



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Illiana Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Released for Public Comment

Peotone, IL and Lowell, IN - The Illinois and Indiana Departments of Transportation (INDOT and IDOT) will host public hearings for the Illiana Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that is evaluating transportation improvements in Will and Kankakee County in Illinois, and Lake County, Indiana.

The public hearings are scheduled on July 31, 2012 in Illinois and August 1, 2012 in Indiana to obtain public testimony on the alternatives for the proposed Illiana Corridor. The public hearings will be an open house format, and interested persons may attend anytime between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. There will be a continuous PowerPoint presentation, and the public is encouraged to attend to review the Tier 1 Draft EIS, the alternatives, Land Acquisition procedures, ask questions and share their views. Attendees are encouraged to provide verbal or written testimony to a court reporter that will be included as part of the public record and speak with IDOT, INDOT and study team representatives on a one-on-one basis. A public forum will be held at 6:00 p.m. each day.

After extensive data analysis and evaluation, the Tier 1 Draft EIS will be made available for public review and comment on July 13, 2012 at www.illianacorridor.org, local libraries located within the study area and DOT offices. A complete listing of these locations can be found on the project website. **Comments on the Tier 1 Draft EIS will be accepted through August 29, 2012.** The Tier 1 Draft EIS is a compilation of the stakeholder outreach and evaluation results of three proposed corridors and the “no-build” alternative carried forward for further studies. The Draft EIS describes encroachment into base flood plains, impacts on wetlands or Section 4(f) properties for these corridors. **The alignment of these corridors has been developed considering IDOT and INDOT environmental investigations, engineering studies, and public input.**

The Illiana Corridor Study began in the spring of 2011. Throughout the process, IDOT and INDOT have placed a high priority on extensive public involvement as an important aspect to guide the study. Significant modifications were made throughout the study that resulted from public involvement and other findings. Following these hearings, public comment and other study findings will be considered to develop the recommended Preferred Alternative. All three current alternatives can be found on the project website where a detailed, interactive map shows the corridor locations: http://illianacorridor.org/about/prelim_alternative.aspx.

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The public hearings will be held at the following times and locations:

ILLINOIS

Tuesday, July 31, 2012
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Peotone High School
605 West North Street
Peotone, IL 60468

INDIANA

Wednesday, August 1, 2012
5:00-8:00 p.m.
Lowell Middle School
19250 Cline Ave.
Lowell, IN 46356

*The meeting is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Anyone needing specific assistance should contact Kara Olson of Images, Inc. at (630) 510-3944. Persons planning to attend who will need a sign language interpreter or other similar accommodations should notify the TTY/TTD number (800) 526-0844/or 711; TTY users (Spanish) (800) 501-0864/ or 711; and for Telebraille dial (877) 526-6670 at least five days prior to the meeting.

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