



Public Open House – February 11, 2016 Comment Summary Report



3/15/16

**Submitted By
Vector Communications for Hanson Professional Services Inc.**

Overview

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project is addressing an increase in high-speed passenger and freight train traffic and providing for rail corridor consolidation. The project stems from the planning phase of the Springfield Railroad Corridor Study and the Environmental Impact Statement process that was completed prior to the design phase of this project. The City of Springfield is leading this rail consolidation effort in cooperation with Sangamon County and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). The project will relocate all passenger and freight traffic from the Third Street corridor to Tenth Street; construct roadway underpasses and one overpass at critical rail crossings on both the Tenth and Nineteenth Street corridors; and eliminate train horns in the City between Stanford Avenue and Sangamon Avenue.

This project is being conducted in segments with a focus on planning and design, land acquisition, and construction. Usable Segment I, or the Carpenter Street Underpass, is nearing completion this fall. The next phase of the project, Usable Segment II or the Ash and Laurel Street Underpasses, has received partial funding and land acquisition is currently underway.

First Public Open House

An initial public informational meeting was held on August 27, 2015 from 5:00 to 7:00 pm at the Prairie Capital Convention Center in Springfield. The meeting was held in an open house format in an effort to update the public about the project and answer their questions. More than 130 citizens, elected officials and business people attended and spoke with project team members. The comment summary for that meeting can be found online at:

http://springfieldrailroad.com/newsite/pdfs/SRIP_OpenHouseCommentSummary_FINAL9-29-15.pdf

Second Public Open House

The second public informational meeting was held on February 11, 2016 to update the public about the project to date and next steps. More than 80 citizens, elected officials and business people attended and spoke with project team members. The meeting was held in an open house format at the Prairie Capital Convention Center from 4:00 to 7:00 pm.

Informational stations covered the following topics:

- Station 1 - Project Information
- Station 2 - Tenth Street Corridor
- Station 3 - Carpenter Street Underpass (Usable Segment I)



- Station 4 - Archaeological Site at Carpenter Street
- Station 5 - Ash and Laurel Street Underpasses (Usable Segment II)
- Station 6 - Land Acquisition
- Station 7 - Resource Center
- Station 8 - Grow Our Own Minority Participation Program
- Station 9 - NAACP
- Station 10 - Public Involvement

Attendees received a welcome handout featuring a station guide (Appendix A), as well as a copy of the third project newsletter (Appendix B). The public was invited to discuss the project with team members and was encouraged to provide comments via the written comment form, electronically on the iPads provided, or during the open microphone session at 6:00 pm.

At the Land Acquisition station (#6), a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) handout was provided with more information about the process (Appendix C). Additionally, the Resource Center station (#7) provided FAQs on the overall project (Appendix D), workforce diversity and job development (Appendix E), and the Carpenter Street Underpass and Archaeological Site (Appendix F).

Outreach

A press release announcing the public open house was sent to the following media outlets one week prior to the event:

- A.M. Springfield - WFMB-AM
- Illinois Times
- The Jim Leach Show - WMAY-AM
- Pure News
- Springfield Business Journal
- State Journal-Register
- WAND-TV
- WICS-TV
- WRSP-TV



A public notice flier was posted on the project website 10 days prior to the meeting (Appendix G) and sent out via email blast to more than 600 subscribers on the project email list. The second project newsletter (Appendix H) announcing the Public Open House, was mailed to the project mailing list of more than 3,800 Springfield area residents, businesses, and elected officials one week prior to the meeting, as well as emailed to the project subscribers.

The project hashtag, #SpfldILRail, was used to promote project information on social media. An announcement about the open house was posted on Twitter and Facebook by the City of Springfield. The City's post on Twitter was retweeted by the following organizations:

- Politics Springfield (165 followers)
- IRTBA - Illinois Road and Transportation Builders Association (134 followers)

Public Comments

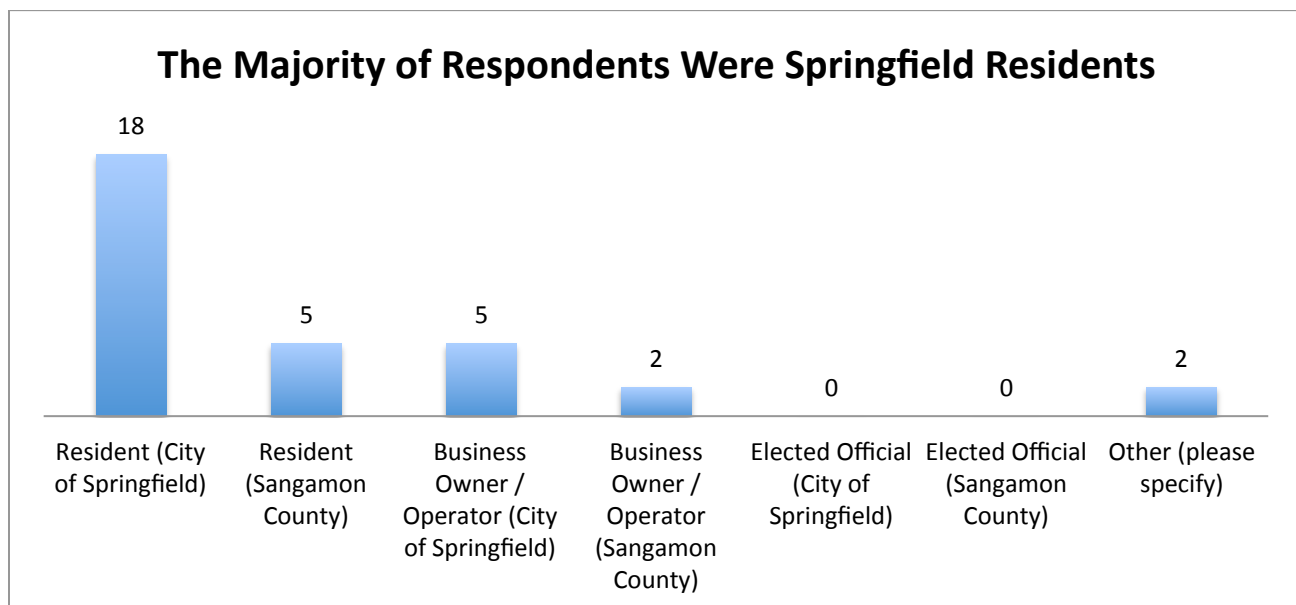
A four-question comment form (Appendix H) was available in a paper version for handwritten comments (22 completed) as well as electronically on iPads (1 completed). An open microphone was available at 6:00 pm for spoken public comments (2 participants).

The remainder of this document summarizes public input obtained from the 23 comment forms completed at the meeting and comments from the 2 public speakers.

Comment Form Responses

Question 1: Describe Yourself

The first question on the comment form asked meeting attendees to describe themselves by selecting as many of the seven options provided as applied to them. The following bar chart shows the responses received.

