

# McHenry County Board to vote on engineering contract for Randall Road corridor

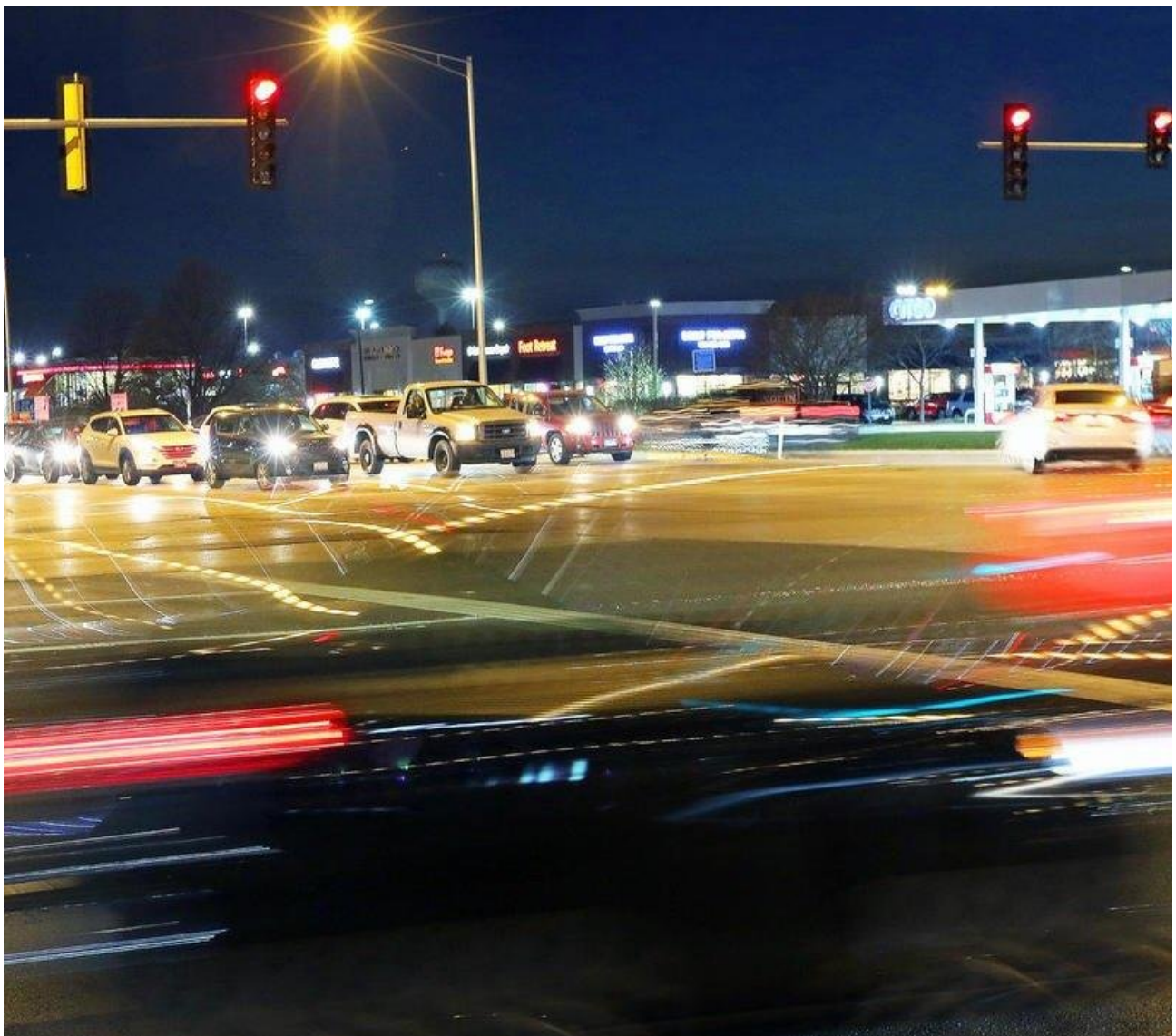
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Local

## Consultant would provide services for \$5.2 million

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McHenry County residents are one step closer to having a widened Randall Road corridor.

The McHenry County Board will vote Tuesday night on a resolution to hire engineering consultant Baxter and Woodman Inc. for \$5.2 million to perform construction engineering services – a job that includes utility relocations, coordination and survey work.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. in the Administration Building, 667 Ware Road, Woodstock.

On Nov. 14, the board adopted the five-year McHenry County Transportation Program – a \$212.6 million endeavor that allocates \$43 million for Randall Road.

The progress came after more than a decade of planning to widen one of McHenry County's most traveled and congested transportation corridors.

The project will add one lane in each direction and open additional turn lanes at intersections, transportation officials said.

The north-south corridor – and the intersection of Randall and Algonquin roads in particular – has become a central crossroad for motorists.

Between 2013 and 2016, average traffic volumes showed that between 68,000 and 85,000 vehicles traveled through the intersection daily, according to the Illinois Department of Transportation. Capacity became a problem long ago.

The program will widen Randall Road to six lanes, from Harnish Drive in Algonquin north to Polaris Drive in Lake in the Hills. The project also includes additional turn lanes at the intersection of Randall and Algonquin roads.

To help cover construction costs, the county will use about \$22 million in federal funding – about \$13 million will come from the Federal Highway Administration's Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds, and about \$9 million comes from the Federal Surface Transportation Program.

The project will use \$21 million in county funds, according to transportation program documents.

County officials will put the construction project out to bid in the spring, and construction crews are expected to start in the summer, county officials said. Construction will take two years to complete.

In 2014, the county passed on a controversial proposal to build a continuous-flow intersection at Randall and Algonquin roads.

The proposed continuous-flow intersection, which would have involved a serious redesign of the intersection, encountered significant opposition from area businesses.