



Public Open House – August 27, 2015 Comment Summary Report



9/29/15

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

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 City of Springfield is leading this rail consolidation effort in cooperation with Sangamon County and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). This project will relocate all passenger and freight traffic from the Third Street corridor to Tenth Street; construct roadway underpasses 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 1, or the Carpenter Street Underpass, is nearing completion. The next phase of the project, Usable Segment 2 or the Ash and Laurel Street Underpass, has received partial funding and land acquisition is currently underway.

Public Open House

A public informational meeting was held on August 27, 2015 to update the public about the project and next steps. More than 130 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 5:00 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 1)
- Station 4 - Archaeological Site
- Station 5 - Ash and Laurel Street Underpasses (Usable Segment 2)
- Station 6 - Land Acquisition
- Station 7 - Resource Center
- Station 8 - Grow Our Own
- Station 9 - Public Involvement



Attendees received a welcome handout featuring a station guide (Appendix A), as well as the second 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, or electronically on the iPads provided.

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 for two weeks prior to the meeting (Appendix G) and sent out via email blast to more than 600 subscribers on the project email list. A postcard mailer (Appendix H) and the second project newsletter, both announcing the Public Open House, were mailed to the project mailing list of more than 900 Springfield area residents, businesses, and elected officials one week prior to the meeting.

A project hashtag, #SpfldILRail, was developed for promoting project information on social media. An announcement about the open house was posted on Twitter and Facebook by the City of Springfield on August 24, as well as by Hanson Professional Services on August 21 and Vector Communications on August 20. The City's post on Twitter was retweeted by the following organizations within one day:

- Jamie Munks from the State Journal Register (498 followers)
- Prairie Capital Convention Center (2,770 followers)
- Springfield City Clerk (201 followers)
- News View USA (459 followers)
- Politics Springfield (122 followers)
- Local First Springfield (26 followers)



Public Comments

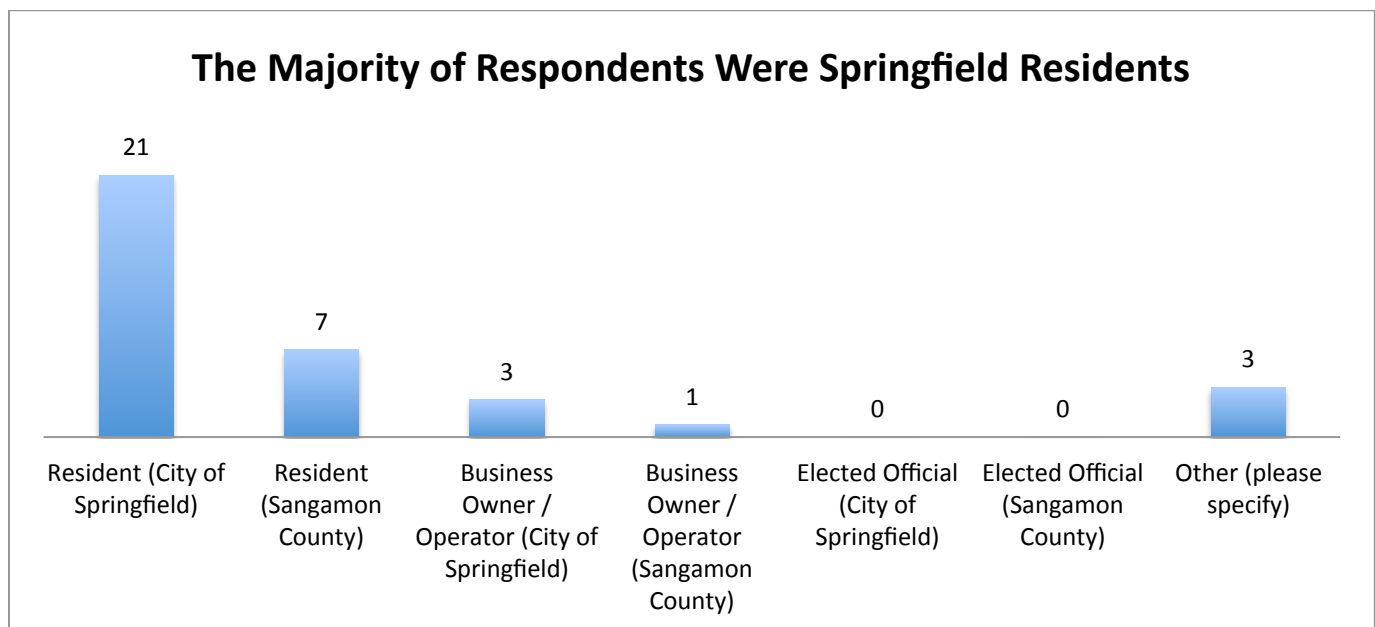
A 4-question comment form (Appendix I) was available in a paper version for handwritten comments (25 completed) as well as electronically on iPads (3 completed).

