

# Illiana Corridor

## TIER ONE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



July 2012

**Illiana Corridor**  
**Will and Kankakee Counties, Illinois, and Lake County, Indiana**

**TIER ONE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

Submitted Pursuant to 42 USC 4332 (2)(c) and 49 USC 303 by the

US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration  
and  
Illinois Department of Transportation  
and  
Indiana Department of Transportation

6/28/2012

Date of Approval



For Illinois Department of Transportation

6/26/2012

Date of Approval



JASON S. WASSON  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER  
ENGINEERING SERVICES  
AND DESIGN SUPPORT

For Indiana Department of Transportation

7/2/2012

Date of Approval



For Federal Highway Administration

For additional information concerning the project and/or this document:

Norman Stoner  
Division Administrator  
Federal Highway  
Administration  
3250 Executive Park Drive  
Springfield, IL 62703  
Telephone: 217-492-4600

John Fortmann  
Acting Deputy Director  
Illinois Department of  
Transportation  
201 West Center Court  
Schaumburg, IL 60196  
Telephone: 847-705-4000

Greg Kicinski  
Director-Project  
Management  
Indiana Department of  
Transportation  
100 North Senate Avenue  
IGCN 642  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Telephone: 317-234-1534

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT), in consultation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), have conducted a study of transportation solutions for the Illiana Corridor. The purpose of the Illiana Corridor project is to provide a transportation solution that will improve regional mobility, address local system deficiencies, and provide efficient movement of freight. The 950 square mile Study Area for the Illiana Corridor includes portions of Will and Kankakee counties in Illinois and Lake County in Indiana, between I-55 on the west and I-65 on the east. The study is being advanced as a tiered process. The Tier One evaluation involves conceptual engineering and a geographic information system (GIS) level analysis to allow for an informed decision on the issues under consideration and possible selection of a transportation system corridor(s) for further analysis in the Tier Two National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies. Corridors under consideration in the Tier One Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) include the No-Action Alternative and three corridors which are primarily 2,000 feet wide, except for short lengths with reduced width to avoid various residential areas and the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. The three corridors include: Corridors A3S2, B3, and B4. Potential environmental and social impacts for the corridors were evaluated based on a working alignment centered within each corridor to accommodate a 400 foot wide transportation facility. By evaluating impacts for a working alignment within a corridor, a realistic comparison among corridors was achieved. Each working alignment within the corridors includes three interchange design concepts for connecting to IL-53, which is historic Alternate Route 66 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The corridors vary in length including Corridor A3S2 at 51.1 miles, Corridor B3 at 46.8 miles, and Corridor B4 at 48.8 miles.

Corridor A3S2 is an east-west oriented corridor that generally traverses the north portion of the Study Area in Illinois and proceeds in a southeastern direction through the central portion of the Study Area in Indiana. Potential environmental and social impacts for the working alignment within Corridor A3S2 include: 81-83 residential, 10 non-agricultural business, and one agricultural business displacements; 322-325 farm parcel impacts and 2,453-2,483 acres of farmland impacts; potential effects to 11 cultural resources; 113 acres of forest impacts; 26 stream crossings; 53 acres of floodplain fill volume; 76 acres of wetland impacts; and two Section 4(f) resources crossed.

Corridors B3 and B4 are east-west oriented corridors that generally traverse the central portion of the Study Area following the same alignment through most of Illinois with Corridor B4 transitioning to the southern portion of the Study Area in Indiana. Potential environmental and social impacts for the working alignment within Corridor B3 include: 22 residential, nine non-agricultural business, and one agricultural business displacements; 359-363 farm parcel impacts and 2,667-2,725 acres of farmland impacts; potential effects to 14 cultural resources; 65 acres of forest impacts; 33 stream crossings; 46 acres of floodplain fill volume; 35 acres of wetland impacts; and three Section 4(f) resources crossed. Impacts for the working alignment within Corridor B4 include: 12

residential, nine non-agricultural business, and two agricultural business displacements; 344-348 farm parcel impacts and 2,768-2,827 acres of farmland impacts; potential effects to eight cultural resources; 17 acres of forest impacts; 53 stream crossings; 108 acres of floodplain fill volume; 15 acres of wetland impacts; and two Section 4(f) resources crossed.

Comments on this Tier One DEIS should be submitted by August 29, 2012 and should be directed to Mr. John Fortmann, Illinois Department of Transportation at 201 West Center Court, Schaumburg, IL 60196, or Mr. Greg Kicinski, Indiana Department of Transportation at 100 North Senate Avenue, IGCN 642, Indianapolis, IN 46204. Comments may also be submitted through email at: [johnfortmann@illinois.gov](mailto:johnfortmann@illinois.gov), [gkicinski@indot.in.gov](mailto:gkicinski@indot.in.gov), or through the Illiana Corridor web site at: <http://illianacorridor.org/>.