

# PROJECT UPDATE: ILLINOIS ROUTE 62

Illinois Route 25 to Illinois Route 68 • Cook & Kane Counties



**FEBRUARY 2022**

## WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

In our last newsletter (December 2020), we described the additional analysis and evaluation required to select the preferred alternative due to the presence of federally listed threatened and endangered species: Hine's Emerald Dragonfly and Rusty Patched Bumblebee. Over the last year, the project team has continued coordinating with agencies such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPDCC), the US Geological Survey (USGS), and the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS) to conduct the Biological Assessment (BA). The BA analyzes and determines the project's effect on these species and/or their critical habitat, and documents the measures taken to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate the impacts.

Two critical elements of the BA are the groundwater monitoring and analysis, which will be completed in early 2022, and the prescribed burn of the Spring Creek Forest Preserve, which was completed in 2021. You may have also noticed crews trudging through the marshy areas along IL 62 in the late fall as shown in Figure 2. These crews are delineating wetlands within the Spring Creek Forest Preserve to help better identify potential habitat for the Hine's Emerald Dragonfly within the study area. We anticipate the wetland delineation to be completed in the spring of 2022.



Figure 1: Spring Creek Forest Preserve Prescribed Burn



Figure 2: Field Work

## WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Once the BA is complete, the project team can continue analyzing the impacts of the two remaining alternatives and select a preferred alternative. While the two remaining alternatives are both 4-lanes, one has shoulders, and one has curb and gutter. After the preferred alternative is selected, geometric and drainage improvements, and non-motorized accommodations will be refined and presented to stakeholders.

### STAY INVOLVED

In the meantime, stay involved with the IL 62 Phase I Study by visiting the project website at [idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL62Study](https://idot.illinois.gov/projects/IL62Study). Interested stakeholders can sign up to receive project notifications and newsletters via mail or email. Materials presented at the public meetings and CAG meetings will be made available on the project website once the meeting has been held.