



# 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).

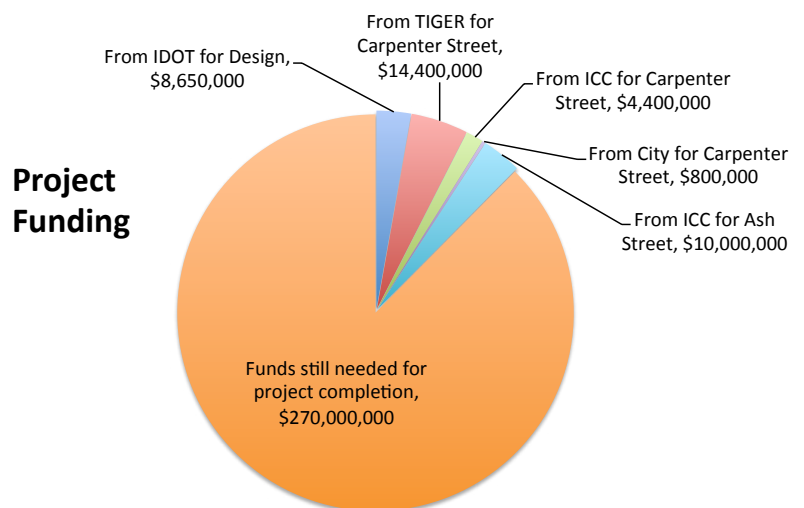
### 3) When did the project begin?

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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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

