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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## ACEC Illinois Recognizes Rt. 47 Study

Geneva, IL. February 14, 2012. Kane County's Ill. Rt. 47 Corridor Study was recognized Feb. 3 with a 2012 Merit Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) of Illinois. Merit Awards for engineering excellence are presented annually by the ACEC for those projects worthy of recognition for the engineer and the owner/client. The state-funded Ill. Rt. 47 study was completed in 2010. Along with the county, T.Y. Lin International was recognized for its work on the corridor study under the category of "Studies, Research and Consulting."

The purpose of the joint study was to provide municipalities and other government agencies with an understanding of the planning challenges associated with growth in the Rt. 47 corridor and to recommend strategies or tools that can be used to address these challenges. The study included broad participation and input from the municipalities along the heavily-traveled, north-south route.

"In recognition that more than a boundary agreement is needed to address the challenges associated with growth, the corridor study demonstrated how municipalities and other agencies need to work collectively to mitigate the impacts of growth and work towards commonly defined objectives," said county transportation planner Heidi Files.

"This was a joint planning effort by Kane and McHenry Counties and the City of Woodstock to encourage a healthy population and economy and to explore the relationship between economic development, land-use planning, and transportation planning," said Kane County Board Chairman Karen McConnaughay. "We want to encourage coordinated municipal, county, regional and state decision making," she said.

The study area focused on a 56-mile-long corridor along Illinois Route 47 from the Illinois/Wisconsin State Line to U.S. 30, near Sugar Grove and Montgomery.

The regional vision that was developed as part of the study will also help mitigate congestion, which can be achieved in part by the local land use practices addressed in the study. In addition to a toolbox of resources, best practices, and strategies to help municipalities address the identified planning challenges the study includes a valuable market analysis that provided data to suggest the type of industry that could be supported in the corridor.

Among the objectives the corridor's stakeholders set for the study are: keeping traffic moving, coordinating local, regional and state decision-making, improving economic development, encouraging growth nodes that promote transit and walking, protecting natural areas, promoting place making and strengthening existing developed areas.

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