The remainder of this document summarizes public input obtained from the 28 comment forms received by the project team.

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.



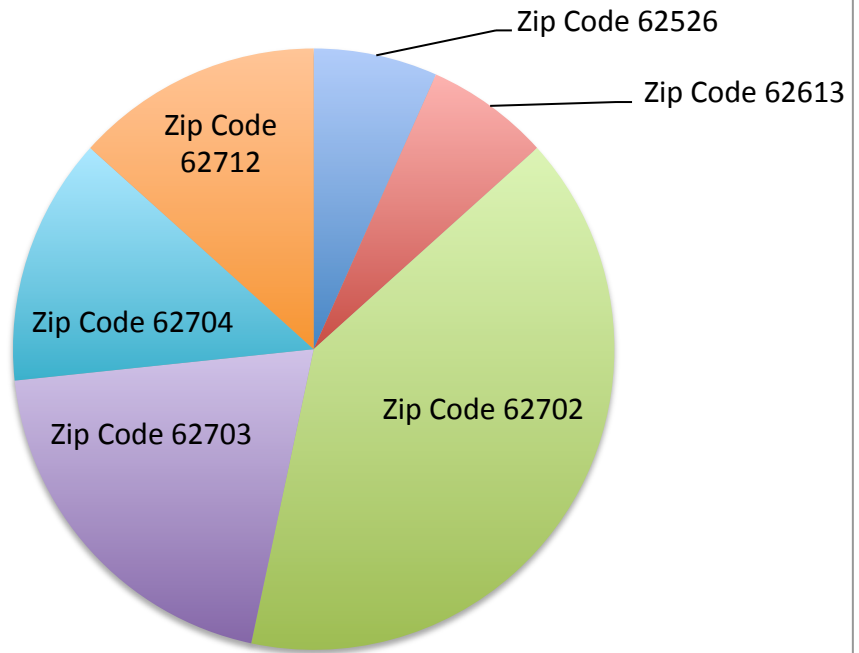
The majority of respondents, 21 out of 25 (84%), selected ‘Resident (City of Springfield)’ as their primary connection to the project area. Other options chosen included ‘Resident (Sangamon County)’ (7), ‘Business Owner / Operator City of Springfield’ (3), Business Owner / Sangamon County’ (1), and ‘Other’ (3).

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

- Sangamon County Historical Society representative;
- Community Leader; and
- Decatur, IL resident.

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 15 responses received.

Attendee Zip Codes

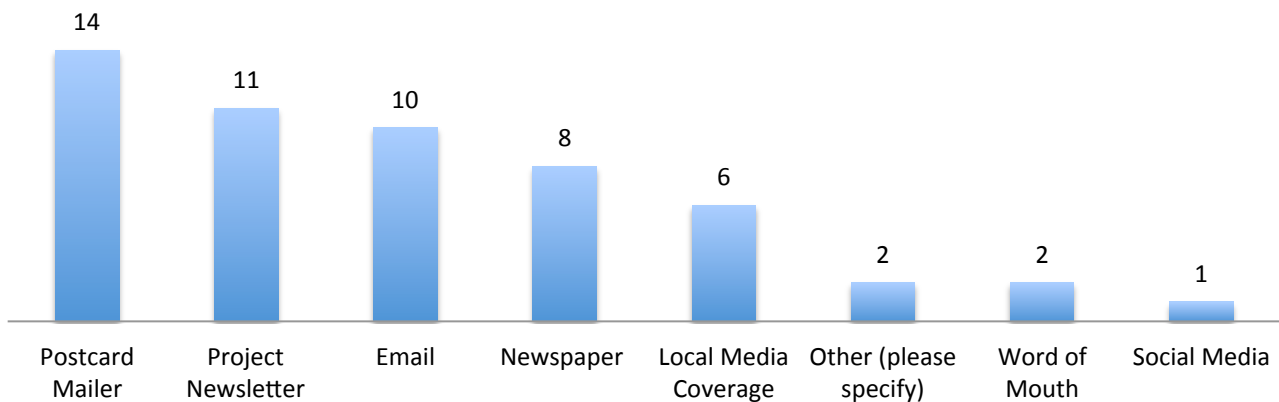


The respondents reside primarily in zip code 62702 (6) in the City of Springfield. Other respondents live in zip codes 62703 (3), 62704 (2), 62712 (2), 62613 (1), and 62526 (1).

