Federal Government reimburses approximately \$0.55 for every dollar spent on cleanup of the site, since the contamination is the result of processing materials to make a Thorium based atomic bomb for the Federal government in the 1950’s, among other things. These Title X funds historically came back to Kerr-McGee, then to Tronox – today, these Title X reimbursements come back to the Trust under the bankruptcy settlement and are vital to completing the remaining work on the river.

***Status:***

The Department of Energy had in their budget for 2012 a set aside of \$10 million that would come back to the Trust as reimbursement for the work performed in 2010 and 2011. Under House Bill 1 recently adopted by the House, this money has been swept out. The bill seeks the return of all money not already allocated to a specific licensee and while this money is designated for the Kress Creek sites, it cannot be actually allocated until the Department of Energy receives the bills for which it would be a reimbursement. Without this money, completing the West Branch cleanup is unfunded and uncertain.

The West Branch Corridor winds its way through the heart of residential and commercial properties, and runs adjacent to an elementary school, so its progress and status are monitored by a substantial sector of DuPage County residents. As importantly, over 60% of the affected land is owned by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County and one of the key remaining areas to be cleaned up is also one of the most heavily used Forest Preserve holdings in the County.

The “Public face” of this particular \$10 million Federal budget line item is the faces of thousands of people in DuPage County. On Behalf of the County, we are asking that the Title X funding for the Reimbursements related to the “Kress Creek Sites” be restored.

## DuPage County Federal Legislative Agenda Items:

- **3% Withholding Repeal** – Legislation was adopted by Congress in 2005 (P.L. 109-222) that mandates federal, state and larger local units of local government to withhold 3% from payments for goods and services. Compliance with this law will impose significant, unnecessary financial burdens on both the public and private sectors. Scheduled to take effect in 2012, the legislation essentially makes counties a tax collector for the federal government and as a consequence, government agencies may see the cost for goods and services increase as firms seek to offset the impact of the 3% withholding mandate. This could put the withholding unit (DuPage County) at a competitive disadvantage against smaller governmental units or against private enterprise that do not have to withhold the 3%. NACO is supporting legislation (HR 275/S 292) to repeal this section of the law.
- **Transportation Reauthorization Bill** – Congress continues to extend the current program and delay consideration of a multi-year authorization bill largely due to the fact that a revenue source has yet to be identified to support a new federal transportation program. Gas tax revenues that have supported previous national highway programs are declining and cannot support the anticipated cost of a new program. Per the request of the County’s Congressional Delegation, High Priority Projects (HPP) requests have been submitted for each congressional district in preparation for debate on this issue by Congress.
- **Water Resources Development Authorization (WRDA)** – Passage of the WRDA Act authorizes infrastructure projects from the Army Corps of Engineers, typically every two years that have been previously studied by the Corps. DuPage County has one WRDA eligible project, the stabilization of stream banks in Bloomingdale, Wood Dale, and Elmhurst. The stabilization of these steeply eroded and unstable banks would alleviate the flood damage created by loss of vegetation in addition to the current blockages caused by excessive sediment in the reservoir and pump areas.
- **Western Access** - As part of the 2005 (SAFETEA-LU) Federal Transportation Bill, the U.S. Congress identified the Elgin O’Hare-Western Bypass as a project of regional and national significance, one of only a dozen such projects nationwide. The Act authorized \$140 million in earmarked funding to initiate project development for the project. Benefactors include the State of Illinois, Cook and DuPage Counties, the City of Chicago and the entire region of northeastern Illinois. It is estimated that 44,000 new jobs will be created as a result of the project and the Gross Regional Product (GRP) will increase by over \$3 billion per year by 2015 and over \$10 billion by 2030, with the referenced improvements in place.