



State of Illinois
Pat Quinn, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Erica J. Borggren, Acting Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 24, 2014

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Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac Passenger Rail Corridor Program TIER 1 DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT Now Available for Public Comment

FAST FACTS:

- **A Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has been prepared for proposed passenger rail improvements.**
- **To view the Tier 1 Draft EIS go to www.GreatLakesRail.org.**
- **Comments must be received by December 19, 2014, and can be submitted in multiple ways.**
- **Public hearings are scheduled for October in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois.**

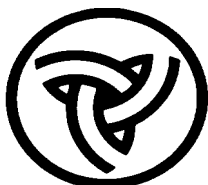
September 23, 2014- The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), in partnership with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), has prepared a Tier 1 Draft Environmental Impact Study (EIS) to evaluate passenger rail improvements for the Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac corridor.

The Tier 1 Draft EIS presents the proposed project's purpose and need, identifies reasonable route alternatives, describes the affected environment, and analyzes the potential environmental impacts of the alternatives considered, including the no-build alternative.

Visit the public hearings page on the program website at www.GreatLakesRail.org to download and view the entire Tier 1 Draft EIS document. Also, you may obtain a list of document review sites on the program website that will have CDs and/or hard copies of the Tier 1 Draft EIS available by September 26, 2014.

Public hearings for the Tier 1 Draft EIS will be held October 2014 in Dearborn, Mich., Gary, Ind., and Chicago. The Draft EIS, exhibits and other reference materials will be on display. Program staff will be available to answer questions and a presentation will be made. Opportunities to provide written and oral comments will be available at the public hearings.

A public comment period is under way to collect feedback on the Tier 1 Draft EIS. All comments must be submitted by December 19, 2014, for the public record. Comments may be submitted as follows:



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- Provide written or oral comments at a public hearing
- Use the online comment form at www.GreatLakesRail.org
- Email: MDOT-HSR-Detroit-Pontiac-Chicago@michigan.gov
- Call the toll-free number at 877- 351-0853
- Mail your written comments to Robert Parsons, Public Hearings Officer, Michigan Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, MI 48909

After considering all public input, a Final EIS will be prepared and released for public review. The Final EIS will identify a preferred route alternative and level of service.

HEARING DATES AND TIMES:

All hearings will be open to the public from 4 to 7 p.m. Participants will be able to view hearing materials and talk with program staff between 4 and 5:30 p.m. A presentation will be given at 5:30 p.m. The public testimony session will begin after the presentation at about 6 p.m.

Michigan

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2014
 4 to 7 p.m. EST
 Dearborn Intermodal Passenger Rail Station
 20201 W. Michigan Avenue
 Dearborn, MI

Illinois

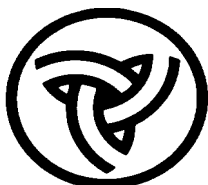
Wednesday, Oct. 29, 2014
 4 to 7 p.m. CST
 Chicago Union Station
 Union Gallery Room (Off the Great Hall)
 500 W. Jackson Blvd.
 Chicago, IL

Indiana

Thursday, Oct. 30, 2014
 4 to 7 p.m. CST
 Genesis Convention Center Lake Room
 One Genesis Center Plaza
 Gary, IN

With an advance notice of seven days, MDOT can make accommodations for persons with disabilities and/or limited English-speaking ability, and persons needing auxiliary aids or services of interpreters, signers, readers, or large print. For accommodations call the program's toll free number at 877-351-0853.

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