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 26 respondents who answered this question.

Most Respondents Learned About the Open House through the Postcard Mailer, Newsletter and Email



Fourteen respondents (54%) learned about the meeting through the postcard mailer, eleven (42%) heard about it through the project newsletter, and ten (39%) learned about it through email. Attendees also selected newspaper (8), local media coverage (6), word of mouth (2), social media (1), and 'other' (2) as the ways they had learned about the meeting.

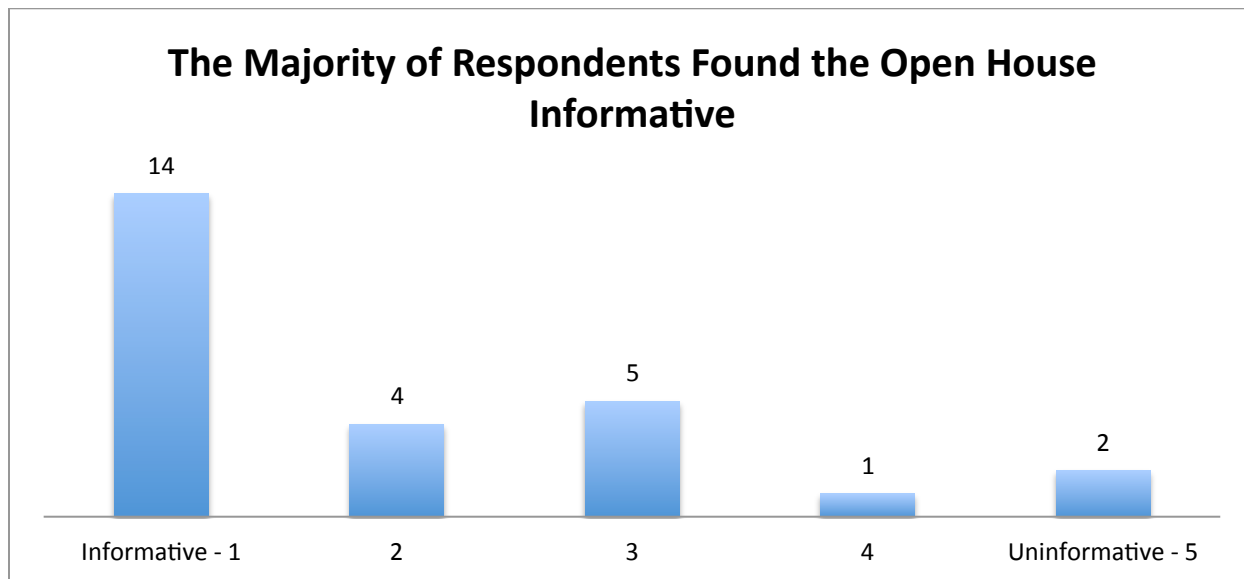
Two attendees selected the 'Other' category and wrote in the blank space provided that he/she learned about the meeting by walking in or seeing the notice on TV (Wand-TV).

- Walking in; and
- WAND-TV.

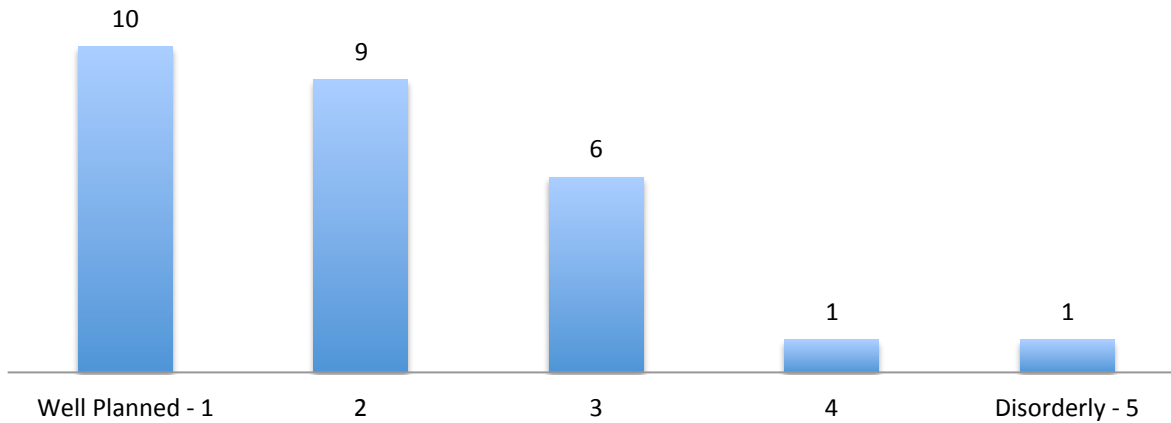
Question 3: Open House Evaluation

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.

