

APPENDIX B

**RESOURCE AGENCY EARLY COORDINATION PACKET AND
LIST OF RESOURCE AGENCIES**

Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail Planning Study Proposed E-mails to Agencies

E-mail subject line: **“Agency scoping underway for the Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail Planning Study”**

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and the Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT) are notifying that they are evaluating alternatives for the reestablishment of passenger rail service from Chicago, Illinois, through Iowa, to Omaha, Nebraska (the Project). The Iowa DOT’s evaluation will be documented in the Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail System Planning Study (the Study) Tier 1 Service Level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Notice of Intent for the Tier 1 Service Level EIS was published in the Federal Register on March 15, 2012. The scoping process is underway and is scheduled through April 16, 2012.

Attached is a description of the Study (which provides background information and identifies the transportation problems that the Project is expected to address), and a figure showing the previously established routes that constitute the Study Area. Public involvement, including scoping, is also being conducted for this Study. Relevant information on the NEPA process and the Study is available on <http://www.iowadot.gov/chicagotoomaha>. The NOI and the Purpose and Need Statement are both included on the website under “Resources” (<http://www.iowadot.gov/chicagotoomaha/resources.html>). Public scoping materials can be found at <http://chicagotoomaha.com/>.

We are soliciting your input on the Study. The aforementioned website will host relevant documents for the Study, with an Alternatives Analysis Report scheduled to be posted before a series of public meetings in May; the website provides additional information on the meetings. Please reply to this e-mail address with any comments. Thank you.

Salutation	F. Name	L. Name	Title	Organization
Iowa Federal Agency Coordination List				
	Glenn	Helm		Federal Aviation Administration
	Dick	Hainje	Regional Director	Federal Emergency Management Agency
	Lubin	Quinones	Iowa Division Administrator	Federal Highway Administration
	Steven	Fender	Deputy Regional Administrator	Federal Railroad Administration
	David	Gregory	Deputy Regional Administrator	Federal Railroad Administration
	Darrell	Tisor	Regional Administrator	Federal Railroad Administration
	Joan	Roesler	Planning and Program Development Team Leader	Federal Transit Administration, Region VII
Colonel	Shawn	McGinley	Rock Island District Commander	US Army Corps of Engineers
	Martha	Cheiply		US Army Corps of Engineers
	Kayla	Eckert-Uptmor		US Army Corps of Engineers
	Eric	Washburn	Commander (dwb)	US Coast Guard
	Richard	Sims	State Conservationist	US Department of Agriculture
	Andrew	Boeddeker	HUD Regional Office	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
	James	Ryan	Supervisory Project Manager	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
	Robert	Stewart		US Department of Interior
	Joe	Cothorn	NEPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
	Eliodora	Chamberlain	Wetlands	US Environmental Protection Agency
	Mike	George	Field Supervisor	US Fish and Wildlife Service
	Richard	Nelson	Project Manager	US Fish and Wildlife Service
	Kathleen	Moench	Section 6(f) Funds Coordinator	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
	Kelly	Poole	Environmental Specialist	Iowa Department of Natural Resources
	Christine	Schwake		Iowa Department of Natural Resources
	Bryan	Bradley	Utility Engineer	Iowa Department of Transportation
	Barbara	Mitchell	Deputy SHPO	State Historical Society of Iowa
	Nick	Chevance	Environmental Coordinator	National Park Service
Other Federal Agency Contacts				
	Joel	Himsl	Garrison Manager	Department of the Army
	Karla	Bullett	Chicago District Executive Office	US Army Corps of Engineers
	Marisol	Simon	Regional Administrator	Federal Transit Administration, Region V
	Susan	Schalk		Federal Aviation Administration
	Kenneth	Sessa	Regional Environmental Officer	FEMA, Region 7
	Amanda	Ratliff		Federal Emergency Management Agency
	Antonio	Riley	Regional Administrator	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
	Beverly	Bishop	Deputy Regional Administrator	US Department of Housing and Urban Development
Commander	Robert E.	Bailey, Jr.	Commanding Officer	US Coast Guard, Ninth District
	Scherrie	Giamanco	State Executive Director	US Department of Agriculture
	Dan	Steinkruger	State Executive Director	US Department of Agriculture
	John	Whitaker	State Executive Director	US Department of Agriculture
	Jeffrey	Zimprich	Acting State Conservationist	US Department of Agriculture
	Joe	Gates	District Conservationist	US Department of Agriculture
	Mark	Jackson	Coordinator	US Department of Agriculture
	Kenneth	Westlake	Chief, NEPA Implementation Section	US Environmental Protection Agency
	Peter	Cassell	Water Division Liaison	US Environmental Protection Agency
	Danny	Briggs	Transportation Engineer	US Federal Highway Administration
	Joseph	Werning	Division Administrator	US Federal Highway Administration
	Norman	Stoner	Division Administrator	US Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration
	Kevin	Foerster	Refuge Manager	US Fish & Wildlife Service
	Louise	Clemency	Field Supervisor	US Fish and Wildlife Service
	Mark	Baran	District Conservationist	USDA/NRCS
	Keith	Krause	District Conservationist	USDA/NRCS
	Eileen	Kirsch		USGS
	Valincia	Darby	Assistant Regional Environmental Officer	US Department of Interior
	Andrew	Raddant	Regional Environmental Officer	US Department of Interior
Other Iowa Agency Contacts				
	Jeff	Wardlow	Executive Director	Iowa Agriculture Development Authority
	Bill	Northey	Secretary of Agriculture	Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship
	Cyndi	Pederson	Director	Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
	Thomas	Hart	Division Administrator	Iowa Economic Development Authority
	Scott	Dockstader	District 1 Engineer	Iowa Department of Transportation
	Vicki	Dumdei	District 2 Engineer	Iowa Department of Transportation
	Tony	Lazarowicz	District 3 Engineer	Iowa Department of Transportation
	Jim	Armstrong	District 5 Engineer	Iowa Department of Transportation
	Jim	Schnoebelen	District 6 Engineer	Iowa Department of Transportation
	Troy	Jerman	District 4 Engineer	Iowa Department of Transportation
	Sherry	Timmins	Team Leader	Iowa Economic Development Authority
	Liz	Christiansen	Board Administrator	Iowa Environmental Protection Commission
	Sandra	Sampson		Iowa State Parks Bureau
	Deborah	Lewis	Board Member	Iowa State Preserves Advisory Board
				Iowa Transportation Commission
	Mary Kay	Brinkman		Iowa Department of Public Health
	Charles	Palmer	Director	Iowa Department of Human Services

