



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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****Public Notice****

SECOND TIER OF THE ILLIANA CORRIDOR STUDY KICKS OFF Public Meetings to be Held

Springfield, IL and Indianapolis, IN - The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) completed the first tier of the Illiana Corridor study project in January 2013 with approval of the Record of Decision (ROD), advancing one corridor and a no-action alternative into the second tier of the project.

The second tier of the study project shifts the focus from the original broad 952 square-mile study area to the communities, landowners, and access needs along the preferred corridor. It includes more detailed engineering and environmental studies, and is expected to be completed early 2014. Funding alternatives will also be considered, and both States have adopted Public Private Partnership (P3) legislation, which allows the Illiana Study to use private investment for the financing, construction and operation of a transportation facility.

The recommended corridor, "B3," extends from I-55 near Wilmington, Illinois 46.8 miles east to I-65 near Cedar Lake, Indiana, and was identified as the preferred corridor alternative during the first tier of the planning process.

IDOT and INDOT will host the first round of open house public meetings for the Tier Two Illiana Corridor study. The purpose of these meetings is to explain the Tier Two process, which includes refinement of the preferred corridor; interchange locations and layout; determining overpass and underpass opportunities; environmental analysis; and continued stakeholder outreach.

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

ILLINOIS
Tuesday, April 16, 2013
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Peotone High School
605 West North Street
Peotone, IL 60468

INDIANA
Thursday, April 18, 2013
5:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Lowell Middle School
19250 Cline Avenue
Lowell, IN 46356

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The kickoff of the second tier of the project represents an important milestone for the Illiana Corridor. The expressway will reduce the strain of truck traffic on local roads, improving safety, cutting commuting times, reducing congestion, and improving accessibility to jobs. Environmentally, it will help by reducing the number of travel hours and fuel wasted due to cars and trucks caught in congestion. IDOT and INDOT estimate the project will create or retain more than 9,000 construction jobs immediately, and more than 25,000 long-term jobs.

Another important component of the Illiana planning process, beginning in 2013, will be a study of funding, financing and implementation options, including the feasibility of Public-Private Partnerships (P3). P3 offers a unique opportunity to bring new investment dollars into the state and deliver much needed new jobs and travel benefits more quickly than conventional methods of project delivery.

**The meeting is accessible to individuals with disabilities. Anyone needing specific assistance should contact Sarah Copeland 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.*

-03/29/2013-