



Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Welcome to the Public Scoping
Meeting for the EIS on the
Great Lakes Basin Rail Line



Great Lakes Basin Rail Line

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Agenda

- Introductions
- Overview of Surface Transportation Board and EIS Process
- Overview of the Purpose and Need, and Proposed Action
- Board and Project Websites



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Introductions



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Overview of Surface Transportation Board and EIS Process

- The Surface Transportation Board (Board) is the federal agency responsible for granting authority for the construction and operation of new rail line facilities.
- The Board will review the transportation merits of the proposal and the potential environmental impacts.
- The Board will then issue a Final Decision that provides the basis for its decision to deny, grant, or grant with conditions (including environmental conditions), GLBT's request to construct and operate the proposed rail line.



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Overview of Surface Transportation Board and EIS Process (cont.)

➤ Scoping Process

- Conduct agency consultation and public involvement
- Compile scoping comments
- Develop range of alternatives including “No Action” Alternative
- Identify topics to analyze in Draft Environmental Impact Statement
- Issue a Final Scope of Study



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Overview of Surface Transportation Board and EIS Process (cont.)

- Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Analyze potential environmental effects of proposed action and alternatives
 - Develop preliminary mitigation
 - Prepare and issue Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Establish public comment period
 - Hold public meetings



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Overview of Surface Transportation Board and EIS Process (cont.)

- Final Environmental Impact Statement
 - Respond to comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement
 - Prepare and issue the Final Environmental Impact Statement
 - Office of Environmental Analysis identifies its Preferred Alternative and recommends environmental related mitigation

- Final Decision
 - Final Decision to be made by the Board - equivalent to a Record of Decision
 - Cooperating Agencies issue Records of Decision



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Applicant's Purpose and Need

The proposed project is not a federal government-proposed or sponsored project. Thus, the Board has determined that the project's purpose and need should be informed by both the Applicant's goals and the agency's enabling statute, here, 49 U.S.C. § 10901. Accordingly the Applicant's Purpose and Need includes:

- Provide Class I railroads and a regional railroad that utilize the Chicago metropolitan rail network with more efficient rail operations by enabling freight rail traffic not destined for or originating in Chicago to bypass the congested Chicago rail network; and
- Add capacity to the regional rail network to accommodate existing and potential future rail traffic while avoiding major population centers.



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Applicant's Proposed Action

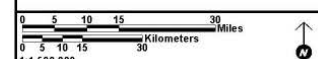
- The Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) proposes to construct and operate an approximately 278-mile rail line.
- According to GLBT, the proposed rail line would extend generally from La Porte, Indiana, through Illinois to Milton, Wisconsin, and would connect with existing Class I railroads.
- GLBT would also construct and operate a rail terminal near Manteno, Illinois, to provide switching, servicing, and car and locomotive repair to its railroad customers.



- GLB Proposed Alignment
- GLB Proposed Railroad Interchange
- GLB Proposed Railport
- Interstate Highway
- Highway

**GREAT LAKES BASIN
RAIL LINE EIS - FD 35952**

Project Area





Surface Transportation Board

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Most Recent Board Actions

Docket Number	Decision ID	Deciding Body	Decision Type	Case Title
FD 35952 0	45134	Director, Office Of Environmental Analysis	Notice	GREAT LAK CONSTRUCT AND WISCC

Quick Links:

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- [Major Railroad Mergers](#)
- [Merger Correspondence](#)
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STB News

April 1
[RELEASED: REAUTHORIZATION ACT REPORTS](#)

March 23
[COMMENT SOUGHT: PROPOSED REVOCATION OF COMMODITY EXEMPTIONS](#)

Items of Interest

- ▶ [Final Environmental Assessment Issued: N.W. Tenn. Port Authority/Cates Landing](#)
On March 30, 2016, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) issued a Final Environmental Assessment (Final EA) discussing OEA's final conclusions and recommendations regarding the potential environmental impacts of the Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority's proposal to construct and operate an approximately 5.5 mile rail line in Lake County, Tenn. The proposed line would connect the newly constructed Port of Cates Landing, on the Mississippi River, to an existing rail line near Tiptonville, Tenn. To view the Final EA in Northwest Tennessee Regional Port Authority—Construction and Operation Exemption—in Lake County, TN, FD 35802, click [here](#).
- ▶ [Issued: Environmental Notices Concerning Great Lakes Basin Transportation's Proposal to Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin.](#)
The Surface Transportation Board's Office of

Need Help?

Have a question? We are here to help. Contact our [Rail Customer Public](#)



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Home

Project Background

Environmental Review
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Related Links & Documents

Project Mailing List

Online Meeting
Registration

Disclaimer: This project website was developed and is maintained by the Surface Transportation Board, the lead federal agency responsible for preparing the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Great Lakes Basin Rail Line. Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. has no role in determining the content of this website.

Welcome

Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) plans to file either a petition for exemption or an application seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate an approximately 278-mile rail line. According to GLBT, the proposed rail line would extend generally from La Porte, Indiana through Illinois to Milton, Wisconsin and would connect with existing Class I railroads. GLBT states that the project is intended to relieve Chicago-area shipping congestion by creating a bypass for through traffic not destined for or originating in the Chicago area.

The Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed rail line.

To assist in determining the scope of the EIS, OEA will hold ten public meetings in the project area and one public meeting online, during which interested parties will have opportunities to learn more about the project and to convey oral comments.

Project Updates

In a decision issued on April 8, 2016, OEA announced to the public and all interested parties that the comment period for the EIS Draft Scope of Study will be extended an additional 30 days to June 15, 2016. OEA has also added two additional scoping meetings; one each in Belvidere, Illinois, and Valparaiso, Indiana. The meetings in Belvidere, Illinois, and Valparaiso, Indiana will be held at the following locations and times:

- **Tuesday, April 12, 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, at the Aberdeen Manor Ballroom located at 216 Ballantrae Street, Valparaiso, IN.
- **Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**, at the Community Building Complex of Boone County Auditorium located at 111 West First Street, Belvidere, IL.

An online public scoping meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 27, 2016. The public is encouraged to participate in the online meetings if they are unable to attend in-person one of the 10 scheduled meetings. If you wish to register to attend the online public scoping meeting, [click here](#).



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Thank You