

# US ROUTE 14 AND MAIN STREET CITY OF CRYSTAL LAKE, ILLINOIS



## CHALLENGE

*Reduce traffic congestion and long delays at a high-accident location.*

US 14 is a heavily-traveled major arterial route extending across and beyond Chicago's northwest suburbs. Main Street is a minor arterial route connecting downtown Crystal Lake with major east-west highways through town. As the City and the McHenry County region have grown, traffic demand at this intersection caused daily congestion and traffic safety concerns.

The City of Crystal Lake called on HLR to develop a plan to improve traffic flow and traffic safety. The project design included the US 14 and Main Street intersection along with three nearby signalized intersections along US 14 and Main Street.

## RESULTS

*Construction of the project was completed in Fall 2002.*

Benefits of the proposed project include:

- Enhanced traffic flow
- Reduced delays
- Improved traffic safety
- Improved bike path safety

CONSTRUCTION BUDGET  
\$6 MILLION

## SOLUTION

HLR's initial engineering included a thorough analysis of crash records and an analysis of improvements to intersection geometry to accommodate existing and projected high volumes of traffic. A project development report was prepared to obtain approval of the design for State and Federal funding. Close coordination was needed with the McHenry County Conservation District for accommodation of their concurrent improvement of a parallel railroad right-of-way being converted to a bike trail as an extension of the McHenry County Prairie Trail. Improvements included an underpass for the bike path crossing of US 14. A Section 4(f) document was prepared for involvement with MCCD property. A public hearing and property owner meetings were also held.

To gain approval for the project, HLR coordinated with regulatory agencies including:

- IDOT for Federal funding and state route involvements
- McHenry County Conservation District for McHenry County Prairie Trail improvements

HLR also provided Phase II detailed engineering design and construction observation services for the project. Plans, specifications and estimates were provided including a detailed traffic management plan to keep the intersection open to traffic safely during construction.

*Improvements designed include:*

- Dual left turn lanes on all intersection approaches
- New right turn lanes on three approaches
- Improvement of stormwater drainage management
- McHenry County Prairie Trail underpass
- New sidewalks
- New traffic signals



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