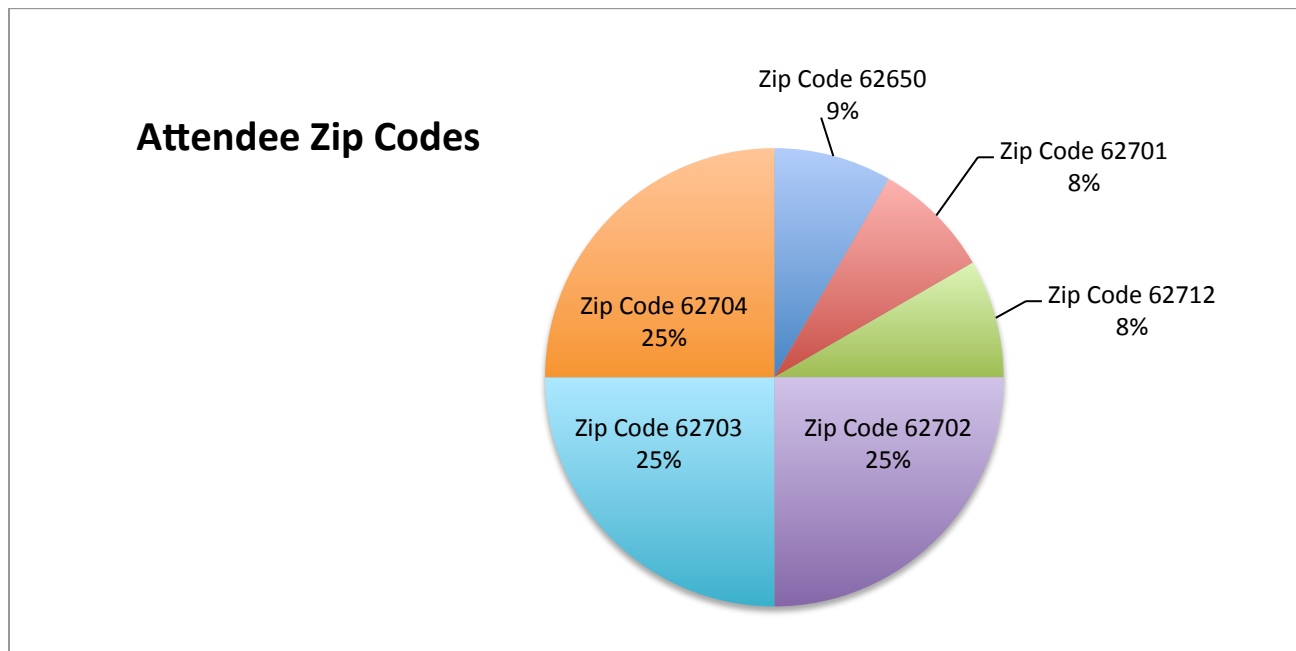


The majority of respondents, 18 out of 21 (86%), selected 'Resident (City of Springfield)' as their primary connection to the project area. Other options chosen included 'Resident (Sangamon County)' (5), 'Business Owner / Operator City of Springfield' (5), Business Owner / Sangamon County' (2), and 'Other' (2).

Three attendees selected the 'Other' category and two wrote in the blank space provided, describing themselves as:

- Union Rep; and
- Construction

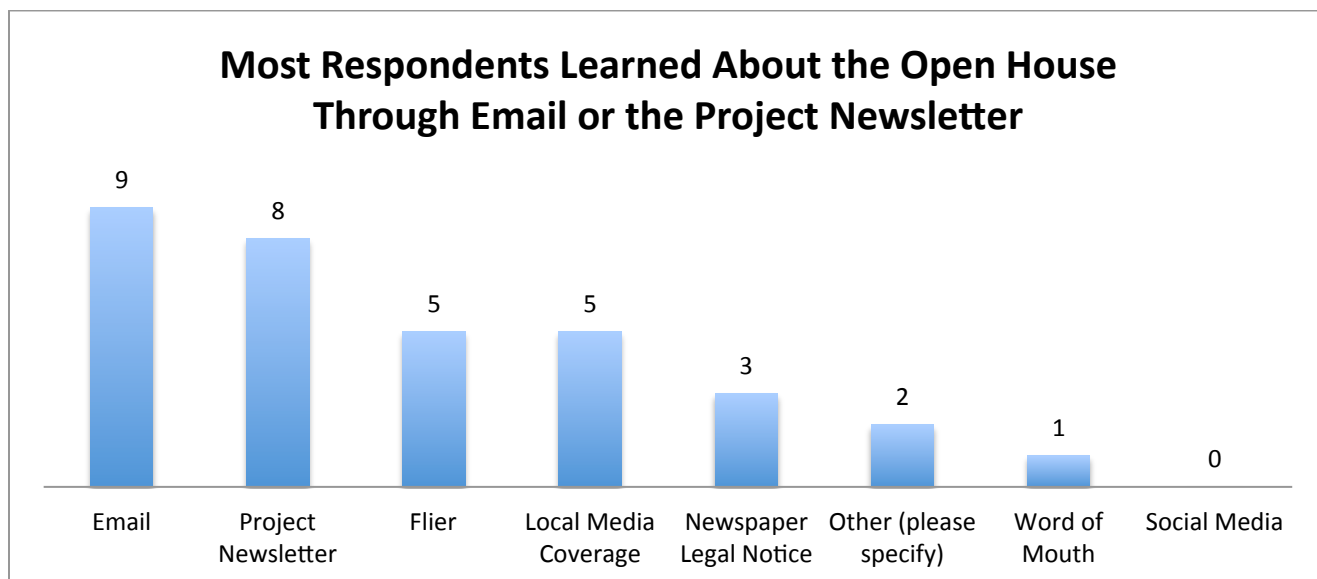
For the question’s second part, attendees provided their residential zip code. The following pie chart shows a break down of attendee zip codes from the 13 responses received.



The respondents reside equally in zip code 62702 (3), 62703 (3), and 62704 (3) in the City of Springfield. Other respondents live in zip codes 62650 (1), 62701 (1), and 62712 (1).

Question 2: Outreach

Respondents were asked to indicate how they learned about the public informational meeting. They were given eight choices including an option for ‘other’ and could select more than one. The following chart shows outcomes from the 22 respondents who answered this question.

