



Project News

Winter 2019 - Issue #5

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Archaeological Site Status

On October 23, 2018 a Memorandum of Agreement was signed for mitigation measures of the 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 of seven residences and associated artifacts that date back to the pre-1870s, as well as the 1908 Springfield Race Riot.

Measures in the agreement include; data recovery for areas directly affected by the railroad alternative, preservation-in-place for areas outside of the rail right-of way, video documentation of the excavation, and public viewing and interpretation opportunities during the excavation in spring of 2019. The Department of the Interior approved the section 4(f) evaluation, which analyzes the feasible and prudent alternatives that avoid and minimize impacts to the property.

On December 14, 2018, U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis (R-Ill.) announced that the National Park Service (NPS) has agreed to conduct a preliminary survey of the archaeological site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot. The survey is necessary to begin the process of getting a national designation by the park service. Davis will work with the Secretary of the Interior throughout the survey process. **The NPS survey is not part of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project.**

All Consulting Party documents, comment summaries, and the archaeological site executive summary related to the project can be found online at www.springfieldrailroad.com.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE ARTIFACTS



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, February 28, 2019
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Come anytime, 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.*

Usable Segment II - Ash and Laurel Underpasses

The new Ash Street underpass is scheduled to open in the summer of 2019. Work will then begin on the new underpass at Laurel Street which should be completed in late 2020. The two new underpasses, collectively known as Usable Segment II, will go a long way to making travel smooth and safer on the south side of the City. The Usable Segment II project also includes construction of the new, four-track rail corridor from South Grand Avenue to Princeton Avenue.

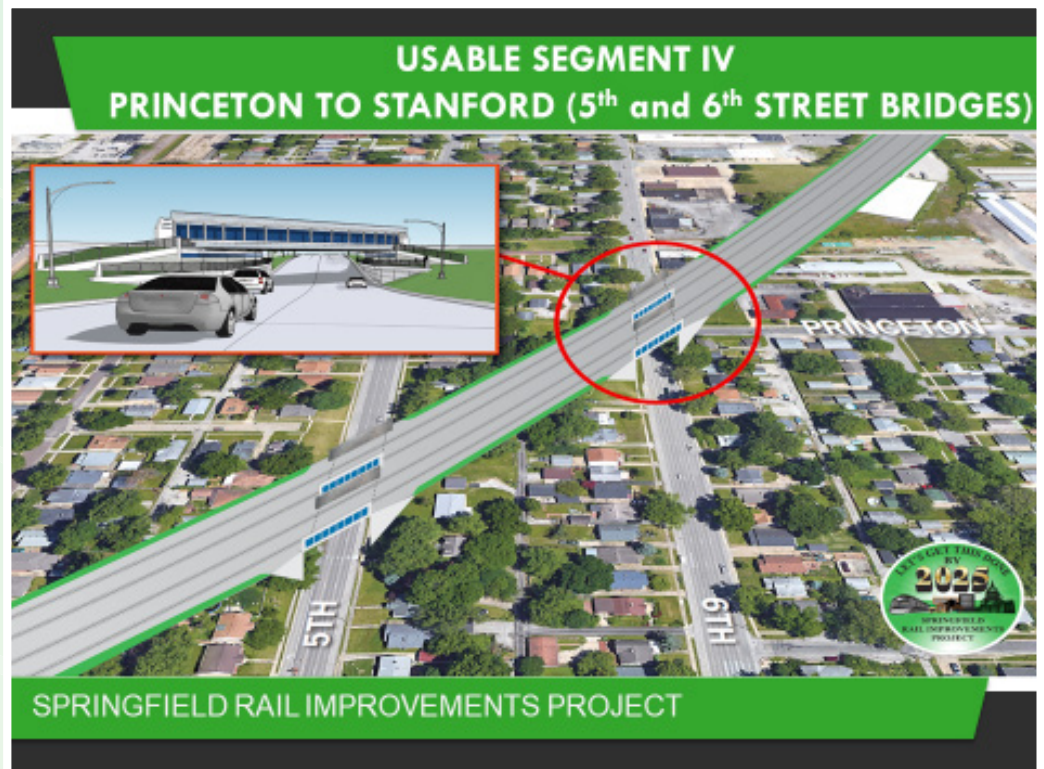


Current work at Ash Street includes constructing new rail tracks to allow the Norfolk Southern trains to shift to the new bridges. When that shift is completed the contractor, UCM, will complete the retaining walls, pavement and drainage on the west half of the underpass. They will also construct the new bridge for the Union Pacific trains which will eventually be relocated from the 3rd Street corridor.

Usable Segment IV - Princeton Avenue South to Stanford Avenue

The next construction segment of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, Usable Segment IV, extends from Princeton Avenue south to Stanford Avenue. It includes replacing the existing bridges at the 5th and 6th Street underpasses. It also includes construction of the new rail corridor to accommodate the eventual relocation of the 3rd Street tracks to 10th Street.

The necessary property has been purchased for this segment, and the design is nearing completion. The City plans on opening construction bids in June and begin work late this summer. The work will necessitate lane reductions on 5th and 6th Streets, but full road closures will be minimal and limited to nighttime and weekends.



The \$44 million segment is being funded by a \$22 million federal BUILD grant along with state and City money.

For More Information

VISIT: www.springfieldrailroad.com / EMAIL: info@springfieldrailroad.com / CALL: 217-788-2450

Minority Workforce Participation

Approximately 11.7% of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project work completed on Usable Segment II has been performed by minority workers and/or firms. This is about 7.2% above the federal requirement of 4.5% minority participation for Sangamon County.

