



# University Park



Governors Hwy near Metra Station. (Photo Credit: RTA)

The [University Park Transit-Oriented Development Planning Study](#) recommends establishing mixed-use development in the station area that would functionally connect the east and west sides of the Village. The plan also recommends improved pedestrian and roadway connections among Village neighborhoods, Governors State University and the station. The study was completed in September 2002.

**Implementation Highlights** Governors State University (GSU) transitioned to a 4-year college in the Fall of 2014, which brought more students to the area and a need for on-site student housing and improved pedestrian mobility and access between the college and the Metra station. A 3-phase, 10-building student housing project called Prairie Place is currently being constructed on campus to provide on-site housing needs to students.

An I-57 interchange at Stuenkel Road/University Parkway will be constructed by IDOT in 2015. To coincide with this project, the Village is currently planning various road improvement projects (in phases) to improve connections to GSU from the Metra Station via Stuenkel Road/University Parkway.



Student Housing under construction. (Photo Credit: RTA)

The first phase will reconstruct and widen a stretch of Stuenkel Road/University Parkway from Central Avenue to Home Avenue. Phase 2 will widen the road from the Metra parking lot to Crawford Avenue. The intersection of Governors Highway and Stuenkel Road/University Parkway will

be improved for pedestrian and auto uses in Phase 3. These improvements to Stuenkel Road/University Parkway include a 10' multi-use path connecting GSU to Metra. This project is expected to start Summer 2015 and is funded by the South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Will County, University Park and Federal funds. These improved connections between Metra and the existing Pace service to Governors State University will help to encourage transit ridership by removing current pedestrian obstacles. Improving access to transit for non-auto uses is an important step to increasing ridership.

## Setting Ideas in Motion