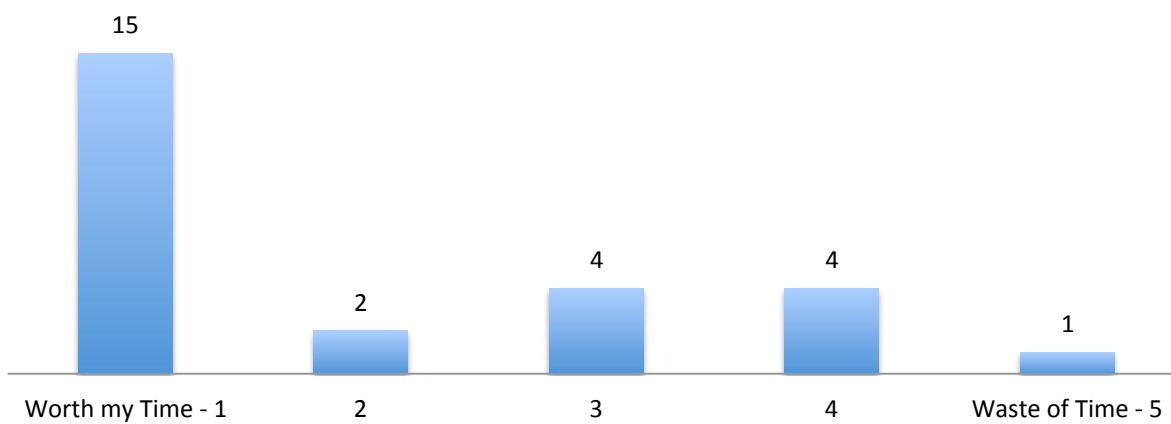
The majority of respondents indicated that the open house was informative by selecting a one or two on the scale provided (70%). Nineteen of 27 respondents (70%) ranked the meeting as a one or two for being well planned. Seventeen of 26 respondents (65%) identified the meeting as one or two for being worth their time to attend. The results are outlined in the following charts.



The Majority of Respondents Indicated the Meeting Was Well Planned



Most Respondents Indicated Attending the Meeting Was Worth Their Time



Question 4: Additional Comments

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

Additional comments and questions were in the following categories:

- Found Open House Informative (3)
- Support the Project (3)
- Noise / Quiet Zone (2)
- Property / Land Acquisition (2)
- Request for Earlier Notification of Open Houses (2)
- Request for Presentation at Open Houses (2)

- Amtrak Station Placement (1)
- Concern About Underpasses and Drainage (1)
- Does Not Support Project (1)
- Funding Options (1)
- Number of Tracks on Carpenter (1)
- Public Involvement (1)
- Question Regarding Attendance by Public Officials (1)
- Questions About Third Street (1)

Conclusion

The 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; meet with study team members; learn about the next phase of the project including the underpasses at Ash and Laurel Streets; and provide input.

Approximately 130 citizens attended the meeting and approximately 28 people (22%) provided input via the written or electronic comment forms. 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 the mailed postcard, mailed newsletter, or an email announcement. The majority found the meeting informative, well planned, and worth attending.



Public Open House - August 27, 2015

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) and view photos and a time lapse video of the construction completed to date.

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).

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 new 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 - Public Involvement

Learn more about the project's public engagement and involvement activities.

www.springfieldrailroad.com



Project News

Summer 2015 - Issue #2

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Carpenter Street Update
- 2 Archaeological Site Findings
- 3 Minority Participation
- 3 New Project Resource Center
- 3 Project Team Update
- 4 Next Construction Segment
- 4 Funding Status
- 4 Public Engagement Program
- 5 Other Rail Project Updates

Carpenter Street Update

The Carpenter Street Underpass Project is the initial 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. 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 to support future phases of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project.

Work on the Carpenter Street Underpass began in September of 2014. The contractor has completed all of the foundation work for the bridges and walls. The steel beams and concrete deck have been placed for the Norfolk Southern bridge and excavation for the underpass roadway has begun. The next steps will be to complete construction of the Union Pacific bridge, excavation work and wall construction. Construction is on schedule and on budget and is anticipated to be completed in early 2016.

