



# Bridging the Ike | PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PLAN

- **Engage Oak Park (Continuous throughout the project)**
  - February - Preliminary meeting held with Engage Oak Park Communications Department to discuss how to best utilize the online tool and determine the schedule of when each item should be posted.
  - Newsletter:
    - OP/FYI – Bi-monthly Village newsletter is sent to every Oak Park address. March/April OP/FYI will introduce the project.
    - Public Information Meetings to be included in newsletter for all future PIM meetings.
  - Website:
    - The project website - <https://engageoakpark.com/ike> website
    - Comment period after PIM will close 4 weeks after the meeting.
  - Communications
    - Consultant team will work with Engage Oak Park team to provide content for social media and Village newsletters.
- **Public Information Meeting #1 April 7, 2026**
  - Public notice to be sent to newspapers on March 13 and March 27 to meet IDOT requirements for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> publications.
  - Flyers to be distributed around the community project area on March 23, 2026.
  - In-person open house format meeting with the primary goal of PIM #1 being to reintroduce the project to the public and obtain feedback.
  - No alternatives will be provided, just the overall goals of the project and a blank slate to identify ideas.
  - All comments will be documented and incorporated into the alternatives development where appropriate.
  - Following the meeting a digital version of the boards will be placed on the project website. Comment period will close 4 weeks following the meeting.
- **Steering Committee Meeting #1 (April-May)**
  - Form a Steering Committee comprised of representatives of commissions, partner agencies, and stakeholders.
    - The steering committee will serve as advisory review and guidance through the planning scope, provide local insight to planning issues, vetting of design ideas and become ambassadors for the plan.
  - Invitations to be sent by the project team prior to PIM #1.
  - Conduct an in-person working meeting to present the preliminary alternatives and gain feedback prior to PIM #2.
  - Revise alternatives based on Steering Committee feedback and prepare to present them to the public.
- **Individual Stakeholder Meetings (April-June)**



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- Stakeholder Focus groups will consist of facilitated conversations with relevant stakeholder groups to understand local experiences. Recommended stakeholders include adjacent business and landowners, school district and park district and other committees determined by the Village for initial meetings, as well as local agencies affected by the project.
- Stakeholder invitation / project update letters to be sent by end of March by the Consultant team.
- Following PIM #1 there will be an offer to meet with stakeholders. If desired, these could be coordinated as small group meetings focused on similar stakeholder interests.
- The project team will attend and develop materials for the stakeholder meetings as needed.
- **Public Information Meeting #2 (July 2026)**
  - In-person Public Information Meeting to be held in accordance with IDOT requirements.
  - Show a range of alternatives including at least 3-4 viable alternatives in addition to some of the eliminated alternatives that have been studied up to this point in the project.
  - Website and Newsletter graphics and support text to be provided and posted in advance of the public meeting.
  - Show how the feedback from PIM #1 was incorporated into the alternatives being presented.
  - The purpose of the meeting is to document what isn't feasible and get public feedback on the feasible alternatives so that the finalist alternatives can be selected and moved forward.
  - All comments will be documented and incorporated into the finalist alternatives where appropriate.
  - Following the meeting a digital version of the boards will be placed on the project website. Comment period will close 4 weeks following the meeting.
- **Citizen Commission Engagement (July – September)**
  - Present alternatives and get feedback from various citizen commissions to be incorporated into final strategies.
- **Steering Committee Meeting #2 (September-October)**
  - Presentation of the finalist alternatives.
  - Final strategies to build consensus for the project.
  - Obtain feedback and refine alternatives as needed before showing the public.
- **Public Information Meeting #3 (December 2026)**
  - In-person Public Information Meeting to be held in accordance with IDOT requirements.



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- Show finalist alternatives and features that will move forward as viable in the PEL study.
- Website and Newsletter graphics and support text to be provided and posted in advance of the public meeting.
- Collect public comments and make final adjustments to the proposed alternatives to be carried forward to future studies.
- **Village Board Meetings (1<sup>st</sup> Quarter 2027)**
  - Preset final recommendations and options for locations and uses for potential caps and treatments of bridges along I-290
  - Obtain feedback and refine alternatives as needed based on direction from the Village Board
  - Obtain Village Board approval of the PEL which would serve as the basis of the scope for future preliminary engineering (Phase I) design of any caps over I-290