Additional efforts have been made to increase minority participation including the continuation of the Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program (growourown.net), free IDOT Highway Construction Careers Training Program orientations, and summer internships for minority students.

Land Acquisition

Land Acquisition is a step-by-step process to ensure property owners are fairly 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.

USABLE SEGMENT II MINORITY WORKFORCE – 2017-2018

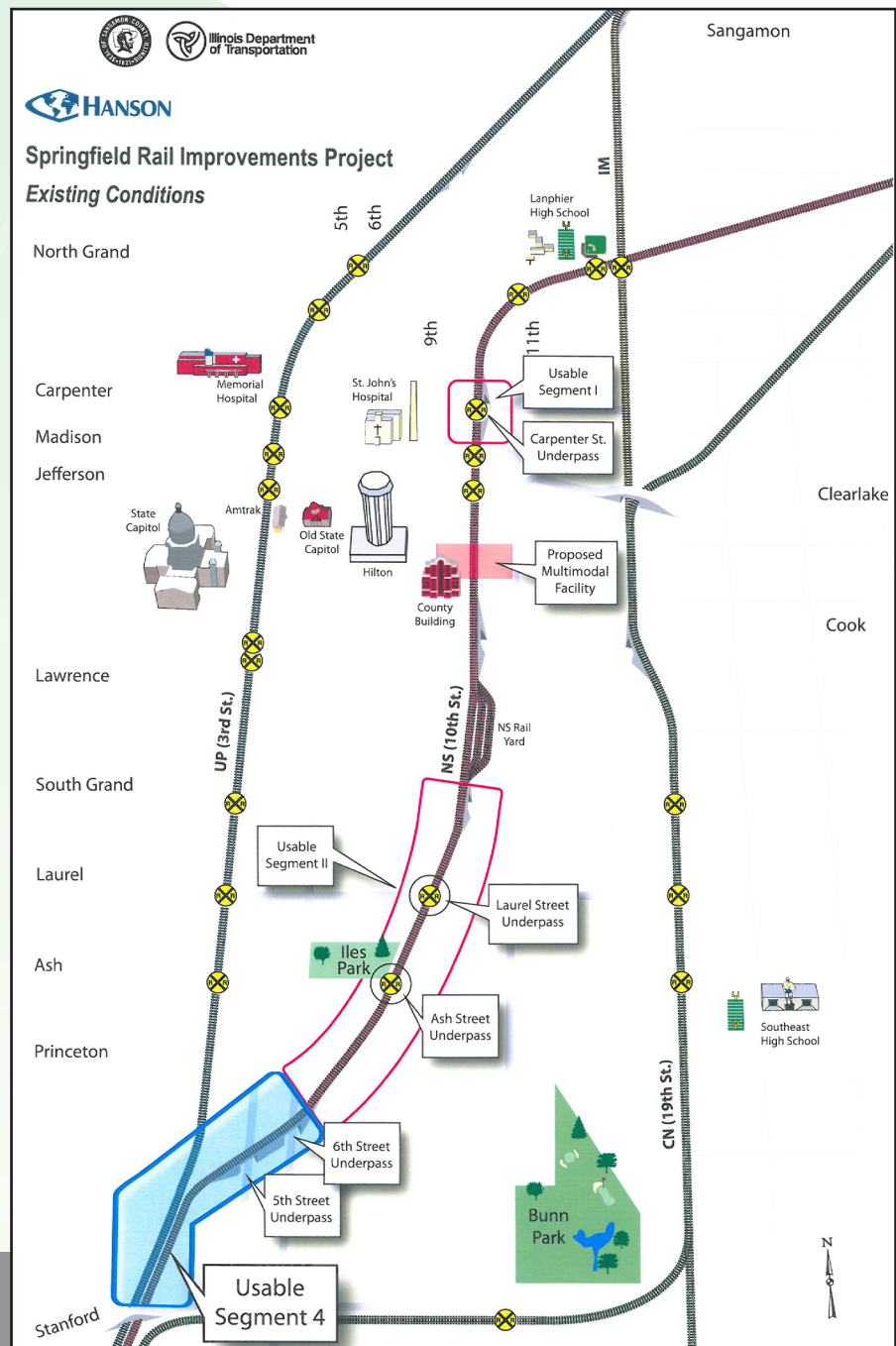
2017	October (Project Start)	November	December
Minority Percentage	0.0%	11.7%	4.0%

2018	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	Nov.	Dec.
Minority Percentage	5.7%	33.2%	6.3%	2.8%	8.1%	15.1%	12.6%	17.3%	16.1%	19.4%	12.1%	0.0%

Average Percentage of Minority Hours worked to date on **USABLE SEGMENT II = 11.0%**

Federal Minority Workforce Goal for Sangamon County, Illinois = 4.5%

From: Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP)





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



Public Open House

Thursday, February 28, 2019
4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Bank of Springfield Center

See inside for more information.

Project Funding Status

In December of 2018, the City of Springfield received a \$22 Million dollar BUILD grant from the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to continue the Springfield Rail Improvements Project. The complete project is anticipated to cost \$315 million overall. **More than half of the total projected cost has been acquired to date.**

Third Street Corridor Update - Complete

The High-Speed Rail (HSR) program for Springfield included improvements along the existing Amtrak Lincoln Service route on 3rd Street. Safety improvements such as fencing, new gates and signal upgrades were installed and completed in 2018. These enhancements were designed to increase safety and accommodate the operation of higher speed passenger trains. The 3rd Street tracks will eventually be relocated to 10th Street as part of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project. **To learn more about this project, visit IDOT's webpage at www.idothsr.org.**