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. (*Learn more about the archaeological site on Page 2.*)

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, August 27, 2015
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Come anytime, there is no formal presentation

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

**This facility is
ADA accessible.*

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 Carpenter Street Project area was found in September 2014 and contains the brick foundations of seven residences.



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.

The FRA is leading the archaeological effort and all work is proceeding under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. 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 recovered include household goods such as broken glassware, dishes, nails, and charred wood fragments.

There has been no work on the archaeological site since last fall pending completion of the Section 106 process to determine the appropriate mitigation of the site. The FRA hosted two public meetings in the spring (March 11th and May 10th) to ensure that interested organizations were provided an opportunity to participate as consulting parties in the Section 106 process and decision-making regarding the archaeological site.

The FRA held the first Consulting Parties meeting on July 23rd with 17 groups to begin discussing options for the site. A preliminary consensus from the meeting resulted in a proposal to send a letter to Union Pacific railroad from the Consulting Parties requesting design modifications to the track alignment to minimize impacts to the site, conduct data recovery on the portion of the site affected by the tracks, and preserve in place the remaining portions of the site. They have also suggested that any notable artifacts recovered be displayed at a public venue such as the proposed multimodal facility to be located on the 10th Street tracks.

Consulting parties on the Section 106 process include: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Epsilon Sigma 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.

The FRA will draft a Memorandum of Agreement for approval by the Consulting Parties and may schedule a second

meeting in September for concurrence.

The archaeological site work does not affect the Carpenter Street Underpass project, which is expected to be completed early next year. All of the necessary funding for the archaeological site has not been identified at this time.

Minority Participation

In 2015, approximately 24% of the Springfield Rail Improvements Project work completed has been performed by minority workers and/or firms. That is about 19% above the federal requirement of 4.5% minority participation.

Additional efforts have been made to increase minority participation including:

- Creation of the Grow Our Own program (Learn more at www.growourown.net)
- Development of summer internships for minorities
- Hiring of a local Minority Liaison

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

New Project Resource Center Opening in September

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project team will open a project resource center on August 31, 2015. The center will create a consistent presence in the community and provide a one-stop-shop for all project information including construction, right-of-way, and small business and employment opportunities. The center, located in the City of Springfield's Office of Community Relations at 1450 Groth Street, will be open three days a week for three hours each day (see schedule below).

To contact the resource center or to schedule an appointment, call 217-391-1558 or 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.

Project Team Update - Meet Our Newest Member

The Springfield Rail Improvements project is pleased to introduce Lesa Branham, the newest member of our Public Engagement team. Lesa has more than nine years of experience with minority participation, workforce development, and training opportunities. Lesa's role as local Minority Liaison will include meeting with project stakeholders and working at the project resource center to answer inquiries from the public.



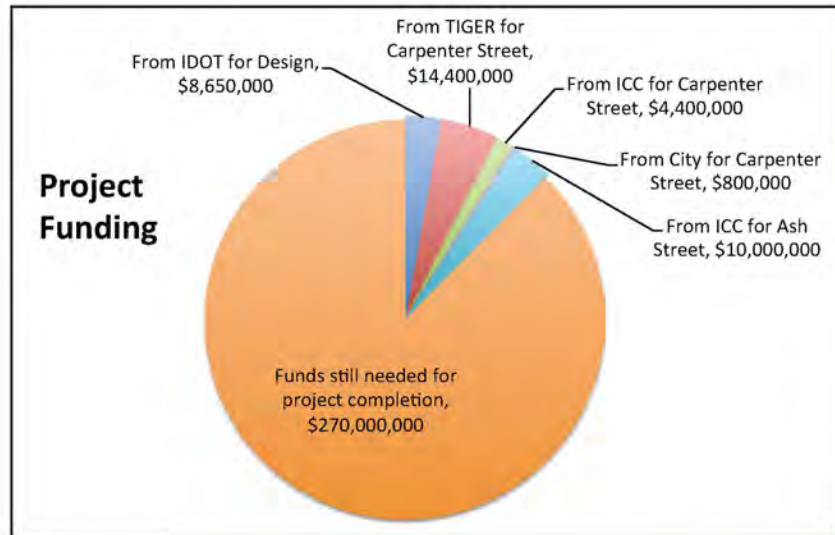
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Next Construction Segment - Ash Street and Laurel Street

Usable Segment 2 is the next 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 has applied for a \$16 million dollar grant from the Federal TIGER program. The remaining funding for this \$48 million dollar project would come from federal, state, and city sources. If awarded the TIGER grant, the City hopes to begin construction in the summer of 2016 with completion in 2019.



