



Carpenter Street Underpass & Archaeological Site

Section 106 Public Informational Meeting - May 11, 2015

WELCOME to the Springfield Rail Improvements Project Public Informational Meeting for the Carpenter Street Underpass and archeological site. Tonight you will learn more about the project and be able to provide your feedback.

Meeting Agenda

5:00 - 6:00 p.m. **Formal Presentation**

6:00 - 7:00 p.m. **Open House and Comment Period**

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Carpenter Street Underpass Project?

The Project is the initial funded phase of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project and is a recipient of a 2013 U.S. Department of Transportation TIGER Grant. The Project is intended to reduce congestion, improve safety and provide improved access to the hospitals from areas east of 11th Street. It involves lowering Carpenter Street between 9th and 11th Streets, constructing new dual track railroad bridges, and completing three blocks of drainage, grading and sub-ballast south of Carpenter Street to support future phases of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project.

2) When did the Carpenter Street Underpass project start?

The Project was approved by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under the 2012 Springfield Rail Improvements Project National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD included a commitment for continuing coordination between FRA and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for the evaluation of potential archaeological resources within the project area. The work to grade separate rail crossings and consolidate rail traffic along 10th Street could not proceed until the future phases of the project were funded, which included the purchase of new railroad right-of-way.

3) What does the archaeological site consist of?

The portion of the archaeological site in the Project area contains the brick foundations and basements of seven residences and associated artifacts. The site is currently covered and no archaeological work is being performed during the winter.

4) What is the significance of the archaeological site?

The house foundations date back to 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 a black neighborhood known as the "Badlands." The Badlands was included in the widespread destruction and violence of the Springfield Race Riot in August 1908. The Carpenter Street archaeological site possesses local significance for its potential to contribute to an understanding of the lifeways of multiple ethnic/racial groups in Springfield during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The site is also both locally and nationally significant for its association with the 1908 Springfield Race Riot, an event that led to the formation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).



5) *How big is the archaeological site?*

The portion of the archaeological site in the Project area is approximately three blocks (500-feet-long by 50-feet-wide). Based on archival research and the archaeological investigations conducted to date, it is likely that the archaeological site extends westward from the railroad right-of-way between Carpenter and Madison Street beneath the existing St. John's Hospital parking lot, where it is currently preserved in place and would not be affected by the railroad project.

6) *What is Section 106?*

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the effects on historic properties of projects they carry out, approve, or fund. Throughout the Section 106 review process, federal agencies must give the public a chance to learn about the project and provide their views.

7) *How can I help?*

Through the Section 106 process, you are able to learn and ask questions about the project; provide information on cultural resources and historic properties in the project area; discuss how the project might affect those resources; and identify and discuss possible ways to address those effects.

8) *Who are Section 106 consulting parties?*

The following parties are entitled to participate as consulting parties during Section 106 review:

- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation;
- State Historic Preservation Officers;
- Federally recognized Indian tribes/THPOs;
- Native Hawaiian organizations;
- Local governments; and
- Applicants for federal assistance, permits, licenses, and other approvals.

Other individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the project may participate in Section 106 review as consulting parties "due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties." Such participation is subject to approval by the responsible federal agency.

Contact Information

If you're interested in being included on an email and/or mailing list to receive updates about the Section 106 process for the Carpenter Street archaeological site, including future public meetings, please indicate so on tonight's meeting sign-in sheet.

If you would like to submit comments following tonight's meeting, or if your organization is interested in becoming a Section 106 consulting party, please complete and return the corresponding form to:

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