Purpose and Need

The purpose and need for the proposed improvement includes:

- Providing local system continuity — The extension of Eldamain Road will provide a continuous north-south route across Kendall County. With a bridge across the Fox River, Eldamain Road will extend from Ashe Road in Kane County south to Lisbon Road, which continues south to Morris in Grundy County.

- Addressing local system deficiencies — Currently the only crossings of the Fox River in this area are IL 47 and Fox River Drive. Projected 2040 average daily traffic (ADT) volumes on the IL 47 and Fox River Drive bridges are 54,000 and 9,000 vehicles per day, respectively. Traffic growth impacts to IL 47 will have a detrimental effect on planned growth and economic development for the communities of Yorkville and Plano.

- Improving local transportation and safety associated with existing and future population growth — Based on population projections and land development proposals and submittals, the Cities of Yorkville and Plano expect between a 418% and 523% population growth between 2000 and 2040, resulting from residential and commercial development planned to occur over this time period. Future commercial and residential areas are planned along the corridor.

- Improving access for public facilities and emergency vehicles — The Eldamain Road Extension will retain its local connections and provide access to these facilities and services in a more direct and efficient way. In addition, the Eldamain Road Extension will provide safe accommodation for pedestrians and bicyclists to cross the Fox River, serving these local needs within this corridor. There are residential land uses on both the north and south side of the river along with the Subat and Hoover Forest Preserves.

Comments, Material and Questions

Written comments and recommendations may be submitted during the Public Hearing or to Kendall County no later than May 20th, in order to become a part of the official public record. The correspondence should be addressed to:

Kendall County Highway Department,
Attention: Fran Klaas, County Engineer,
6780 S. Route 47, Yorkville, Illinois 60560
History of Project

In the face of increasing population growth and traffic demand in the early 1990s, Kendall County recognized the need for an expanded north-south transportation network that included a potential new Fox River crossing to accommodate impending land development. The redevelopment of formerly rural land into more densely populated suburban uses was bringing more traffic and more congestion onto roadways in northern Kendall County, particularly in the communities along the Fox River. Growing levels of traffic congestion on the existing Fox River roadway bridges showed that the number and locations of those bridges was insufficient for the demand. Land development and population growth continued at a rapid pace, moving westward along the Fox Valley into the cities of Yorkville and Plano. In 2009, the U.S. Census Bureau recognized Kendall County as the fourth fastest-growing county in the U.S., based on growth from 2000 to 2008. Between 2000 and 2008, the population of Yorkville had grown by 167%. The attendant traffic growth on IL 47 during this period has resulted in drivers experiencing congestion as a daily occurrence.

Environmental Resources

- **Trees** – Impacted trees will be replaced on a one to one basis according to IDOT Tree Replacement Policy.
- **Wetlands** – Approximately 1.8 acres of wetlands will be impacted and mitigated.
- **Noise** – A noise analysis was conducted and an impact occurred at one receptor location along the corridor. It would not be economically reasonable to construct a noise wall at this location.
- **Floodplains** – Fox River contains floodway and floodplain areas. The proposed bridge will span the floodway and floodplain.
- **Air Quality** – Analysis of existing vs. proposed carbon monoxide levels has been conducted along the project corridor and was found to be in compliance with state standards.
- **Forest Preserves** – Approximately 1.6 acres of the Subat Forest Preserve will be impacted and will be replaced with equivalent lands adjacent to the project limits.
- **Threatened and Endangered Species** – Surveys for threatened and endangered species were conducted, no impacts will occur.

Design Features

- New bridge over the Fox River
- One lane roadway in each direction from US 34 through the IL 71 intersection
- Center median to separate traffic and accommodate left-turns
- New bridge over Rob Roy Creek to replace existing culverts
- Bicycle and pedestrian path on the bridge over the Fox River connecting Subat and Hoover Forest Preserves
- Paved shoulders north of IL 71
- Undivided two-lane roadway providing one lane in each direction from south of IL 71 through Walker Road
- Gravel shoulders south of IL 71
- Vegetated drainage swales and ditches throughout the project

Property Acquisition

Three types of land acquisition:

- **Fee Simple** – The highest form of ownership. The property owner is entitled to full enjoyment of the property, limited only by zoning laws, deed or subdivision restrictions or covenants. Center median to accommodate left-turns
- **Permanent Easement** – Permanently allows the easement holder the right to use the landowner’s property for a specific purpose.
- **Temporary Easement** – Temporarily allows the easement holder the right to use the landowner’s property for a specific purpose.

Next Steps

- There will be a 14-day Public Comment Period; all comments are welcome.
- Design Approval is anticipated for Summer 2013 (final step of Phase I process).
- Contract Plan Preparation and Land Acquisition (Phase II) will begin once Design Approval is granted.
- Construction (Phase III) will commence once Phase II has been completed. The cost of the project is estimated at $59 million dollars.
- The project will be constructed in stages.