Project Funding Status

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 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.

Public Engagement Program

Since August of 2013, the Public Engagement program for the Springfield Rail Improvements Project Public has included:

- Creating and disseminating the fall 2013 newsletter to 3,000+ community members
- Hosting of two Stakeholder Advisory Group Meetings in 2013 and 2014
- Presenting at bi-monthly Steering Committee Meetings
- Presenting to local elected officials
- Conducting media briefings and sending press advisories
- Updating the project website
- Responding to public correspondence received via mail, phone calls and emails
- Assisting FRA with hosting two Section 106 Public Informational Meetings in winter and spring 2015
- Designing and distributing the summer 2015 newsletter to community members



- Promoting and hosting a Public Meeting on August 27, 2015
- Briefing the media on project updates
- Hosting a Stakeholder Advisory Group Meeting in November 2015

Additionally, the project team has made presentations to municipal officials, stakeholder organizations and community groups throughout the project. By going into the community to conduct these presentations, the team is able to share important information with the public; answer pressing questions; and obtain feedback on the project's activities and findings. More than 30 presentations have been made to organizations throughout the Springfield region including:

- AARP
- Capital Area Association of Realtors
- County Board Members
- Faith Coalition for the Common Good
- Frontier's International, Inc.
- NAACP - Springfield Chapter
- Optimist Club
- Randall Court Homeowners' Association
- Rotary Club
- Springfield Public School Board
- Visions in Progress Neighborhood Association

If you or your organization is interested in scheduling a presentation, please contact Jimmie Austin of Hanson Professional Services Inc. at (217) 747-9257 or send an email to info@springfieldrailroad.com.

Future Rail Corridors Map



Other Springfield Rail Projects - 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

You're Invited . . .

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, August 27, 2015
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Come anytime, there is no formal presentation

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

**This facility is ADA accessible.*

August 27th Public Open House

The Springfield Rail Improvements Project team will host a Public Open House from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center. Interested citizens and business people will be able to talk with project team members to learn about the project activities. 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, land acquisition, funding and the new resource center. 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.

Once the open house is complete, you can learn more and view the information that was presented at www.springfieldrailroad.com.



#SpfldILRail



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?

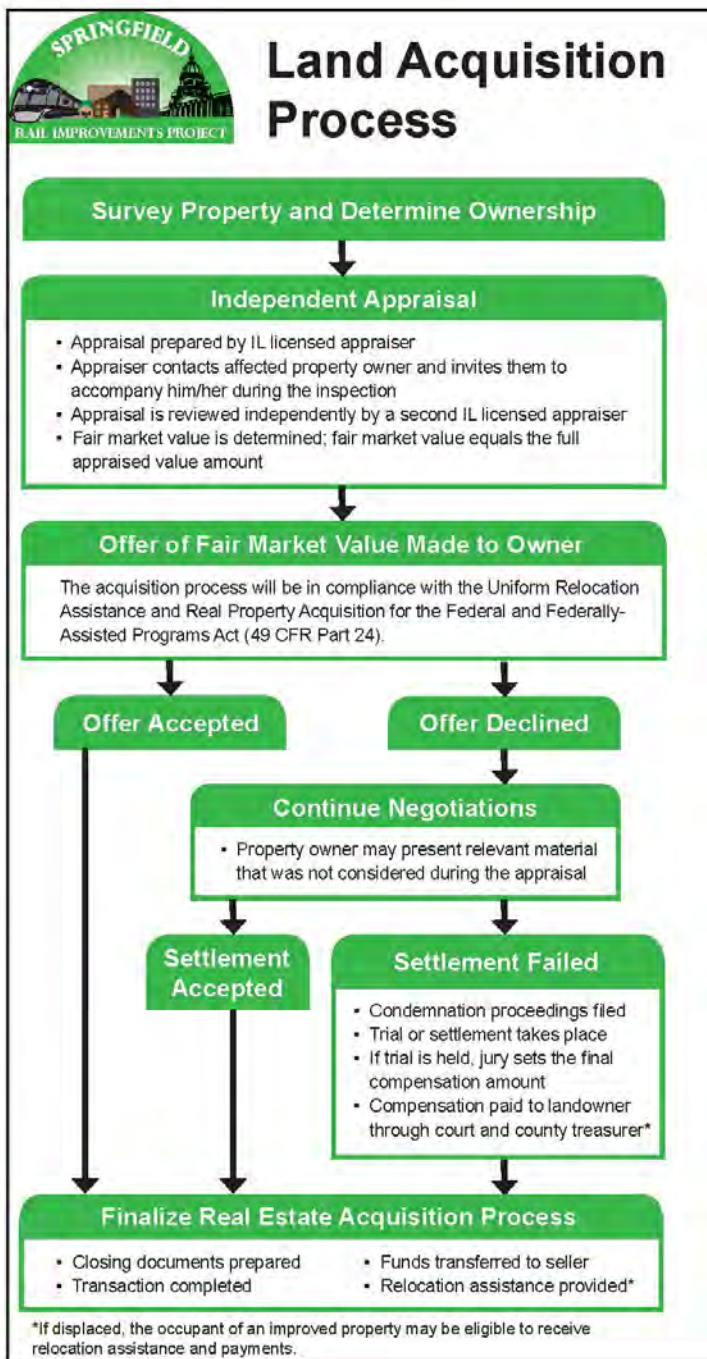
If your property is affected by the Springfield Rail Improvements Project, you should have received a letter in the mail. You can also call Jimmie Austin at Hanson Professional Services at (217) 747-9257 to find out whether your property is within the project area.

