



## I-290 RECONSTRUCTION WOULD CREATE JOBS, REDUCE TRAFFIC, & ENHANCE ACCESS TO JOBS FOR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES

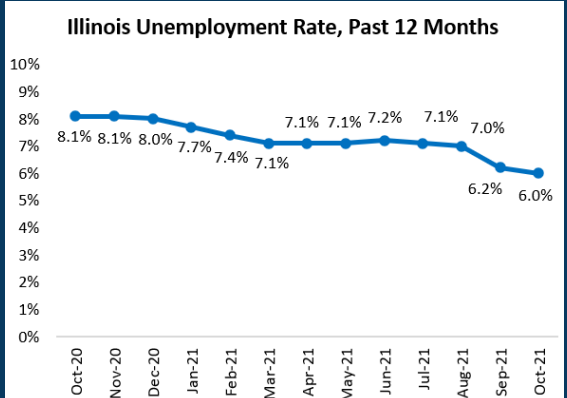
Proposed improvements for a 13-mile stretch of I-290 between I-94 and the I-88/294 interchange in Chicago would create more than 22,000 jobs and provide amongst the best economic, equity, and traffic impacts of any project in the region by 2050.

The new ILEPI report, [\*I-290 Reconstruction: Creating a Modern Multimodal Corridor\*](#), analyzes the impacts of the \$2.7 billion project, which combines transit and pedestrian improvements alongside bridge and roadway upgrades.

As much as 90% of the I-290's existing pavement structure is original and exceeds the normal roadway design life of 25-30 years. Of its 44 bridges, 34% are considered "structurally deficient" and 86% are "functionally obsolete." In addition to the aging infrastructure, traffic on the stretch has increased by more than 16% since 1984.

To highlight the release of the report, ILEPI's Transportation Director Mary Tyler joined a press conference held by the Rebuild 290 Coalition at the Old Post Office in Chicago. Overlooking I-290 from the event, Mary talked on the importance of reconstructing the aging corridor for congestion, jobs, equity, and the economy. Other leaders in

## ILLINOIS ECONOMIC INDICATORS



Jobs added (rank), Oct-20 to Oct-21 = **190,300 jobs (7)**

State unemployment rate (rank), Oct-21 = **6.0% (40)**

Average private sector wage (rank), Oct-21 = **\$31.96 (12)**

Private sector wage growth from Oct-20 to Oct-21 (rank) = **+6.3% (14)**

Illinois Flash Index (as of Nov-21) = **105.5**

## I-290 RECONSTRUCTION CONTINUED

business, labor, community organizations, and local and state government spoke at the press conference. Illinois Speaker of the House, Emanuel "Chris" Welch - who was late due to traffic on I-290 - discussed the need for infrastructure investment.

The reconstruction project is estimated to reduce corridor travel times by 25-56% according to IDOT, while growing the economy by more than \$2.6 billion and boosting local, state, and federal tax revenues by more than \$450 million.

Federal dollars from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act are expected to help fund this necessary project.



Mary Tyler, ILEPI Transportation Director, speaking at the Rebuild 290 Coalition press conference on November 9.



## UNIONIZED CONSTRUCTION OFFERS SUPERIOR HEALTH & SAFETY OUTCOMES

A new analysis of OSHA inspections at construction jobsites finds that unionized construction workers face 34% fewer health and safety violations than their nonunion counterparts, and as much as 64% less across nine Midwestern states.

The report, [\*The Impact of Unions on Construction Worksite Health and Safety: Evidence from OSHA Inspections\*](#), was conducted jointly by ILEPI and the Project for Middle Class Renewal (PMCR) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The study examined data on over 37,000 OSHA inspections conducted in 2019 and found that union jobsites were safer overall than nonunion jobsites.

In Illinois specifically, union worksites accounted for just 8% of all OSHA violations even though unions represented 34% of the state's construction workforce.

## ILEPI'S 5TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Join us for ILEPI's 5th Annual Fundraiser on Monday, February 7, 2022.



Visit [www.illinoisepi.org/fundraiser](http://www.illinoisepi.org/fundraiser) for tickets and sponsorship opportunities. We appreciate your support!

With the U.S. expecting \$1.2 trillion in new infrastructure investments, it is vital to understand safety trends in construction because it is one of our economy's most physically demanding and dangerous occupations.

Prior studies have [linked higher rates](#) of construction unionization with lower rates of occupational fatalities—crediting the unionized industry's investment in registered apprenticeships, which train the overwhelming majority of construction apprentices. Registered apprenticeships train workers industry-wide best practices for operating heavy machinery, working with hazardous materials, and avoiding preventable accidents on the job.

Union construction workers across the U.S. are more skilled, more productive, and much **safer**.

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