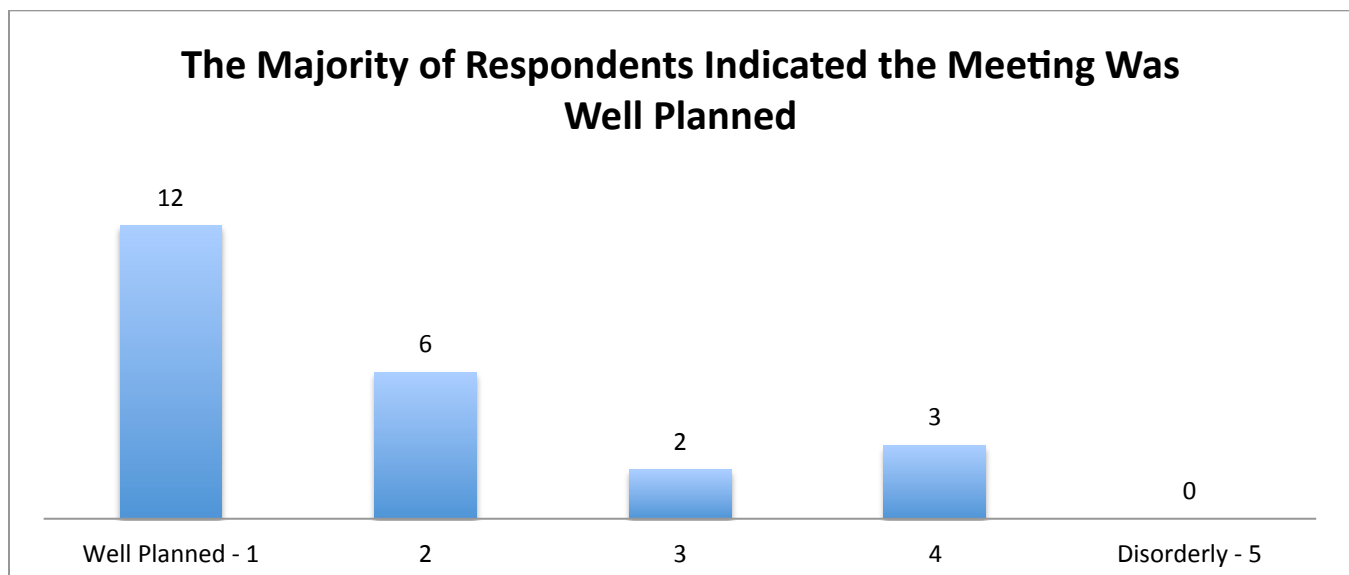
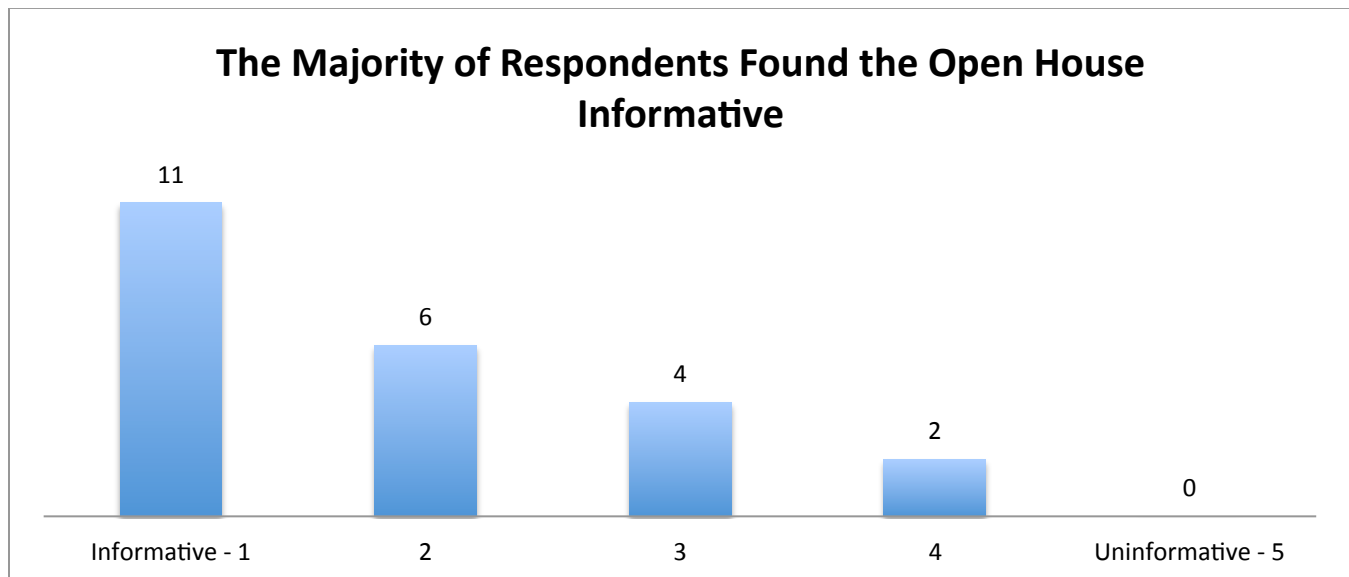


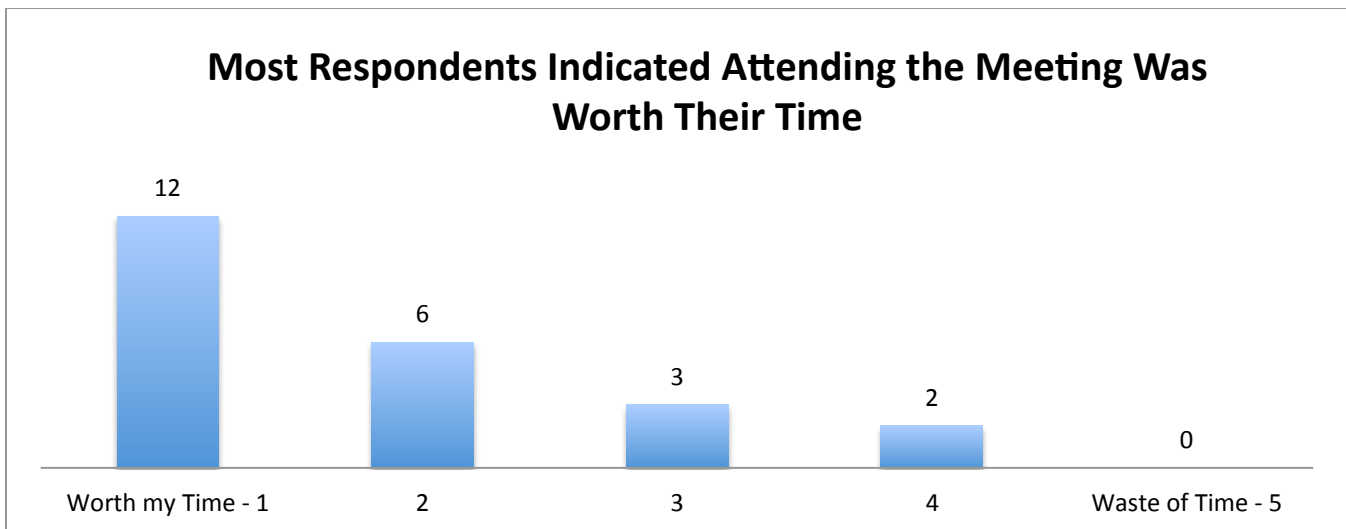
Nine respondents (41%) learned about the meeting through email, and eight (36%) heard about it through the project newsletter. Attendees also selected flier (5), local media coverage (5), newspaper legal notice (3), 'other' (2), and word of mouth (1) as the ways they had learned about the meeting.

Question 3: Open House Evaluation

Attendees were asked to evaluate the open house on a scale of one to five regarding the information presented, how well the meeting was planned, and the value of attending.

The majority of respondents (17) indicated that the open house was informative by selecting a one or two on the scale provided (74%). Eighteen of 23 respondents (78%) ranked the meeting as a one or two for being well planned. Eighteen of 23 respondents (78%) also identified the meeting as one or two for being worth their time to attend. The results are outlined in the following charts.