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.



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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).

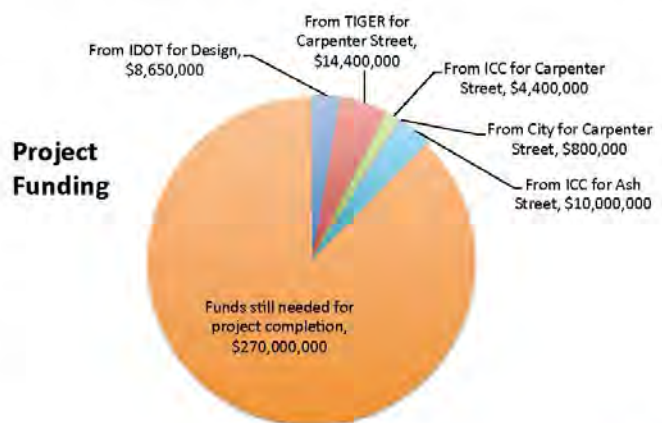
3) When did the project begin?

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.



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.



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



www.springfieldrailroad.com



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 Apprentices 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:

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

www.springfieldrailroad.com





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-foot-long by 50-foot-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.



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration



ILLINOIS HISTORIC
Preservation
AGENCY

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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



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration



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You're Invited . . .



PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

**Thursday, August 27, 2015
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

Come anytime, there is no formal presentation

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 for interested citizens and business people to talk with project team members and learn about the project activities. 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, land acquisition, funding and the new resource center. 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

APPENDIX H – Postcard Mailer



Public Open House

You're Invited . . .
Thursday, August 27, 2015
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Come anytime, there is no formal presentation

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 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 27, 2015 at the Prairie Capital Convention Center.** Interested citizens and business people will be able to talk with project team members to learn about the project activities. 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, land acquisition, funding and the new resource center. 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.

Once the open house is complete, you can learn more and view the information that was presented at www.springfieldrailroad.com.

www.springfieldrailroad.com / #SpfldILRail



Public Open House

Thursday, August 27, 2015
5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Prairie Capital Convention Center

See other side for more information.

Visit: www.springfieldrailroad.com
Email: info@springfieldrailroad.com
Call: 1-217-747-9257

Springfield Railroad Corridor Study
c/o Vector Communications
701 N. 15th Street
Mailbox 43
St. Louis, MO 63103



Springfield Rail Improvements Project Public Open House – August 27, 2015

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"/> Postcard Mailer	<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 J – Verbatim Additional Comments

