



Project News

Summer 2017 - Issue #4

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Next Construction Segment: Ash and Laurel Streets

Usable Segment II is the next rail piece of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project and is on target for an August 4th construction letting. This segment consists of constructing new underpasses at Ash and Laurel Streets in the 10th Street corridor. It will also include construction of railroad embankment, drainage, and track from South Grand Avenue to Princeton Avenue.

The Ash Street underpass will be constructed first, and construction will be staged to allow either Ash Street or Laurel Street to remain open at all times. The City received a \$14 million dollar grant from the Federal TIGER program, and a \$2 million passenger rail grant from the Federal Railroad Administration. The remaining funding for this \$50 million dollar project comes from state and city sources. The City plans for construction to be completed in 2020.

Carpenter Street Ribbon-Cutting

Elected officials, residents, and the Springfield Rail Improvements Project team gathered for the Carpenter Street Underpass ribbon-cutting ceremony

on August 29, 2016. The Carpenter Street underpass was opened between Ninth and Eleventh streets after two years of construction. The ceremony featured comments from regional elected officials and live music performed by Springfield's Lincoln Magnet School band. Local emergency responders were the first to drive their vehicles through the underpass.



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 17, 2017
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Come anytime, there is no formal presentation. *This open house is the next in a regular series of meetings to keep the public informed of the project's progress. A station for written public comments will be provided throughout the event. An open microphone will be available from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. for verbal public comments.*

Bank of Springfield Center*
1 Convention Center Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

**This facility is ADA accessible.*

Ridgely Avenue Ribbon-Cutting

A ribbon-cutting for the Ridgely Avenue Crossing Improvement was held on May 26, 2017. This completed intersection is one of more than 15 crossings on the Third Street corridor that will receive updates as part of the high-speed rail construction.



Summer Intern's Lessons Learned

by Janaya Brown

As an aspiring Aerospace engineer, I am often found with my mind in the clouds and my eyes to the stars. My heart, however, has always been firmly planted on the ground with the people I love. This is why Public Engagement is so important to me.

In high school, I participated in the City's Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program and was introduced to the wonderful field of engineering. I was most attracted to engineering's potential to bring about change in a tangible way. To me, it was the perfect way to give back to everyone who has given to me. My desire to make sure my work actually benefits others is where Public Engagement becomes key.



Public Engagement allows for a two-way line of communication in which citizens are able to learn more about the technical details of a project, and the engineering team is able to obtain the public's feedback about the project.

I have seen this principle in action multiple times during my internship at Hanson Professional Services Inc. this summer. For instance, I have participated in a Stakeholder Advisory Group meeting and the Ridgely Avenue ribbon-cutting ceremony in May. If there is anything that all my new experiences have taught me, it is that everyone sees a project from a unique point of view. This means that the Hanson employees have to know the projects they are showcasing for the public inside an out so that they are ready to answer any question to the best of their abilities. This in turn greatly improves the success rate of the project by allowing engineers to mitigate any concerns before they become too great. In the end, the only way to really solve a problem is if your solution works.

Archaeological Site Findings

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, and the City of Springfield are continuing consultation as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regarding an archaeological site discovered during construction of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project: Carpenter Street Underpass. The portion of the archaeological site in the project area was found in September 2014 and contains the brick foundations and basements of seven residences and associated artifacts that date back to the pre-1870s.

A Madeiran Portuguese community resided in the project area and represented one of the earliest and largest Portuguese settlements in the Midwest. By the early twentieth century, the project area represented the western extension of an African American neighborhood known as the "Badlands." The Badlands was included in the widespread destruction and violence of the Springfield Race Riot in August 1908, an event that led to the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The FRA is leading the archaeological effort and work completed to date includes a Phase I Study and Phase II Investigation with test pit recovery data by Fever River Research of Springfield, Illinois. Artifacts that were uncovered include household goods such as broken glassware, dishes, nails, and charred wood fragments.

There has been no work on the archaeological site since fall 2015 pending the completion of the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and the determination for mitigation of the site. The FRA hosted two public meetings in 2015 to ensure that interested organizations were provided an opportunity to participate in the Section 106 process and decision-making regarding the archaeological site. **All Consulting Party documents, comment summaries, and the archaeological site executive summary can be found online at www.springfieldrailroad.com.**

The design for Usable Segment III (Madison and Jefferson Street underpasses) cannot proceed until there is a resolution of the archaeology site issues and until planning is completed for the multimodal facility.