Question 4: Additional Comments

Respondents were provided space to write any additional comments they wished to share about the Springfield Rail Improvements Project. Ten individuals wrote additional comments. (*Verbatim additional comments are listed by category in Appendix I.*)

Additional comments and questions were in the following categories:

- Archaeological Site (5)
- Found Open House Informative (3)
- Funding (3)
- Public Meetings (2)
- Concern About 10Th Street Consolidation
- Property / Land Acquisition

Spoken Comments From Open Microphone

Attendees were provided an opportunity to give additional verbal comments from an open microphone at 6:00 pm, as publicized. Two attendees shared spoken public comments. (*Verbatim comments are listed by speaker in Appendix J.*)

Additional comments and questions covered the following topics:

- Archaeological Site Excavation (2)
- Carpenter Street Completion
- Minority Workforce
- Internship Creation
- Funding for Usable Segment II
- Timeline for Project Completion
- Flyover Project

Conclusion

The second Springfield Rail Improvements Project Public Open House provided a forum for Springfield area residents and business owners to: learn more about the project to date including the Carpenter Street Underpass (Usable Segment I); meet with study team members; learn about the next phase of the project including land acquisition for the underpasses at Ash and Laurel Streets (Usable Segment II); and provide input.

Approximately 82 citizens attended the meeting and 25 people (30%) provided input via the written and electronic comment forms, or at the open microphone. The percentage of attendees who completed comment forms is most likely due to the informational nature of the open house. This phase of the public engagement is designed to keep the community informed about the project and does not include action items that require decision-making.

Most of the comment form respondents reside in the project area and learned about the meeting through an email announcement or the mailed newsletter. The majority found the meeting informative, well planned, and worth attending.



Public Open House - February 11, 2016

Station Guide

Welcome!

Thank you for attending tonight's Open House. The following guide is an overview of the information presented at each station. Project team members are available at every station to answer your questions.

Station #1 - Project Information

This station provides the project purpose, benefits, funding, and team, as well as results from the Environmental Impact Statement. You can also find current and projected train traffic information, a map of existing rail corridors, and the approved alternative for rail consolidation.

Station #2 - Tenth Street Corridor

At this station you can view an aerial mosaic of the Tenth Street corridor.

Station #3 - Carpenter Street Underpass

Learn more about the Carpenter Street Underpass (Usable Segment 1) including funding and project schedule. View photos of the construction completed to date and a rendering of the final design.

Station #4 - Archaeological Site

Here you will find information about the Carpenter Street Archaeological Site testing and findings, as well as the Section 106 Consulting Parties process led by the Federal Railroad Administration.

Station #5 - Ash and Laurel Street Underpasses

At this station you can learn more about the Ash and Laurel Street Underpasses (Usable Segment 2). Information includes funding, a project schedule, and a map of displacements.

Station #6 - Land Acquisition

This station provides information on the land acquisition process, as well as residential and commercial relocation benefits.

Station #7 - Resource Center

Learn more about the project resource center, DBE goals for construction, training programs, and the Carpenter Street Underpass minority workforce.

Station #8 - Grow Our Own

Visit this station for more information on the Grow Our Own minority participation program.

Station #9 - NAACP - Springfield Chapter

Learn more about the local chapter of the NAACP and their involvement in the rail project and Grow Our Own.

Station #10 - Public Involvement

This station provides information about the project's public engagement and involvement activities.

www.springfieldrailroad.com



Project News

February 2016 - Issue #3

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Carpenter Street Update

The Carpenter Street Underpass Project is the first funded usable segment of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project and is a recipient of a 2013 U.S. Department of Transportation, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant. The project is intended to reduce congestion, improve safety and provide improved access to area hospitals from locations east of 11th Street.



Work on the Carpenter Street Underpass began in September of 2014. The contractor has completed all of the foundation work for the bridge and walls, completed the Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific bridges, and begun excavation for the underpass roadway. Next steps are to complete excavation work and building walls. Construction is on schedule, on budget and is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2016. The project's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Record of Decision (ROD) includes a commitment for continuing coordination between Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency for the evaluation of potential archaeological resources within the project area. *(Learn more about the archaeological site on Page 2.)*

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, February 11, 2016
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.

Prairie Capital Convention Center*
1 Convention Center Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

**This facility is ADA accessible.*

Next Construction Segment

Usable Segment II is the next rail piece of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project that is scheduled for construction. This segment will consist 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 south of Ash Street. Construction will be staged to allow either Ash Street or Laurel Street to remain open at all times.

Design plans for this portion of the project are nearing completion. The City is continuing to work with state and federal representatives to identify the necessary funding to move this segment forward. The City will proceed with the purchase of residential property for Usable Segment II once the funding agreement is in place.

For More Information

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

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.

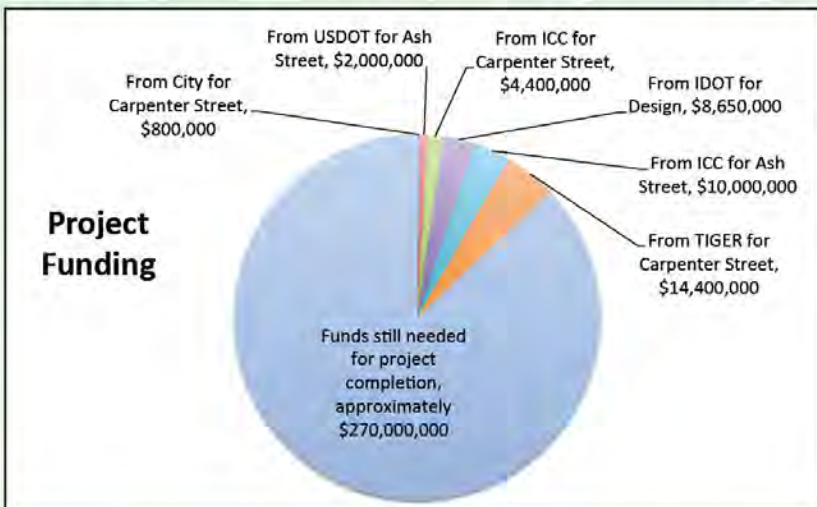
A Madeiran Portuguese community resided in the project area and represented one of the earliest and largest Portuguese settlements in the Midwest. By the early twentieth century, the project area represented the western extension of an African American neighborhood known as the "Badlands." The Badlands 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 have been uncovered include household goods such as broken glassware, dishes, nails, and charred wood fragments.

There has been no work on the archaeological site since the fall of 2014 pending the Section 106 Consulting Parties recommendation for mitigation of the site. The FRA hosted two public meetings in the spring of 2015 (March 11th and May 10th) to ensure that interested organizations were provided an opportunity to participate in the Section 106 process and decision-making regarding the archaeological site. The FRA held the first Consulting Parties meeting on July 23rd, 2015 with 19 groups to begin discussing options for the site. **All Consulting Party documents, comment summaries, and the archaeological site executive summary can be found online at www.springfieldrailroad.com.**

The archaeological site work does not affect the Carpenter Street underpass project. The site is an independent project that will be funded separately from the underpass project. Funding sources for the archaeological site have not been identified at this time.

Project Funding Status

As of the winter of 2016, the City of Springfield has identified almost \$45 million of the anticipated \$315 million overall cost of the Springfield Rail Improvement Project. The largest single funding source to date is 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 be contacted prior to the acquisition process. You can also visit the project resource center, call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257, or contact Ombudsman Eve Blackwell-Lewis at 217-685-4817 or 4railhelp@gmail.com.

