

information. The Agency will summarize or include your comments in the request for OMB's clearance of this ICR.

Issued under the authority of 49 CFR 1.87.

Nicole S. Michel,

Acting Associate Administrator, Office of Research and Registration.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Railroad Administration

[Docket No. FRA-2026-2179]

Notice of Limitation on Claims Against Elwood to Braidwood Track Construction Project

AGENCY: Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces final environmental action taken for the Elwood to Braidwood Track Construction Project. The purpose of this notice is to advise the public of the time limit to file any claims that may challenge these decisions and other Federal permits, licenses, and approvals for the Project.

DATES: A claim seeking judicial review of Federal agency actions for the listed rail transportation project will be barred unless the claim is filed on or before August 24, 2028. If the Federal law that authorizes judicial review of a claim provides a time period of less than two years for filing such claim, then the shorter time period applies.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For further information related to this notice, please contact Kathryn Johnson, Attorney Adviser, Office of the Chief Counsel by email: kathryn.johnson@dot.gov or by telephone: 202-731-0658.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Notice is given that FRA has taken final agency action by issuing certain approvals for the railroad project listed below. The actions on the project, as well as the laws under which such actions were taken, are described in the documentation issued in connection with the project to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), available at <https://railroads.dot.gov/rail-network-development/environment/environmental-reviews/elwood-braidwood-track-construction>.

This notice applies to all Federal agency decisions on the listed project as of the issuance date of this notice and

all laws under which such actions were taken, including but not limited to, NEPA (42 U.S.C. 4321-4375); Section 4(f) requirements (23 U.S.C. 138, 49 U.S.C. 303); Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. 306108); the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401-7671q); the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1531-1544); the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251), the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403), the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1451), and relevant Executive Orders. This notice does not, however, alter or extend a shorter limitation period that may exist for challenges of project decisions covered by this notice. The project that is the subject of this notice follows:

Project name and location: Elwood to Braidwood Track Construction Project, Will County, Illinois.

Project Summary: The Federal Railroad Administration (Lead Federal Agency) and Illinois Department of Transportation (Project Proponent/Sponsor) propose to implement railroad improvements between Elwood, IL and Braidwood, IL in accordance with the Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Rail Program. The project includes construction of a second mainline track of approximately 9.5 miles adjacent to the existing Union Pacific Railroad mainline track, a parallel maintenance access facility, grade crossing improvements, new fencing, culvert, bridge, signal, and related work.

In the 2010 Omnibus Appropriations Act, Congress provided IDOT funding to support preliminary engineering for the Elwood to Braidwood Track Construction Project, among other improvements on the Chicago to St. Louis corridor. At this time, no federal funding has been awarded for final design or construction of the Elwood to Braidwood Track Construction Project.

In July 2025, FRA and IDOT released an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Elwood to Braidwood Track Construction Project to evaluate potential impacts to the human and natural environment, in accordance with NEPA. FRA was the lead Federal agency for the NEPA process. FRA released the EA for public review and comment July 9, 2025 through August 15, 2025. IDOT hosted an open house/public hearing on August 7, 2025. FRA considered all comments before issuing a FONSI.

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 24201(a)(4) and 23 U.S.C. 139(l)(1).

Issued in Washington, DC.

Marlys Ann Osterhues,

Director, Environmental Program Management.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Office of the Secretary

Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Council; Public Meeting

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary (OST), Department of Transportation (DOT).

ACTION: Notice of public meetings.

SUMMARY: The Office of the Secretary of Transportation (OST) announces the next public meeting of the Beautifying Transportation Infrastructure Council (Council) on September 30, 2026. This notice announces the date, time, and location of the virtual meeting, which will be open to the public. The purpose of the Council is to advise the Secretary of Transportation on enhancing the aesthetic value of our Nation's transportation systems.

DATES: The meeting will be held on September 30, 2026, beginning at 10:00 p.m. (EST) and ending at 4:00 p.m. (EST). The exact start and end times are subject to change; please monitor <https://www.transportation.gov/beautifytransportation/meetings> for the latest information.

ADDRESSES: The Council will meet virtually. The public may join the meeting virtually, with information available on <https://www.transportation.gov/beautifytransportation/meetings>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: The Council's Designated Federal Officer, Julianne Schwarzer, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, Office of the Secretary, BeautifyTransportation@dot.gov or 617-999-9667.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) established the Council as a Federal Advisory Committee in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Pub. L. 92-463, 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10) to advise the Secretary on enhancing the aesthetic value of our Nation's transportation systems. The Council provides recommendations on policies, designs, and funding priorities that beautify transportation infrastructure, including highways, bridges, and transit hubs, while maintaining safety and efficiency.