Senator Jeff Schoenberg
Illinois State Senator, 9th Legislative District

How Optimal Is Optimal? Revealing the Realities of Implementing Transportation Solutions – A Discussion with Illinois State Senator Jeff Schoenberg

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Abstract: Transportation literature and textbooks are abundant with optimal solutions to both real and theoretical problems. But how often are these solutions found in practice? These problems are typically multi-faceted with technical details representing only a small portion of the total solution. Benefits to users are not always clear and stakeholder interests are often unidentified and rarely quantifiable. This seminar features a discussion with Illinois State Senator Jeff Schoenberg on the issues surrounding the widening of a 1.2 mile section of Willow Road in nearby Village of Northfield, Illinois. In a casual interview setting, we will review the history and intangibles of the project with the hopes of enlightening transportation modelers to the realities of implementing good solutions. Senator Schoenberg has been central to solving this local surface transportation policy log-jam that has been forty years in the making.