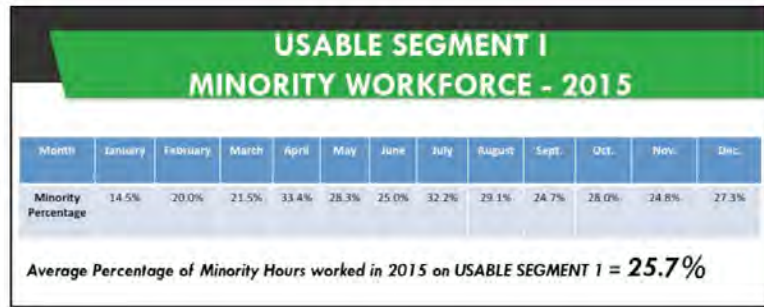
To learn more, visit the land acquisition page at www.springfieldrailroad.com.

Minority Participation

In 2015, approximately 25.7% of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project work completed was performed by minority workers and/or firms. This is over 20% 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 program (www.growourown.net), development of summer internships for minorities, and the opening of the project resource center.

The project's minority hiring report is updated monthly and can be found online at www.springfieldrailroad.com on the workforce diversity page.



Project Resource Center Now Open

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project team opened a project resource center on August 31, 2015. The center creates a consistent community presence and provides a one-stop-shop for all project information including construction, land acquisition and small business and employment opportunities. The center, located in the City of Springfield's Office of Community Relations at 1450 Groth Street, is open on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (*The center is closed on national holidays.*)

To contact the resource center or to schedule an appointment, contact Lesa Branham at 217-391-1558 or email resourcecenter@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. To learn more, visit the Illinois High-Speed Rail website at www.IDOTHSR.org.

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. The Flyover will help relieve rail traffic congestion on the Union Pacific/Amtrak and Norfolk Southern corridors. This project is located between Stanford Avenue and I-72 along the existing Union Pacific (Amtrak) line located west of the Southern View neighborhood. It includes a new track alignment and railway flyover to separate the Union Pacific/Amtrak operations from the Norfolk Southern operations. IDOT is currently funding a detailed environmental study and alternatives analysis of the Springfield Flyover project. The project's next steps include hosting a Public Informational Meeting, determining a preferred alternative, and drafting the Environmental Assessment. However, there is no funding currently available to purchase property or construct the Springfield Flyover project.



Springfield Rail Improvements Project
c/o Vector Communications
701 N. 15th Street, Mailbox 43
St. Louis, MO 63103

August 2015 Public Open House

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project team hosted a Public Open House from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. More than 130 citizens, elected officials and business people attended and spoke with project team members.


Informational stations covered topics including construction segments, land acquisition, funding and the new resource center. A station dedicated to public feedback encouraged participants to complete a comment form about the project.

To see the information presented or read the comment summary, visit the Public Open House page at www.springfieldrailroad.com.



Next Public Open House - February 11, 2016

The next Public Open House will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2016 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. No formal presentation will be made. See the front page for additional information.



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*).

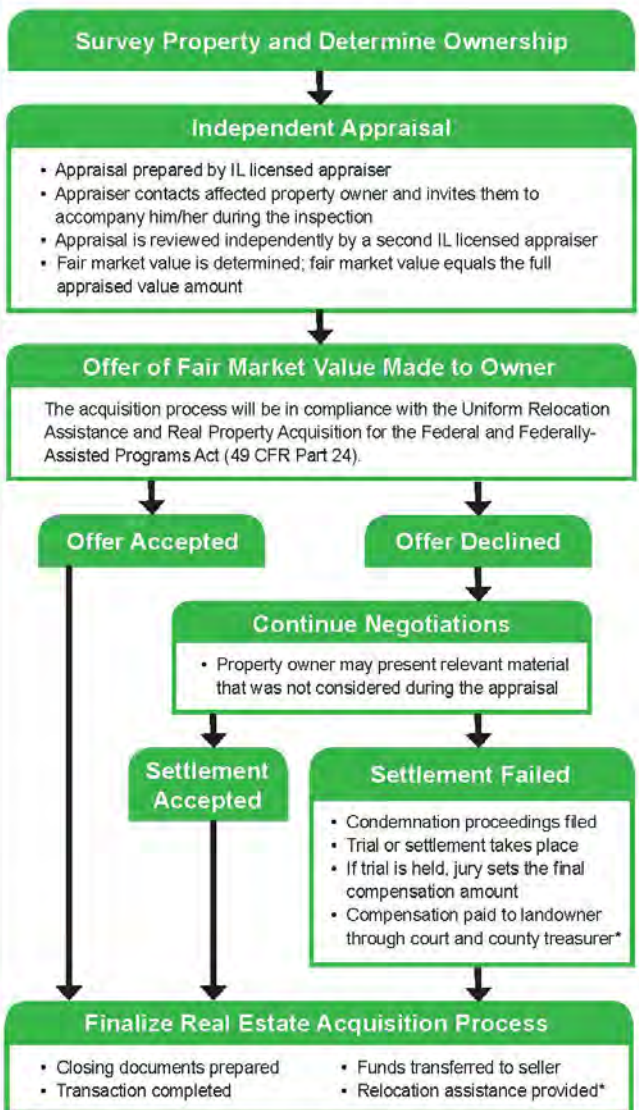
2) How do I know if my property is affected by the plan?
 If your property is affected by the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, you should have received a letter in the mail. You can also call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257 to find out whether your property is within 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.



Land Acquisition Process



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graph TD
    A[Survey Property and Determine Ownership] --> B[Independent Appraisal]
    B --> C[Offer of Fair Market Value Made to Owner]
    C --> D[Offer Accepted]
    C --> E[Offer Declined]
    E --> F[Continue Negotiations]
    F --> G[Settlement Accepted]
    F --> H[Settlement Failed]
    D --> I[Finalize Real Estate Acquisition Process]
    G --> I
    H --> I
    
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*If displaced, the occupant of an improved property may be eligible to receive relocation assistance and payments.

www.springfieldrailroad.com

Springfield Rail Improvements Project Land Acquisition

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



www.springfieldrailroad.com



Springfield Rail Improvements Project Frequently Asked Questions

Project Overview

1) What is the Springfield Rail Improvements Project?

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project will relocate all passenger and freight traffic from the Third Street corridor to Tenth Street. It will include:

- Building new underpasses on Tenth and Nineteenth Streets;
- Improving rail crossings; and
- Eliminating train horns in the City of Springfield.

2) Who is leading the project?

The City of Springfield is leading the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, in cooperation with Sangamon County and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).

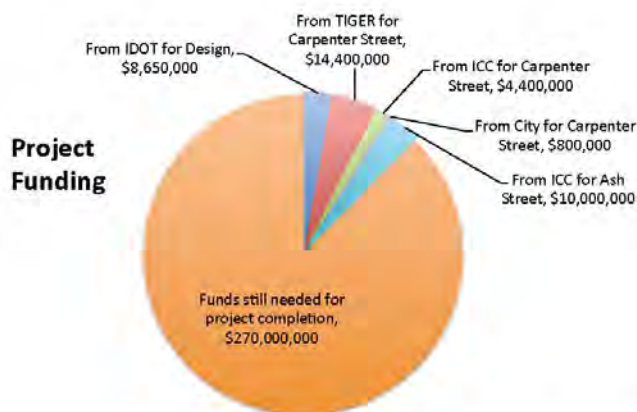
3) When did the project begin?

