

B. STUDY AREA OVERVIEW

1. Project Location

The project is located in northeastern Illinois in Kankakee County to the south of Chicago as shown in Figure 1. The primary transportation network in Kankakee County includes I-57, IL 50, US 45/52, IL 1, and IL 17. Running from Chicago to Cairo, I-57 runs along the west side of the Canadian National Railway (Illinois, Central & Gulf Railroad) and around the east side of the City of Kankakee. Prior to I-57, IL 50 provided the most direct connection of Kankakee County to the heart of Chicago. IL 50 begins at US 45/52 in the City of Kankakee near the Kankakee River, and extends along the east side of the Canadian National Railway through Manteno to Chicago. Connecting to the western suburbs of Chicago, US 45/52 is a principal north/south route traversing the middle of the county and paralleling I-57 south of the City of Kankakee to Champaign-Urbana. Running along the border of Illinois and Indiana, IL 1 passes north-south through the eastern portion of Kankakee County. Illinois 17 is the principal east/west route through the county linking the City of Kankakee to US 41 in Indiana and to I-65 in Indiana (via IL 114/Indiana SR 10).

2. Corridor Study Area and Termini

Figure 2 displays the Corridor Study Area. It resembles an “L” tilted to its right side. The east-west portion of the Study Area is roughly a two-mile band centered on 6000N Road running from Vincennes Trail (County Highway 14, just east of IL 1) to Warner Bridge Road (7000W or County Highway 20). The north-south portion of the Study Area begins as a two-mile north-south band centered on Warner Bridge Road from the Kankakee River to Illinois 17, and intersects with a two-mile east-west band centered on the alignment of 3000S Road between Warner Bridge Road and the US 45/52 interchange with I-57 (Exit 308).

3. Local Units of Government and Socio-Economic Profile

Population: Kankakee County has a land area consisting of about 681 square miles. The City of Kankakee and the Villages of Bradley and Bourbonnais abut one another in central Kankakee County. The next largest communities in Kankakee County are the Village of Manteno (located along I-57 to the north of the City of Kankakee) and the City of Momence (located at the intersection of IL 1 and IL 17 to the east of the City of Kankakee). Listed below in Table 1 are the year 1990 and 2000 populations of urban places in Kankakee County. Kankakee County had a population of 103,833 persons in the year 2000. That represents an increase of 7.9% over the previous decade, compared to an increase 8.6% for the State of Illinois over the previous decade.

By the year 2020, Kankakee County is forecasted to have 117,841 persons, reflecting a 13.5% increase over the year 2000, compared to a projected 7.1% increase for the State of Illinois.¹

Household Characteristics: In the year 2000, the county contained 40,610 housing units with an average of 2.61 persons per household.² The median household income was \$37,436 (1997-model based estimate) compared to \$41,179 for the State of Illinois.³ The persons below poverty accounted for 12.9% of the population (1997-model based estimate), compared to 11.3% of the population of the State of Illinois.⁴

Labor Force: The labor force of Kankakee County increased from 47,254 persons with an unemployment rate of 7.2% in the year 1990 to 52,457 persons with an unemployment rate of 4.9% in the year 2000. In year 2001 the labor force dropped to 51,935 with an unemployment rate of 5.8%, compared to 5.4% percent for the State of Illinois.⁵ Kankakee County had a slightly higher unemployment rate than the State of Illinois over the past decade.

Employment: According to the American Business Directory, there were 4,270 businesses in Kankakee County in 2000. The 2000 Woods & Poole Economics, Inc., database reported 58,370 jobs in the year 2000 (up from 46,040 jobs in the year 1990), and forecasted 75,790 jobs by the year 2020, reflecting a 29.8% increase compared to a 20.4% increase for the State of Illinois. Private wage (salaried) employees in the major employment sectors amounted to 35,898 employees in about 2,140 firms. Based on the labor economic database of the Illinois Department Employment Security, the public sector accounts for another 6,571 employees. Thus, nearly half of the businesses are proprietorships (i.e., businesses without salaried employees) and account for roughly another 15,900 jobs.

In the private sector in the year 2001, the Services Sector accounted for 30.7% of the jobs, followed by the Retail Sector with 26.3% of the jobs and the Manufacturing Sector with 18.7% of the jobs. The number of jobs in the Public Sector is only slightly less than those employed in the Manufacturing Section. A listing of the major employers (100 or more employees) within the county is displayed in Table 2.

