

Governor Quinn Announces Construction of 1,000th Bridge Since Becoming Governor

Written by Leslie Wertheimer
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CREATE Project on Illinois Route 38 to Create 340 Jobs, Reduce Delays, Improve Emergency Response and Enhance Safety

WEST CHICAGO - October 3, 2012. Governor Pat Quinn, joined by Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider and other state and local officials, today announced the plan to construct an overpass bridge at Illinois Route 38 and Kautz Road over the Union Pacific Railroad, marking the 1000th bridge improvement to move forward since Governor Quinn took office. The nearly \$26 million dollar project, funded by Governor Quinn's *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital program, will create nearly 340 construction jobs, reduce traffic delays, and improve safety for travelers in DuPage and Kane Counties.

Today's announcement underscores Governor Quinn's commitment to building a 21st century transportation infrastructure in Illinois.

"Illinois is moving forward to build a 21st century transportation network that will pave the way for future economic growth," Governor Quinn said. "This 1000th milestone bridge symbolizes our efforts to put people to work building a transportation system that is the strongest and safest in the Midwest and the nation."

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Illinois Route 38 is one project in the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) plan which involves a new bridge and grade separation to eliminate traffic delays due to train crossings. The goal of CREATE is to address critically needed improvements to increase the efficiency of the region's passenger and freight rail infrastructure and enhance the quality of life for Illinois residents. The project will provide a grade separation and bridge to carry Illinois Route 38 and Kautz Road over the Union Pacific Railroad near Geneva.

"Thousands of vehicles are delayed at this location as a result of heavy rail traffic consisting of 75 freight trains and 54 commuter trains passing through this crossing every single day," said Secretary Schneider. "Thanks to *Illinois Jobs Now!* and the Governor's commitment, this much needed CREATE project will move forward to minimize the delays to the traveling public, improve emergency vehicle response times, improve access for businesses and enhance safety in the area."

Currently, the Union Pacific Railroad crosses Illinois Route 38 at a skewed angle just east of the signalized intersection of Kautz Road, which has caused delays and safety hazards for motorists. The proposed improvement will also place a T-intersection with signals on the new bridge structure at Kautz Road and Illinois Route 38. The project will widen and reconstruct Illinois Route 38 on a new alignment from east of Kirk Road to east of Technology Boulevard, providing two lanes in each direction. Construction is expected to start in November and the project is expected to be complete in 2014.

Governor Quinn spearheaded the state's first capital construction program in a decade. The \$31 billion *Illinois Jobs Now!* capital construction program is the largest in Illinois history, supporting an estimated 439,000 construction jobs. The program includes \$14 billion for transportation, \$1.5 billion for higher education, including \$788 million for public universities and \$400 million for community colleges. Of the \$14 billion in the program dedicated for transportation needs, \$11 billion has been invested on projects throughout Illinois. These projects have improved 6,900 miles of roads and 1000 bridges, creating or supporting approximately 140,000 jobs.

In July, Governor Quinn authorized \$1.6 billion for road, rail and transit projects as a part of the next phase of *Illinois Jobs Now!* The capital funding includes \$211 million for 15 CREATE projects during 2013. More than \$1.7 billion in road construction projects are scheduled for 2013.

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