The Environmental Impact Statement required to obtain federal funds began in 2010 as the Springfield Railroad Corridor Study. The study was conducted by the City of Springfield and Sangamon County to determine how best to accommodate increasing freight and passenger rail traffic through Springfield. This study evaluated the possible environmental, social and economic impacts of different alternatives for managing the increased rail traffic.

The final result was the recommendation of a preferred alternative of relocating all passenger and freight traffic from the Third Street corridor to Tenth Street, which was presented in the environmental document and engineering report. At the study's conclusion, state and local agencies began applying for funding to finance the selected alternative's final design and land acquisition.

4) How is the project being funded?

On June 5, 2013, the City, County and IDOT signed an agreement for the transportation agency to provide \$8.65 million for the project's planning and design. As of the summer of 2015, the City of Springfield has obtained almost \$45 million of the anticipated \$315 million dollar overall cost of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project. The largest single funding source to date is the \$14.4 million the City received from the federal government for the Carpenter Street Underpass.



Illinois Department
of Transportation



www.springfieldrailroad.com

5) Why can't the track be moved to around the city or away from the downtown area?

The possibility of moving the tracks outside of the City, or away from downtown was studied as part of the Springfield Rail Corridor Study. The cost and the environmental impacts were too high for those alternatives to move forward.

6) What has happened with the noise abatement?

A Quiet Zone will be requested by the City so that no train horns will sound between Sangamon Ave. and Stanford Ave. through the City.

7) What is the timeline for starting the Ash Street Underpass?

The Ash Street Underpass is part of the next segment (Usable Segment 2) of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project that is scheduled for construction. This segment consists of constructing new underpasses at Ash and Laurel Streets in the Tenth Street corridor. It will also include construction of railroad embankment, drainage, and track from South Grand Avenue to south of Ash Street.

Construction will be staged to allow either Ash Street or Laurel Street to remain open at all times. Provided funding is obtained, the City hopes to begin construction in the summer of 2016 with completion in 2019.

8) What is being done on Nineteenth Street?

The underpass at Nineteenth Street and South Grand Avenue is in the design phase.

Job Development

1) Does IDOT need a railroad contractor to lay track for the Tenth Street Corridor?

No, Norfolk Southern Railroad owns the right-of-way and will do all of their own track work.

2) Where can I find job opportunities with the contractors and firms working on the Springfield Rail Improvements Project?

The hiring of contractors is led by IDOT and contractors may change as each underpass or segment of the project is completed. Each of the remaining underpasses will have similar job opportunities. The individual contractors and unions can better discuss training requirements and any plans to increase hiring goals.

For more information or a list of contractors working on the project, please contact the resource center* (see below for contact information).

3) Where can I learn more or speak to someone about DBE minority hiring and/or workforce diversity?

You can learn more or speak to a public involvement team member at the project resource center*. The center is located in the City of Springfield's Office of Community Relations at 1450 Groth Street, and is open three days a week for three hours each day (see schedule under Contact Information on page 4).

*Contact the resource center by phone at 217-391-1558 or email at resourcecenter@springfieldrailroad.com.



Public Involvement

1) How has the public been involved in the project?

Since the project began, the public involvement and outreach has included and will continue to include:

- Advisory group meetings with project stakeholders, public officials, business owners, community leaders, neighborhood associations and medical professionals;
- Public Open Houses;
- Presentations to community groups and organizations;
- Development and updating of the project website;
- Project newsletters distributed to residents and businesses;
- Newspaper and radio ads;
- Bi-monthly steering committee meetings; and
- Responding to public correspondence including letters, emails, and phone calls.

2) How can I be included on the project mailing list or update my contact information?

Any interested individual can be included on the project mailing list or have their contact information updated on the list by signing up through the website at www.springfieldrailroad.com, or by calling the project resource center at 217-391-1558.

3) How can I set-up a presentation for my organization or community group to learn more about the project?

The project team is available to make a presentation to any interested group or organization. To schedule a presentation, call Kevin Seals at (217) 788-2450.

Other Springfield Rail Projects

1) What is the Third Street Corridor project?

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. Construction of this corridor is currently on hold. Please visit the Illinois High-Speed Rail website at www.IDOTHSR.org for project information.

2) What is the Springfield Flyover project?

The Springfield Flyover project is part of IDOT's Chicago to St. Louis High Speed Rail Program. The Flyover will help relieve rail traffic congestion on the Union Pacific/Amtrak and Norfolk Southern corridors where they cross south of Springfield. This project is located between Stanford Avenue and I-72 along the existing Union Pacific (Amtrak) line. It includes a new track alignment and railway flyover to separate the Union Pacific/Amtrak operations from the Norfolk Southern operations. IDOT is currently funding a detailed environmental study and alternatives analysis of the Springfield Flyover project. The project's next steps include determining a preferred alternative, hosting a Public Informational Meeting, and drafting the Environmental Assessment. However, there is no funding currently available to purchase property or construct the Springfield Flyover project.



www.springfieldrailroad.com

Contact Information

If you're interested in being included on an email and/or mailing list to receive updates about the Springfield Rail Improvements Project including future public meetings, or if you have questions or comments, 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.

Future Rail Corridors Map



Illinois Department
of Transportation



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Springfield Rail Improvements Project Workforce Diversity & Job Development

Frequently Asked Questions

1) How much of the construction work has been completed by minority workers?

Approximately 25% of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project construction work completed to date has been performed by minority workers. This is about 21% above the federal requirement of 4.5% minority participation.

2) What additional efforts have been made to increase minority participation?

Additional efforts to increase minority participation include:

- Approximately 6,000 trainee hours assigned to the Carpenter Street Underpass project by IDOT;
- Creation of the Grow Our Own program (*learn more at www.growourown.net*);
- Norfolk Southern Railroad reviewing local workforce participation for their track work;
- Development of summer internships for minorities at Hanson Professional Services' Springfield office; and
- Hiring of a local Minority Liaison (*see back page for contact information*).

3) Where can I find an up-to-date minority hiring report for the project?

The project's minority hiring report is updated monthly and can be found at www.springfieldrailroad.com on the resource center page. This report also provides the types of jobs required, and the number of workers needed to complete the job.

4) Where can I find job opportunities with the contractors working on the Springfield Rail Improvements Project?

Hiring of contractors is led by IDOT and contractors working on the project may change as each underpass or segment of the project is completed. Each of the remaining underpasses will have similar job opportunities. The contractors currently working on the Carpenter Street Underpass include:

- Halverson Construction Co., Inc., 620 N. 19th St., Springfield, IL 62702, (217) 753-0027
- Bodine Electric of Decatur, 1845 N. 22nd St., Decatur, IL 62525, (217) 423-2593
- Illini Drilled Foundations, Inc., P.O. Box 1351 Danville, IL 61834, (217) 442-8765
- Mid-State Steel Co., Inc., 914 S. Johanson Road, Peoria, IL 61607, (309) 839-2180
- MTC Construction Inc., 17829 Edison Ave., Chesterfield, MO 63005, (314) 892-2963
- Petersburg Plumbing & Excavating LLC., 3550 Great Northern Ave., Springfield, IL 62711, (217) 632-2221

5) Who should I talk to about getting hired for a job?

