



Springfield Rail Improvements Project Land Acquisition

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the land acquisition process?

This 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 (*see chart to the right*).

2) How do I know if my property is affected by the plan?

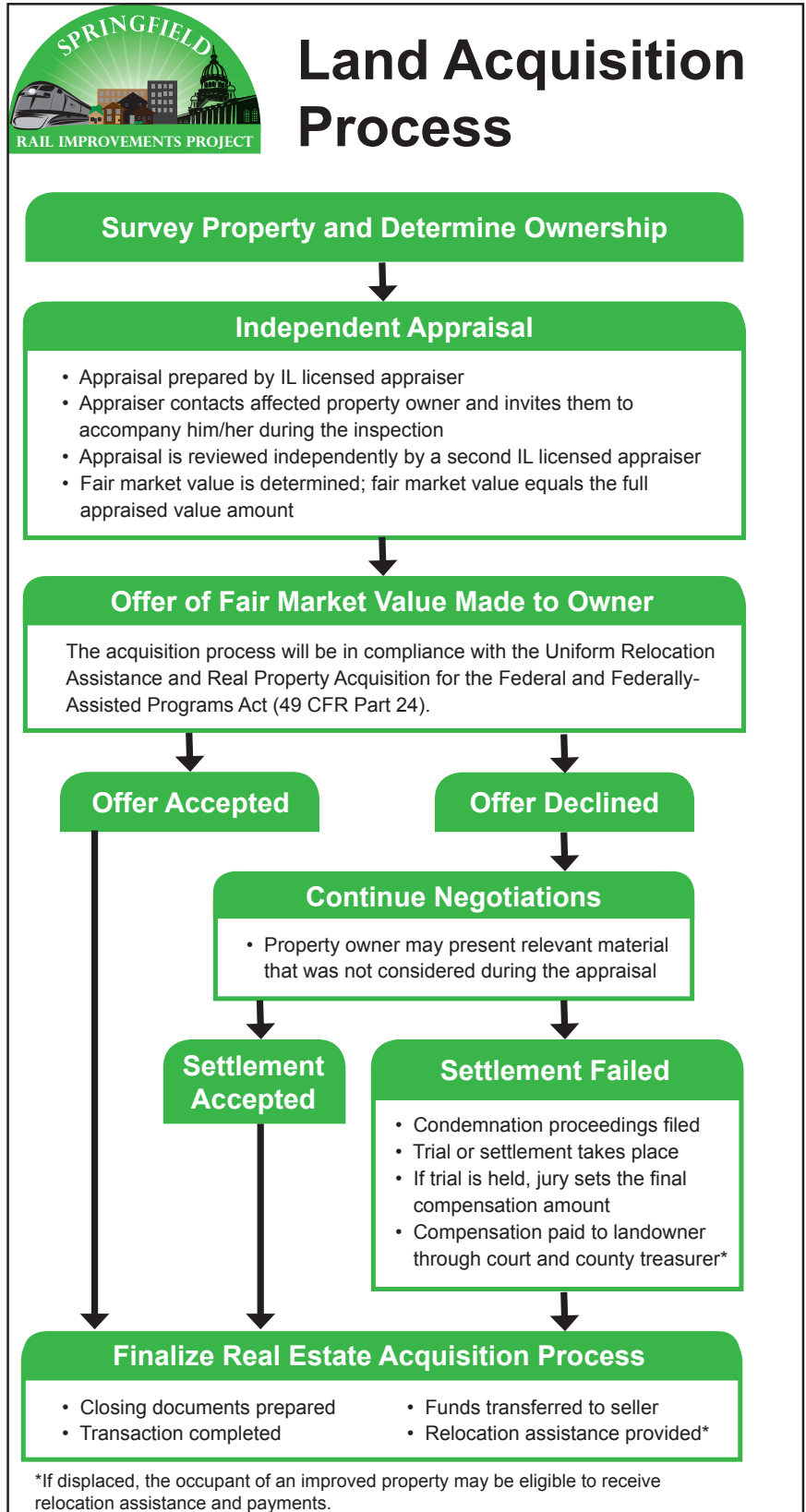
If your property is affected by the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, you should have received a letter in the mail. You can also call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257 to find out whether your property is within the project area.

3) Can I get a copy of the plans that show where the railroad will go through my property?

Yes, the plans can be mailed to affected property owners. To request a copy of the plans for your property, call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257.

4) When will I get an offer on my property and have to move?

Currently the only funding for land acquisition is for Usable Segment 2 (the portion of the project between South Grand Avenue and South Sixth Street, including the Ash and Laurel Street underpasses). The purchase of affected properties within this segment is underway. No funding has been obtained for land acquisition on any other portions of the project. It could be three to five years before additional funding is available. Property owners should receive their offers in late 2015 through early 2016 for Usable Segment 2.



5) Will I have time to move if my land is being purchased?

Affected property owners and residents will be informed in plenty of time if their property or home is being acquired. There will be time for each resident and business to move before any demolition or construction would begin at their location. Affected residents will receive a 90-day notice to relocate at the initiation of negotiations; however, residents are not required to vacate until 30 days after the City takes ownership of the property.

6) Will the City allow a building permit on a property that is being displaced for the railroad project?

If the City knows that a property is needed for the railroad project, it is unlikely they will provide a building permit at that location.

7) Who will pay me for my property if it is acquired?

The City of Springfield will make payment for any properties acquired by the project.

8) What are surveyors doing around my property?

The City sends surveyors out to look for property corners, including iron pins. They may also mark a tree with spray paint to indicate a property corner. For more information on the surveying process, call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257.

9) Will the surveyors need access to my building or to come inside my fenced yard?

It is unlikely that the surveyors will need to go inside of a building or a fenced yard. If they need access to a building, they will call the property owner beforehand. For more information on the surveying process, call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257.

10) Is there a schedule for the surveying of the properties?

No, the surveying is not being completed on a specific timeline. For more information on the surveying process, call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257.

Contact Information

Springfield Rail Improvements Project

If you are interested in being included on an email and/or mailing list to receive updates about the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, or if you have questions or comments regarding land acquisition, please contact:

Springfield Rail Improvements Project - Resource Center

Phone: 217-391-1558

Email: resourcecenter@springfieldrailroad.com

RESOURCE CENTER HOURS:

Monday: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.



Illinois Department
of Transportation

