



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of Highways Project Implementation / Bureau of Local Roads & Streets
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Room 205 / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

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May 19, 2023

Cathy Jenkins
COUNTY CLERK
VERMILION CO. IL

CIRCULAR LETTER 2023-17

VULNERABLE ROAD USER (VRU) SAFETY ASSESSMENT STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS / METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS / TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS / CONSULTING ENGINEERS / ADVOCACY GROUPS

PURPOSE:

This Circular Letter is An important follow-up to [IDOT BLRS Circular Letter 2023-10](#). The purpose of this Circular Letter is to articulate and encourage our key industry partners to become and continue their involvement in the critical next steps in IDOT's VRU Safety Assessment.

BACKGROUND & KEY INFORMATION:

Included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA); also known as the "Bipartisan Infrastructure Law" (BIL); is a requirement to perform a Vulnerable Road User (VRU) Safety Assessment as part of the state's Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Per the IIJA/BIL, a Vulnerable Road User is defined as a non-motorist who may include people walking, biking, or rolling, as well as highway workers on foot in a work zone. A major component of the VRU Safety Assessment is stakeholder consultation to consider safety issues and concerns at the local level and to work with stakeholders to identify and develop projects and strategies to address VRU safety. Stakeholders will be critical to addressing local safety needs that the IDOT policy and planning teams may not be fully aware of. Importantly, nothing can replace the user's familiarity with the system to help identify the areas where pedestrians and bicyclists may feel or are unsafe.

The VRU Safety Assessment will be an Appendix to the state's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP). [Illinois' SHSP](#) was completed in 2022. The law establishes that the VRU Safety Assessment must be completed no later than November 15, 2023. Additional information, from the Federal Highway Administration, about the VRU Safety Assessment requirements can be found at [Vulnerable Road User Safety Assessment Guidance](#).

WEBINAR INFORMATION, REGISTRATION LINKS & DATES:

To get additional input from stakeholders, IDOT is hosting a series of VRU Safety Assessment stakeholder engagement webinars. During these webinars, IDOT will share findings from an initial safety analysis and moderate a discussion to gain inputs and feedback from the attendees. IDOT would like to learn about stakeholder VRU safety needs and priorities to enhance the study and direct outcomes to improve VRU safety statewide.

Four webinars will be held on June 7th and 8th and attendees are welcome to participate in multiple webinars. Attendees can register for the webinars in advance at the links below or by scanning the QR codes. Please share this information with any interested parties you are aware of.

Wednesday, June 7th

Urbanized areas

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM CDT



Non-urbanized areas

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM CDT



Thursday, June 8th

Cook County

9:30 AM - 11:30 AM CDT



Collar Counties

1:30 PM - 3:30 PM CDT



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

IDOT's stakeholder engagement for the VRU Safety Assessment began with a kick-off webinar in March 2023. During this kick-off webinar, the VRU Safety Web-map (www.tinyurl.com/ILLINOISVRUTOOL) was launched. IDOT created the VRU Safety Web-map to provide an opportunity for public comment on potential roadway safety concerns for VRUs. More background on the VRU Safety Assessment, and a video demonstration of the tool, is available at: (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hcc2xay7Y_g).

Please email any questions to DOT.VRUSafety@illinois.gov.

Sincerely,

George Tapas, P.E., S.E.
Bureau Chief of Local Roads and Streets

Justan Mann, P.E., S.E.
Deputy Director of Highways

cc: Shane Schneider, Illinois Association of County Engineers
Brad Cole, Illinois Municipal League
Jerry Crabtree, Township Officials of Illinois
Arnie Vegter, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois
David Snyder, FHWA – Illinois Division
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