The individual contractors and unions can better discuss training requirements, job openings, and any plans to increase hiring goals (*see back for union contacts*).

6) Where can I learn more or speak to someone about DBE minority hiring and/or workforce diversity?

You can learn more or speak to a public involvement team member at the project resource center. The center is located in the City of Springfield's Office of Community Relations at 1450 Groth Street. The resource center is open Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The resource center can be contacted by phone at 217-391-1558 or email at resourcecenter@springfieldrailroad.com.

www.springfieldrailroad.com

Unions and Apprentice Programs

Bricklayer & Allied Craftworker Local 8

Marc Landers, Field Representative
3100 South 11th Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-747-0289
www.bacweb.org

Carpenters Local 270

Rob Swegle, Director/Apprenticeship Coordinator
904 Breckman Drive
Pekin, IL 61554
309-360-2922
www.mcircc-jatc.com

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 193

Jim Tomasko, Training Coordinator
3150 Wide Track Drive
Springfield, IL 62703
217-544-3479 ext. 229
www.ibew193.com

Iron Workers Local 46

Shane Austin
2888 East Cook St.
Springfield, IL 62703
217-528-4041
www.ironworkers46.org

Laborer Local 477

Brad Schaive, Business Manager
1615 N. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62702
217-522-0014
www.liuna.org

Millwright Local 1051

Rob Swegle, Director/Apprenticeship Coordinator
904 Breckman Drive
Pekin, IL 61554
309-360-2922
www.millwrightlocal1051.com

Operating Engineer

Dennis Minick, Training Coordinator
3520 East Cook St.
Springfield, IL 62703
217-528-9659
www.iuoe965.org

Operative Plasters and Cement Masons Local 18

Mark Hitzner, Training Coordinator
40 Adloff Lane #6A
Springfield, IL 62703
309-266-5151 or 217-585-4221
www.opcmia.org

Plumber and Steamfitter Local 137

John Haines, Business Agent
2880 E. Cook St.
Springfield, IL 62703
217-544-2724
www.ua137.org

Sheet Metal Workers Local 218

Tim Riva or Ed Robinson
Training Manager/Business Manager
2855 Via Verde Street
Springfield, IL 62703
217-529-0161
www.smart218.org

Teamsters Local 916

Dave Robinson, Business Agent
3361 Teamster Way
Springfield, IL 62707
217-522-7932
www.teamsters916.org

Online Resources

IDOT Construction Careers Training Program

www.idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/employment-opportunities/specialized-training/highway-construction-careers-training-program

Lincoln Land Community College - Workforce Development

www.llcc.edu/career-training/workforce

Contact Information

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 job development, please contact:

Lesa Branham, Minority Liaison
Springfield Rail Improvements Project - Resource Center
Phone: 217-391-1558
Email: resourcecenter@springfieldrailroad.com

www.springfieldrailroad.com





Carpenter Street Underpass & Archaeological Site

Frequently Asked Questions

1) What is the Carpenter Street Underpass Project?

The project is the initial funded segment of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project and is a recipient of a 2013 U.S. Department of Transportation's, Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Grant. The Project is intended to reduce congestion, improve safety and provide improved access to area hospitals from locations east of Eleventh Street. It involves lowering Carpenter Street between Ninth and Eleventh 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) What is the timeline for the Carpenter Street Underpass project?

The project was approved by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) under the 2012 Springfield Rail Improvements Project 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. Work on the Carpenter Street Underpass began in September of 2014. The archaeological site work does not affect the project, and construction is on schedule and on budget. The project is anticipated to be completed in early 2016.

3) What is contained in the archaeological site?

The portion of the archaeological site in the Carpenter Street Underpass Project area contains the brick foundations and basements of seven residences and associated artifacts.

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 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 Carpenter Street archaeological site possesses local and national significance for its potential to contribute to an understanding of the lifestyles of multiple ethnic/racial groups in Springfield during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

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 Streets 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.



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Federal Railroad Administration



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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. Through the Section 106 process, the public is 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.

7) Who are the Section 106 consulting parties?

The following parties are entitled to participate as consulting parties during the 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 the 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.

Two public meetings were held in the spring of 2015 to identify consulting parties with an interest in the archaeological site. Consulting parties on the Carpenter Street Archaeological Site Section 106 process include: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.; Faith Coalition for the Common Good; Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce; Hospital Sisters Health System; Illinois Legislative Black Caucus; Illinois State Museum Research and Collections Center, Landmarks Illinois; NAACP - Springfield Chapter; Sangamon County Historical Society; Save Old Springfield; Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; Springfield & Central Illinois African-American History Museum; St. John's Hospital; State Representative Al Riley; State Representative Tim Butler; and The Springfield Historic Sites Commission.

Contact Information

If you are 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 contact:

Andrea Martin
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE, Mail Stop 20, W38-215
Washington, DC 20590
Phone: (202) 493-6201
Email: andrea.martin@dot.gov



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You're Invited . . .



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, February 11, 2016
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.

Prairie Capital Convention Center*
1 Convention Center Plaza
Springfield, IL 62701

**This facility is ADA accessible.*

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project team will host a Public Open House where interested citizens and business people will be able to talk with project team members to learn about the project activities to date. Although there will be no formal presentation, informational stations will be staffed by team members who will share updates on the project's construction segments, timeline, funding and next steps. In addition, the open house will have a station dedicated to public feedback where participants will be encouraged to complete a comment form about the project.

www.springfieldrailroad.com / [#SpfldILRail](https://twitter.com/SpfldILRail)



Springfield Rail Improvements Project Public Open House – February 11, 2016

COMMENT FORM

Thank you for completing this comment form. Your input will help inform the Springfield Rail Improvements Project team's future activities and decision-making.

1. Which of the following best describes you? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Resident (City of Springfield)	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner / Operator (City of Springfield)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official (City of Springfield)
<input type="checkbox"/> Resident (Sangamon County)	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Owner / Operator (Sangamon County)	<input type="checkbox"/> Elected Official (Sangamon County)
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ Zip Code: _____		

2. How did you find out about this Open House? Please check all that apply.

<input type="checkbox"/> Email	<input type="checkbox"/> Newspaper Legal Notice	<input type="checkbox"/> Social Media
<input type="checkbox"/> Flier	<input type="checkbox"/> Project Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Media Coverage	

3. Please evaluate this event according to the following, circle your answer...

A. The Open House was:

Informative				Uninformative
1	2	3	4	5

B. In general the Open House was:

Well Planned				Disorderly
1	2	3	4	5
Worth My Time				Waste of Time
1	2	3	4	5

4. Additional comments:

THANK YOU!