Comment Text	Category 1	Category 2
Why wasn't the Mayor here? Or any Springfield public officials?	Question Regarding Attendance by Public Officials	
<p>I still have some concerns with the underpasses, although Public Works and the Hanson team did a great job of explaining the details. The new underpasses (Carpenter) has safeguards and storage capability that the existing underpasses do not (5th, 6th, Sangamon, others). I wonder if the existing underpasses could be modified to equal the new designs? I also have concerns with the drainage grates in the bottom of the underpasses. These cannot be allowed to clog. Public Works is obviously aware, but they need to ensure the drains are unclogged well before rain events. And during rain events, I assume Public Works is dispatched to the underpasses to confirm the drains are working. If they encounter an underpass that is not, or is in some danger of filling, they need to have a quick way to close off access.</p> <p>I also wonder about any improvements to 3rd St. rail. It seems every dime spent on 3rd St. is wasted, unless it is to fix a serious safety or performance issue. The idea is to eliminate 3rd St., so why invest in it? I assume there are good reasons. I hope that IDOT and the city (Hanson) are in close coordination regarding the improvements on 3rd and 10th to make sure the two projects make good fiscal sense.</p> <p>I also heard that no underpass is planned for the Wabash/Stanford St. extension on the 19th St. rail. Not sure why this is going to be an at grade crossing when underpasses are planned for 19th St. for both Ash and South Grand. If Stanford is going to be an East West thoroughfare as planned, then I don't see why we would not put an underpass there.</p> <p><i>Personal contact information removed for privacy.</i></p>	Concern About Underpasses and Drainage	Questions About Third Street
I believe this project is boondoggle. The benefits of the project train wait time and horn free zone is not worth the cost and sacrifices by property owners. Property owners outside the right of way takings will suffer loss of access with no compensation. See Bianco Supper Club vs. IDOT. The inconvenience of detours during construction will offset detours to go to nearby existing underpasses during trains if project not built.	Does Not Support Project	
Very informative	Found Open House Informative	
Very nice and informative displays. Thanks!	Found Open House Informative	
All questions were answered!	Found Open House Informative	
Wish there had been more concerning funding sources and options.	Funding Options	
The quiet zone is needed along the 3rd St. rail as soon as possible!!! We can't even talk to someone, talk on the phone, sleep, etc. when that horn is blowing.	Noise / Quiet Zone	
My house is at 11th and Division. I am concerned about noise and vibration from construction and trains on 3 sides of me. I want to talk to someone about a noise and debris wall to be put on 2 sides of my property. <i>Personal contact information removed for privacy.</i>	Noise / Quiet Zone	

Comment Text	Category 1	Category 2
<p>Two big concerns:</p> <p>1. Up to now, there was little information provided regarding the number of tracks coming through the 10th Street corridor. At the last open house (regarding the Carpenter Street underpass project), all maps and drawings showed a total of only TWO tracks -- one for UP, the other for NS. Now, from the construction, the drawings and maps at this open house, I learned that it's actually a total of FOUR tracks along the corridor -- two each for both UP and NS.</p> <p>2. The placement of the Amtrak station is perhaps the most impractical and expensive part of the project. Why place the station on the EAST side of the tracks, along the NS-owned track, when the passenger service is provided on the WEST side of the tracks by UP??? The fact that an overhead stairway will be built for this is irrelevant. Usually McDonald's doesn't build their drive-up windows on the passenger side of the drive but have an attendant walk out of the building to bring the product to the driver's side of the customer's car. This is the same principle. If it was planned this way to appease the community on the east side of town, this is one heck of an expensive appeasement. And a travesty.</p>	Number of Tracks on Carpenter	Amtrak Station Placement
<p>I need to talk to Railroad Company about property: <i>Personal contact information removed for privacy.</i></p>	Property / Land Acquisition	
<p>At the meeting, they had some additional brochures, which offered some information about displacement rights. I really liked seeing actual maps of the project especially since my property may or may not be affected.</p>	Property / Land Acquisition	
<p>Nice pictures - Need an opportunity for people in the community to be part of the decision making process.</p>	Public Involvement	
<p>Note: It (the postcard mailer) arrived in Wednesday's mail; this session was Thursday evening. Too tight for timing.</p>	Request for Earlier Notification of Open Houses	
<p>Not informative. Should be presentations so we could share questions and responses.</p>	Request for Presentation at Open Houses	
<p>Transparency must be exercised by both the City of Springfield and Hanson. A presentation should always be conducted so the public can ask questions.</p>	Request for Presentation at Open Houses	
<p>This project is essential for downtown Springfield. Better cross town traffic, especially access to hospitals, Government offices and business district. Safety will be much better and elimination of delays at railroad crossings will reduce waste of gasoline and air pollution/emissions. Keep building!</p>	Supports Project	
<p>Very interesting project in many ways. Seems to take a long time but will be worth it in the end.</p>	Supports Project	
<p>I am glad the consolidation work is moving forward. It is important to involve minorities. I am grateful that arch. work has been done and that the historic site is being protected. These open houses are important! Thank you. I did not know about this event until Wed 8/26 - and I should be on every possible mailing list. Getting notice 24 hours ago is bad.</p>	Supports Project	Request for Earlier Notification of Open Houses