

Manzullo seeks funds for road-widening plan

By KRISTEN SCHMIDT
The Northwest Herald

CRYSTAL LAKE – McHenry County may not have to pay for the entire \$18 million Algonquin Road widening project after all.

U.S. Rep. Don Manzullo, R-Ill., lobbied a House committee on Wednesday for federal funding for the project's Route 31 to Randall Road phase.

McHenry County has money in reserve to pay for the project, but county officials have asked Manzullo to seek federal funding so the county money could be used for another project.

"Traffic congestion is McHenry County's No. 1 challenge, and clogged Algonquin Road is certainly McHenry County's No. 1 target for relief," Manzullo said in a printed statement.

McHenry County still would have to provide the cash for the project. The county would be reimbursed as tasks are completed.

"We're not going to get \$18 million," Manzullo spokesman Rich Carter said. "We're not asking for a specific amount, but we're putting down the total cost of the project."

Construction on Algonquin Road is tentatively scheduled to begin this summer. A contractor could be chosen in May. Construction alone is esti-

mated to cost \$11 million, and another \$7 million is needed for engineering, oversight and other services.

The first phase will widen Algonquin Road from Route 31 to Randall Road. A second



Manzullo

phase, still being planned, would widen the road west of Randall Road.

"Six years ago, we secured \$9 million for the (Algonquin) western bypass. This is a component. We're selling this as the next step in the overall traffic relief program for Routes 31 and 62," Carter said.

Deputy McHenry County Engineer Ken Kelgard said his department does not have a substitute project in mind for the money that would be freed by the federal money.

Algonquin village officials also have supported Manzullo's efforts.

"We've always been anxious to get that project going because it benefits the traffic in the area. We've always pushed for getting it done faster," Algonquin village Administrator Bill Ganek said. "We're certainly for helping save some taxpayers money as well."

Congress is expected to vote on the transportation funding program this fall.