For More Information

Minority Participation

Approximately 23% of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project work completed on the Carpenter Street Underpass was performed by minority workers and/or firms. This is about 18.5% above the federal requirement of 4.5% minority participation.

Additional efforts have been made to increase minority participation including the creation of the Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program (growourown.net), and development of summer internships for minorities. The project's minority hiring reports can be found online at www.springfieldrailroad.com on the workforce diversity page.

USABLE SEGMENT I MINORITY WORKFORCE – 2015 and 2016												
Month in 2015	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
Minority Percentage	14.5%	20.0%	21.5%	33.4%	28.3%	25.0%	32.2%	29.1%	24.7%	28.0%	24.8%	27.3%
Average Percentage of Minority Hours worked in 2015 on USABLE SEGMENT 1 = 25.7%												
Month in 2016	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.		
Minority Percentage	28.2%	29.0%	20.5%	15.7%	12.2%	11.6%	17.1%	11.4%	25.4%	Project Completed		
Average Percentage of Minority Hours worked in 2016 on USABLE SEGMENT 1 = 19.01%												
Federal Minority Workforce Goal for Sangamon County, Illinois = 4.5%												
From: Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP)												

Project Funding Status

The City of Springfield has obtained \$143 million of the anticipated \$315 million overall cost of the Springfield Rail Improvement Project. This is nearly half of the total projected cost at 45 percent. The largest single funding source to date was the \$14.4 million the City received from the federal government for the Carpenter Street Underpass.

Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition is a step-by-step process to ensure property owners are treated in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition for the Federal and Federally-Assisted Programs Act. The primary steps are: 1) appraisal, 2) appraisal review, 3) negotiations and acquisition, and 4) relocation assistance. If your property is affected by the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, you will receive a letter in the mail. You can also call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257. To learn more, visit the land acquisition page at www.springfieldrailroad.com.

Other Springfield Rail Projects

Third Street Corridor

The Third Street corridor will serve Amtrak passenger and Union Pacific freight rail traffic until construction of the Tenth Street corridor is completed. To meet current safety standards for higher speed trains, Third Street is being upgraded by IDOT to include new fencing, crossing safety devices, grade crossing approaches, and bridge replacements. This work is scheduled to be completed next year.

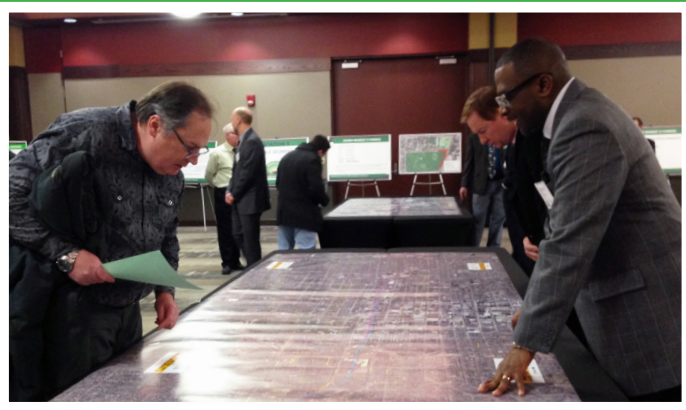
Springfield Flyover

The Springfield Flyover project is part of the Chicago to St. Louis High Speed Rail Program currently underway in the City of Springfield. This flyover was proposed to reduce delays and congestion caused by conflicting operations on shared track by the Union Pacific/Amtrak and Norfolk Southern railroads. The study limits are Stanford Avenue to the north, Interstate 72 on the south, MacArthur Boulevard on the west, and South Second Street on the east.

To learn more about these projects, visit IDOT's webpage at www.idothsr.org.



Springfield Rail Improvements Project
c/o Vector Communications
401 S. 18th Street, Suite 325
St. Louis, MO 63103



Public Open House

Thursday, August 17, 2017
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Bank of Springfield Center

See inside for more information.

Resource Center Update

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project resource center has transitioned from having regular office hours to hosting meetings scheduled by appointment. Project information is available at the Springfield Community Relations Office at 1450 Groth Street and at the kiosk in the Lincoln Library. Lesa Branham, Community Outreach, is available for meetings and will continue to schedule the highly successful IDOT Highway Construction Careers Training Program orientations at the resource center. Lesa can be reached by email at resourcecenter@springfieldrailroad.com or by calling 217-415-8083.

