



FACT SHEET

The Surface Transportation Board’s Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) is providing an extensive public outreach and agency coordination comment period to ensure that the public, agencies, elected officials, and communities have the opportunity to actively participate and comment on the environmental review process. Comments on the Draft EIS must be **postmarked by September 30, 2008**, and can be submitted as set forth below.

Beginning on August 25, 2008, SEA will host **eight open house/public meetings** throughout the Chicagoland area to present the findings of the Draft EIS and receive public comments. Each open house/public meeting will offer an informal open house segment from 4:00-6:00pm, followed by a formal public meeting from 6:00-9:00pm. At beginning of each formal public meeting segment, SEA will give a brief overview of its findings in the Draft EIS and will invite interested parties to make oral comments and/or submit written comments. SEA will have a transcriber present to record the oral comments in either English or Spanish. The dates, locations and times of the open house/public meetings are shown below:

OPEN HOUSE/PUBLIC MEETINGS ON DRAFT EIS

Date	Location	Address
Monday, August 25	Matteson, Illinois Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center	500 Holiday Plaza Drive Matteson, IL 60443
Tuesday, August 26	Mundelein, Illinois Crowne Plaza Chicago North Shore	510 E. Route 83 Mundelein, IL 60060
Wednesday, August 27	Barrington, Illinois Barrington High School	616 W. Main Street Barrington, IL 60010
Thursday, August 28	Bartlett, Illinois Bartlett High School	701 Schick Road Bartlett, IL 60103
Monday, Sept. 8	Chicago, Illinois Loyola University of Chicago	25 East Pearson Street Chicago, IL 60611
Tuesday, Sept. 9	Aurora, Illinois West Aurora High School	1201 W. New York Street Aurora, IL 60506
Wednesday, Sept. 10	Gary, Indiana Indiana University Northwest	3400 Broadway Gary, IN 46408
Thursday, Sept. 11	Joliet, Illinois Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center	411 S. Larkin Avenue Joliet, IL 60435

The same short presentations will be given by staff from the Board and HDR, Inc. at the beginning of each public meeting following the schedule outlined below:

Open House: 4:00pm – 6:00pm	Staff from the Board and HDR, Inc. will be available to answer questions and help members of the public review project maps and other findings of the Draft EIS and analysis.
Public Meeting: 6:00pm – 9:00pm	<p>Staff from the Board and HDR, Inc. will make a short presentation to the public and will then be available to receive formal comments on the Draft EIS. This portion of the meeting will be held for the purpose of receiving comment. It is not a question-and-answer session.</p> <p>Beginning on July 25, 2008, speaker registration will be determined on a first come first serve basis by calling the hotline to pre-register in advance (1-800-347-0689) or at the sign-in tables the day of the public meeting. Each speaker will be allocated up to 3 minutes to present his or her comments.</p>

In order to allow as many speakers the opportunity to speak, we ask that groups appoint a single spokesperson, that members of the public who have spoken at another meeting wait until others who have not spoken have the opportunity to be heard, and that speakers summarize their written comments rather than reading their full comments verbatim. In addition to speaking at the public meetings, comments may be submitted through the following methods:

Written Comments: Comment forms will be provided at the public meetings and will be accepted on site or by mail. Additionally, comment forms or written letters may be **postmarked by September 30, 2008** to:

Phillis Johnson-Ball
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423
Ref: STB Finance Docket No. 35087

Recorded Comments: Court reporters will be available at the public meetings for those who wish to dictate their comments in a more informal setting. Comments may also be recorded at any time during the comment period on the project hotline: 1-800-347-0689.

Electronic Comments: Comments may be filed electronically on the Board’s web site, www.stb.dot.gov, by clicking on the **E-FILING** link. Please refer to STB Finance Docket No. 35087.

All comments received – written, E-filed, or oral – will carry equal weight in helping to finalize the EIS and guide the board in its decision making on this matter.