¹ Source: Illinois Department of Employment Security, Workforce Info Center (forecasts by Illinois State University).

² Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County *Quick Facts*.

³ Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County *Quick Facts*.

⁴ Source: U.S. Census Bureau: State and County *Quick Facts*.

⁵ Source: Economic Information & Analysis, Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).

Table 1: Population of Urban Places in Kankakee County

Jurisdictions	Year 1990	Year 2000	Year 2020
Aroma Park (Village of)	690	821	
Bonfield (Village of)	299	364	
Bourbonnais (Village of)	13,934	15,256	
Bradley (Village of)	10,792	12,784	
Buckingham (Village of)	340	237	
Cabery (Village of)	268	263	
Chebanse (Village of)	1,082	1,148	
Essex (Village of)	482	554	
Grant Park (Village of)	1,024	1,358	
Herscher (Village of)	1,278	1,523	
Hopkins' Park (Village of)	601	711	
Irwin (Village of)	50	92	
Kankakee (City of)	27,575	27,491	
Manteno (Village of)	3,488	6,414	
Momence (City of)	2,968	3,171	
Reddick (Village of)	208	219	
St. Anne (Village of)	1,153	1,212	
Sun River Terrace (Village of)	532	383	
Union Hill (Village of)	37	66	
Kankakee County	96,519	103,833	117,841
State of Illinois	11,430,602	12,419,293	13,296,804

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau - *American FactFinder*. Illinois Department of Employment Security, Workforce Info Center (forecasts from Illinois State University).

Table 2: Kankakee County Major Employers	
Company Name	Type of Business
American Spring Wire Corp.	Steel wiredrawing and nails
Armstrong World Industries	Flooring, Tile
Aventis Behring LLC	Biological Products
Baker-Taylor Inc.	Books-Periodicals-Newspapers
Birmingham Steel	Steel Works, Blast Furnaces.
Bunge Foods Corporation	Shortening, Table oils, Margarine
Carson Pirie Scott & Company	Department Stores
Chicago Linen Exchange	Industrial Launderers
Cognis Corporation	Plastics Materials, Synthetic Resins
Connecticut General Life Insurance	Life Insurance
Crown Cork & Seal Co. Inc.	Metal Cans
Delmonte	Canned produce
Engineered Polymer Solutions	Paints, Varnishes, Lacquers
Esselte Pendeflex Corporation	Die-cut Paper and Cardboard
Gilster-Mary Lee Corporation	Cocoa mix, fruit drink mix
Good Shepherd Manor	Residential Care
Indian Oak Academy	Residential Care
Ivex Packaging Corporation	Plastics Products
JC Penney Corporation	Merchandise Store
Jewel Food Stores	Grocery Stores

Source: Kankakee County Labor Management Association and Local Input.

Table 2: Kankakee County Major Employers (continued)	
Company Name	Type of Business
K-Mart Distribution Center	Warehousing
Kama Manufacturers	Plastics
Kankakee Community College	College
Kankakee County Government	Government
Kankakee Daily Journal	Newspaper
Kankakee Federal Savings	Banks, Financial Institution
Kankakee School District #111	School
M & D Flexographic Print	Fabricated Rubber Products
Med Centre Laboratories	Medical Laboratories
Menard's	Lumber & Building Materials
Micro Inks Corporation	Ink Manufacturer
Midwest Transit Equipment	Buses, Distribution
Momence Packing Company	Meat Packing Company
Monical Pizza Corporation	Eating Places
Olivet Nazarene University	Colleges, University
Peddinghaus Corporation	Machine Tools, Metal Forming
Provena St. Mary's Hospital	General Medical and Surgical
RJ Van Drunen Sons Inc.	General Farms
Riverside Medical Center	General Medical and Surgical
Sears Logistics Services	Transportation, Freight Forward
Sears	Department Store
Sun Chemical Corporation	Ink Manufacturer
Super K-mart	Department Store
Target	Department Store
US Filters (Stranco)	Water Treatment Equipment
Valspar Corporation	Coatings, Protectives Mfg.
Walmart	Department Stores
Webber Trucking	Trucking Company