



Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
4802 Sheboygan Ave, Room 120B
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

Scott Walker, Governor
Mark Gottlieb, P.E., Secretary
wisconsindot.gov

Telephone: (608) 266-1113
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April 11, 2016

Re: Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. - Railroad Proposal in Wisconsin

Dear Stakeholder:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) is monitoring the above listed proceeding with interest. Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc. (GLBT) proposes to construct and operate a new railroad on a 278-mile long, 200-foot wide railroad corridor, from Indiana, around Chicago, and into southern Wisconsin. This is an extensive and complex construction project, which may affect your municipality, organization or group.

The federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) is coordinating the initial "scoping" phase of the environmental process, which will identify potential alternative routes. OEA will then analyze potential impacts of the proposed railroad and alternative corridors, up to 30 miles of each side of the corridors.

This is a significant proposal which may have short- and long-term impacts upon Wisconsin transportation systems and the environment, as well as local, state and regional economies. WisDOT strongly encourages you to review the enclosed material, as well as the information available at the STB website, listed below. We also encourage you to consider participating in the upcoming meeting, as well as future meetings, if you believe it may affect your municipality, organization or group.

In addition, your municipality, organization or group should consider whether to submit a comment on the Environmental Scoping phase. Comments are due June 15, 2016 (extended from May 15, 2016).

- GLBT plans to seek authority from the STB to construct and operate an approximately 278-mile rail line, which would extend generally from La Porte, Indiana through Illinois to Milton, Wisconsin and would connect with existing Class I railroads.
- STB OEA is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement to analyze the potential environmental impacts of the proposed rail line.

- See more at: <http://greatlakesbasinraileis.com/index.html>
- STB CONTACT:
Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001
202-245-0294
david.navecky@stb.dot.gov

Comments may also be submitted electronically by accessing the following website:

<http://www.stb.dot.gov/Ect1/ecorrespondence.nsf/incoming?OpenForm>

The only STB public information meeting currently scheduled in Wisconsin will be held at 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., April 18, 2016, at:

Janesville Craig High School Cafeteria
401 S Randall Ave
Janesville, WI 53545

WisDOT will continue to monitor this proceeding closely and work with our partners during the entire process. Please find enclosed a copy of a March 18, 2016 informational letter to WisDOT from the STB OEA. It describes the intent of GLBT's proposal, the role of the STB, and opportunities for public comment. For information about WisDOT's participation, please contact John Alley, Director of WisDOT Bureau of Transit, Local Roads, Railroads and Harbors at 608-266-2963 or john.alley@dot.wi.gov.

Sincerely,



Mark Gottlieb, P.E.
Secretary