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IDOT Public Meeting June 17 in Pontiac on Livingston County Railroad Crossing Improvements

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will host a public meeting Tuesday, June 17, about the proposed improvements to Livingston County at-grade railroad crossings as part of the Illinois High-Speed Rail project. The meeting will take place from 4 to 7 p.m. in the city council chambers of Pontiac City Hall, 115 W. Howard St., in Pontiac.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information on the reconstruction of several at-grade Union Pacific Railroad crossings in Livingston County. The public will have the opportunity to view project exhibits, provide comments and meet one-on-one with IDOT and study team representatives. The meeting will be held in an open-house format. The public is encouraged to attend at any time during the event.

The crossings being reconstructed include Mazon Avenue and Chippewa Street in Dwight; E 2000 N. Road and Reynolds Street in Pontiac; and E 1600 N. Road and E 1200 N. Road in unincorporated Livingston County. The improvements at these crossings, which includes potential land acquisition and impacts to historic resources, will be overseen by IDOT.

“This public meeting represents another important milestone in the effort to build safe, reliable high-speed service from Chicago to St. Louis and all of the great Illinois cities in between,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Ann L. Schneider. “The improvements that will be made at these at-grade railroad crossings are a major part of the overall project by enhancing safety in the area and making passenger service in Illinois even more efficient for our customers.”

The Illinois High-Speed Rail project involves improving existing Amtrak service between Chicago and St. Louis, with the upgrades allowing trains to travel up to 110 miles per hour. Portions of the corridor will be completed by the end of 2015, with the entire route finished in 2017, reducing the trip between the two cities to 4½ hours.

For specific project information and business opportunities, visit www.idothsr.org. Comments and questions also can be made by calling (855) IDOT-HSR (436-8477). You also can follow the project on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail.

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