

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the Springfield Flyover?

In 2012, the Federal Railroad Administration, as part of the Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Rail Program, recommended a rail grade separated overpass, or flyover, to be studied as part of the route within Springfield, Illinois. The next step is conducting the Tier 2 Environmental Assessment (EA) and Design Report for this rail overpass, named the Springfield Flyover.

2. What is the study area?

The map (right) shows the study limits for the EA: Stanford Avenue on the north, Interstate 72 on the south, MacArthur Boulevard on the west, and South Second Street on the east.

3. Why is the Springfield Flyover being proposed as part of the High-Speed Rail Program?

The Springfield Flyover is part of the overall proposed improvements to enhance passenger service by reducing delays; improving schedule reliability; increasing average train speed; and increasing the number of daily round trips. Currently, a pair of at-grade rail crossovers north of Stanford Avenue allow Union Pacific (UP) and Norfolk Southern (NS) trains to cross each other. UP trains travel between Chicago and St. Louis and NS between Detroit and Kansas City. The former must wait for clearance from NS dispatchers before proceeding. In order to meet the high-speed rail schedule guarantees required by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), the at-grade rail crossing must be eliminated. Thus, the Tier 1 EIS recommended that the UP tracks be realigned and elevated to cross over the NS tracks.

4. What will occur during the Tier 2 Environmental Assessment?

The Tier 2 EA will update and advance the work completed during the Tier 1 EIS for the Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Rail Program. It will include:

- Preparing a purpose and need statement to explain why the flyover is necessary;
- Determining facility requirements and design criteria;
- Developing alternatives that focus on design speed and structure type;
- Evaluating the impacts of each reasonable alternative including right-of-way requirements, construction costs, and environmental impacts and how well they satisfy the purpose and need of the project.



The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), along with the Illinois Department of Transportation, will select a recommended alternative based on the information presented in the EA and in consideration of public input.

5. How will alternatives to the flyover be evaluated?

Alternatives will be evaluated according to their ability to meet the study's purpose and need and for their environmental impacts. Costs, including right-of-way costs, will also be considered in this evaluation.

6. What type of environmental issues will be studied?

The EA will analyze the proposed alternatives' potential impacts to the environment. Environmental issues that will be studied include right-of-way requirements, construction costs, business and residential displacements, and possible environmental, social and economic impacts on surrounding areas including agricultural lands, air quality, water quality, noise/vibration, threatened and endangered species, wetlands, historic and prehistoric sites, aesthetics and parks.

7. Who makes the final decision on what is built?

The Federal Railroad Administration makes the final decision on the Selected Alternative for the Tier 2 Environmental Assessment, in cooperation with IDOT and in consideration of public input received from local municipalities, resource agencies, community representatives and the general public.

8. How is the Tier 2 EA funded?

The EA is funded by the Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Rail Program with state funding.

9. How long will it take to complete the EA study?

The EA process for the Springfield Flyover began in spring 2014 and is scheduled to be completed in winter 2016.

10. How can I learn more and get involved in the study?

The best way to get involved is by attending the Tier 2 Environmental Assessment public meetings. A schedule of these meetings will be posted on the project website and advertised through project materials. Learn more about the EA study and submit questions or comments via the Illinois High-Speed Rail project website at www.idothsr.org/SpringfieldFlyover or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail. If you have any questions, please call the hotline at 1-855-IDOT-HSR (436-8477).

Study Timeline

Summer/Fall 2014	Purpose and Need Development
Fall 2014	Public Meeting #1
Summer 2014 - Spring 2015	Alternatives Analysis
Fall 2014 - Summer 2015	Drainage and Geometric Studies
Winter/Spring 2015	Structure Type Studies
Fall 2014 - Summer 2015	Environmental Assessment
Spring 2015	Public Meeting #2
Fall 2015	Public Meeting/Hearing #3
Winter 2016	FRA Decision & Design Report



**ILLINOIS
HIGH-SPEED RAIL**
CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS

SPRINGFIELD FLYOVER

Tier 2 Environmental Assessment