Appendix I – Verbatim Additional Written Comments

Response Text	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
It is important to continue giving "the public" opportunities for input. I'm glad progress toward consolidation continues. I care about the 1908 Race Riot site. Sad that we didn't get the last TIGER grant but think the strategy going forward will work.	Public Meetings	Archaeological Site	Funding
I was finding out if there were any additional updates on the project. My residence is located in an area that may or may not be impacted.	Property / Land Acquisition		
I enjoy how all-inclusive the information is, and has been. Visuals are attractive, and presenters seem well informed.	Found Open House Informative		
I had a few questions about the direction, the next step for the archaeological discovery. I didn't realize Union Pacific wants to use right-of-way directly over the remains and that they may need to be completely excavated.	Archaeological Site		
Really did not seem to be much new information from the last hearing. I did see some additional information on road closings for the 10th St. Corridor I hadn't noticed before and it did get a question answered on how new tracks would row 5th and 6th St. I came because of chance to ask any new questions I have and to see if there is information I hadn't thought about before. On that basis I will continue to come to hearings as much as I can.	Public Meetings		
Craig, Jeff and Nathan were a great help to me. Thank you!	Found Open House Informative		
Need to be sure moving trains to 10th doesn't divide city even more. Need to be intentional about developing areas around 10th rail corridor, and in general taking better care of our older neighborhoods. Pay more attention to 1908 Race Riot history. More resources/more available.	10th Street Consolidation	Archaeological Site	
There may never be sufficient funding to complete the 10th Street Corridor.	Funding		
Thank you for keeping everything up to date.	Found Open House Informative		
I am concerned about former Portuguese and Black areas being disturbed by Rails and St. John's Parking areas. Too many of those areas are already covered over or disrupted by rails and or buildings.	Archaeological Site		
I look forward to the information concerning the 1908 Race Riot resolution, I heard removing the complete excavation is an option, it would be nice to actually construct a Museum in any other circumstances directly over the site as is. The city administration seems to be reluctant to release financial figures detailing City and County monies invested in this long-time project.	Archaeological Site	Funding	

Appendix J – Verbatim Additional Verbal Comments

Speaker and Verbatim Comments	Topics Addressed
<p>Teresa Haley, President of the NAACP – Springfield Chapter</p> <p>Good evening. This is a very important meeting and continues to be for the Springfield branch NAACP and for the state NAACP. As all of you know our history, the NAACP was founded because of incidents like the 1908 riots that took place here in Springfield, Illinois.</p> <p>We want to see the site fully excavated. And we want to see materials taken from the site to make sure they are tagged and catalogued and stored in their proper place. To all of Springfield and all of Illinois and people throughout the country can learn more about Springfield and our very important history. As I was walking around tonight, looking at some the displays at some of the different stations, I asked some questions: where do we go from here? What is going to happen next?</p> <p>So Phase II is going to be starting and we are excited about that, but we would like to see the Carpenter Street finished. We'd also like to ask you all to join with us at St. John's hospital in terms of what they're planning on doing in terms of memorializing the site with the building. Possibly putting a memorial on the side of the building that reflects the old Springfield as it was. We are one Springfield; we are one community and we want all citizens of Springfield to have a voice of what happened. Again, this was started because of the 1908 race riots, the NAACP. We are proud of our heritage. We are proud of our community; but as we continue to move forward, we want to see more minorities, especially blacks, working on these sites. We talk about your main contractors and sub-contractors.</p> <p>We receive a lot of complaints and concerns that there are not enough people who look like me working out on those sites. A couple of laborers say they get out there and they are working a couple of days Monday and Tuesday or Monday and Wednesday, and they are not called back until the following week. But the work goes on everyday, and if the work is going on every day we want to see people who look like us, in this room out there working on the site as well.</p> <p>We also would like to see internships develop, so that young people can study the history of Springfield and the race riots. And talk about it and see the education throughout our school districts and throughout all schools districts in Illinois as well as this country. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archaeological Site Excavation - Carpenter Street Completion - Minority Workforce - Internship Creation
<p>Jim Dixon, Labor Activist – Springfield</p> <p>I have a question. I'm Jim Dixon and I'm a member of the Faith Coalition for the Common Good Task force. And one of the things we were wondering about is how far along are we on cataloguing the items artifacts that were already found from the dig? Does anybody know the</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Archaeological Site Excavation - Funding for Usable Segment 2 - Timeline for Project Completion

<p>answer to that question and when people could start to view some of that? Get an idea of what's there.</p> <p>Kevin Seals, Chief Environmental Scientist - Hanson Professional Services Inc. <i>Thanks Jim! I can speak to that. We have done some Phase II testing of the archaeological site. Those reports are currently under review at the FRA office. The artifacts at this time have not been funded to go through the full analysis of those findings and preservation of those artifacts. So that remains to be done at this time until we receive further word from the FRA that we are going to continue with the data excavation and the recovery of the site and come up with a way to fund that portion of it. So, that hasn't been determined as of yet.</i></p> <p>Jim Dixon So as I understand it, there's no funding for Laurel and Ash Street yet for the overpass?</p> <p>Kevin Seals <i>The funding is almost complete. We don't have full funding at this time, but we are just about finished.</i></p> <p>Jim Dixon When you say almost, that means you have funding for some <inaudible>.</p> <p>Jim Moll, Vice President - Hanson Professional Services Inc. <i>Funding for the Laurel and Ash Street underpass which what you are referring to is Usable Segment II and it will come from a combination of sources. We have strong indications from the Illinois Commerce Commission that they will participate in the funding, similar to what they did at Carpenter Street. The city also has a two million dollar grant from the FRA, as a passenger rail grant for that underpass. The city is now working with the Department of Transportation to finalize the funding program they are looking for some money from <inaudible> and there is some city funds that is going to go into it. The Laurel/Ash Street is going to be funded by a combination of the Commerce Commission funds, FRA, IDOT, City of Springfield and possibly the Norfolk Southern Railway.</i></p> <p>Jim Dixon So there is no idea on how soon we will know?</p> <p>Jim Moll <i>There is negotiation going on right now between the City and Illinois Department of Transportation, and I hope we will have some answers on this within the next month or two.</i></p> <p>Jim Dixon Do you think it is possible that they will start construction on that during this upcoming summer construction?</p> <p>Jim Moll <i>We still have a lot of land we need to acquire for that next piece of the</i></p>	<p>- Flyover Project</p>
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project. A number of houses are along 10 ½ Street, Laurel Street, Ash Street. With the funding in place, we still need to go through the acquisition process. That will probably take most of this spring and summer. At the earliest, we can probably get a contract for Laurel and Ash this fall and probably wouldn't start construction work until the next spring at the earliest.

Jim Dixon

I read something about the Flyover in Springfield. Is that involved in this project?

Jim Moll

That is a completely separate and distinct project than the SRIP. Either one could proceed without the other. The flyover could be constructed without relocation of traffic. Traffic location in Springfield could occur without Flyover. Flyover consists of a method to get the Norfolk Southern tracks from the west side and the Union Pacific tracks to the east side – I'm sorry, Norfolk Southern to the east side and Union Pacific to the west side. They have to cross each other to head to St. Louis and the Norfolk Southern to head to Kansas City. Right now they cross through a series of track crossovers where one train has to wait for another. The goal of the Flyover is to allow one train to go over the other train so they don't have to wait and cause delays for the passenger trains. IDOT and Hanson are studying this project and it will be located just south of Springfield, essentially between Stanford and Hazel Dell Road.