Jane Byrne Interchange

• About 60 years old; approaching end of useful lifespan
• Overcapacity and does not meet modern standards
• Top 10 freight bottleneck in the U.S.
• Total reconstruction, under traffic
• Approximately 400,000 vehicles/day
  – Kennedy Expressway (Interstate 90/94)
  – Dan Ryan Expressway (Interstate 90/94)
  – Eisenhower Expressway (Interstate 290)
  – Ida B. Wells Drive (formerly Congress Pkwy)
Typical IDOT Project Phases

PHASE I
Preliminary Engineering & Environmental Study

PHASE II
Contract Plan Preparation
Land Acquisition

PHASE III
Construction

Combined to expedite project delivery
Overall Construction Staging

Two cross bridges have not been started yet (Adams St/Jackson Blvd)
Phase I Public Outreach

- Context-Sensitive Solutions (CSS)
- Stakeholder Involvement Plan
- Project Working Group
- Public Meetings
- Public Hearings
- Mailings/Newsletters
- e-Blasts
- Press Releases
- Project Website

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Typical IDOT Public Outreach

**Phase I**
Planning/ Preliminary Engineering
- NEPA process
  - Stakeholder involvement
  - Citizen engagement
  - Alternatives analysis
  - Environmental studies

**Phase II**
Design and Land Acquisition
- Maintaining project website (if applicable)
- Responding to citizen inquiries (as needed)
- Land acquisition negotiation

**Phase III**
Construction
- Resident engineer (coordinates construction activities and notifies impacted landowners/residents)
- Press releases and construction signage (informs motorists and other travelers)
- Maintain project website (if applicable)

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Project Timeline

2012
Phase I
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2013
Preliminary Design
Design and Construction
Final Construction
Project Complete

2018
2019
2020
2021
2022

Construction Cost:
$450.5 million
$514.4 million
$543.2 million
$556.3 million
$569.5 million
Column: Settle in, drivers — Jane Byrne Interchange will take another

What's Driving You Crazy? Jane Byrne Interchange ramps
Need for Enhanced Outreach

- Acknowledgement that previous outreach efforts were insufficient during construction
- Local citizen and media confusion
- Prolonged delay in project delivery
  - Utility issues
  - Interstate 55 at Lake Shore Drive
- Enhanced transparency
  - Proactive engagement before major reconfigurations begin

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Context-Sensitive Construction

• Noise issues with nearby residential properties
• Interstate 55 at Lake Shore Drive
  – Could not keep two major entries to downtown Chicago blocked concurrently
• Events in Chicago affecting weekend closures
2019 Weekend Construction Restrictions

- Bears vs Eagles (1/6)
- Blackhawks vs Golden Knights (1/12)
- Bulls vs Heat (1/19)
- Blackhawks vs Caps (1/20)
- Bulls vs Cavs (1/27)
- Bulls vs Wizards (2/9)
- Blackhawks vs Red Wings (2/10)
- Blackhawks vs Blue Jackets (2/16)

*note: schedule does not include Bulls and Blackhawks 2019-20 season schedule
New Outreach Strategies

• Improved internal communication
  – Week-ahead reports from the field to notify key stakeholders of upcoming traffic changes, overnight closures, and other impacts
  – Bi-weekly project communication meetings between IDOT, engineering consultants, construction contractors, and communications team
  – Streamlined approval process for faster outreach turnaround
New Outreach Strategies

• Interactive project map

circleinterchange.org/map
New Outreach Strategies

• Public Construction Meeting (March 7)
  – Included review of project as a whole and upcoming work
  – Also included media availability for project staff and opportunities for one-on-one conversations with concerned members of the public
  – May be repeated at the beginning of next construction season

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New Outreach Strategies

• Website reboot
  – Current website dates back to Phase I project in 2012
  – Consultant is updating website to make navigation more intuitive and streamlined
  – Mobile-friendly
  – Scheduled to launch by end of June

• Social media channels
  – Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn: @TheJaneByrne
Lessons Learned

• Manage expectations
  – Still combatting idea that the only major part of the project is the North-to-West flyover ramp

• Open and transparent
  – Explain why parts of a project get delayed or why costs increase
  – Work productively with local media

• Know your audience
  – No one-size-fits-all approach
  – Understand wants and needs of targeted audiences

• Celebrate victories
  – Multi-stage construction projects can drag on when citizens don’t see progress
  – Don’t assume constituents will know project successes without identification