

Washington Avenue Corridor Study

On November 13, 2001 Governor George Ryan announced that the Kankakee Area Transportation Study was awarded a \$90,000 grant to study the Washington Avenue corridor from McBroom Bridge in Kankakee to Armour Road in Bourbonnais. The study was prompted by the traffic congestion on both Kennedy Drive and Kinzie Avenue, in the hope that Washington Avenue can provide another north-south roadway, and become an alternative to both Kennedy Drive and Kinzie Avenue. The grant comes from the Illinois Tomorrow Grant Fund and requires a 10% local match. The local funds will be paid by the City of Kankakee (\$4000), the Village of Bradley (\$4000) and the Village of Bourbonnais (\$2000). The Kankakee Metropolitan Planning Organization, known as the Kankakee Area Transportation Study, will oversee the administration of the grant funds. The MPO membership consist of the mayors and village presidents of Kankakee, Bradley, Bourbonnais and Aroma Park, as well as, the Chairman of the Kankakee County Board and the District Engineer of the Illinois Department of Transportation, District 3.

URS Corporation, of Decatur, was selected as the consultant and will perform the duties outlined in the scope of services. The scope of services for the study is:

- Data Collection – Collection of traffic counts, environmental data, right-of-way and roadway geometry and other data.
- Summary of Local Plans – Obtain and summarize plans from various local government agencies.
- Corridor Studies – Collect and summarize existing corridor studies pertinent to Washington Avenue.
- Recommendations – Final recommendations for the Washington Avenue corridor.

In addition to the above work, URS Corporation will also be studying the Norfolk and Southern Railroad crossing at Washington Avenue and the placement of a possible High-Speed Rail station.

The study will take approximately 24 months to complete and the public will have several opportunities to express their thoughts and ideas throughout this process.