Illinois Agency Contacts

	Shauna	Kelley	Bureau Chief	Illinois Commerce Commission
	Steve	Chard	Acting Bureau Chief	Illinois Department of Agriculture
	Warren	Goetsch	Bureau Chief	Illinois Department of Agriculture
	Warren	Ribley	Director	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
	Karen	Miller	Section Manager	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
	Gary	Jereb	Section Manager	Illinois Department of Natural Resources
				Illinois Department of Transportation
				Illinois Department of Transportation
				Illinois Department of Transportation
				Illinois Department of Transportation
	Aaron	Weatherholt	Bureau Chief of Operations	Illinois Department of Transportation
	Scott	Stitt	Acting Bureau Chief	Illinois Department of Transportation
	Michael	Garcia	Bureau Chief	Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Railroads
	George	Weber	Deputy Director	Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Railroads
	Carol	Para		Illinois Division of Aeronautics
	Douglas	Scott	Director	Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
	Anne	Haaker	Deputy SHPO	Illinois Historical Preservation Agency
	Jolene	Willis		Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs
	Randy	Heidorn	Acting Director	Illinois Nature Preserves Commission
	Andrew	Ross	Deputy Chief of Staff	State of Illinois
	Michelle	Saddler	Secretary	Illinois Department of Human Services

Nebraska Agency Contacts

	John	Moeschen		US Army Corps of Engineers - Nebraska Regulatory
	Craig	Derickson	State Conservationist	US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service
	Mark	Schenkelberg		US Federal Aviation Administration
	Clifton	Jones		US Department of Housing and Urban Development
	Beth	Freeman		US Department of Homeland Security, FEMA Region 7
	John	Winkler		Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District
	Paul	Mullen		Metropolitan Area Planning Agency
	Ellis	Thompkins	Rail and Public Transportation Director	Nebraska Department of Roads
	Tim	Weander	District 2	Nebraska Department of Roads
	Joe	Francis		Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
	Ronnie	Mitchell	Director	Nebraska Department of Aeronautics
	Brian	Dunnigan		Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
	Bob	Puschendorf		Nebraska State Historical Society
	Barry	DeJong		Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
	John	Bender	Water Quality Standards Coordinator	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
	Joe	Francis	Associate Director	Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality
	Brian	Dunnigan	Director	Nebraska Department of Natural Resources
	Frank	Albrecht	Assistant Director of Administration	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
	Carey	Grell	Environmental Analyst	Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
	Robert	Puschendorf	Deputy State Historical Preservation Officer	Nebraska State Historical Society

Regional Agency Contacts

				Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance
				Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization
	Kelley	Deutmeyer	Executive Director	East Central Intergovernmental Association
	Sharon	Juon	Executive Director	Iowa Northland Regional Council of Governments
	Cliff	Weldon	Executive Director	MIDAS Council of Governments
				Region 6 Planning Commission
				Region XII Council of Governments
				Southwest Iowa Planning Council
				Bi-State Regional Commission
				Area 15 Regional Planning Commission
				Chariton Valley Planning & Development
				Southern Iowa Council of Governments
	John	Yapp	Executive Director	Johnson County Council of Governments
	Randall	Blankenhorn	Executive Director	Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP)
	George	Hardwidge	Deputy Executive of Operations	Metra
	Joseph	Costello	Executive Director	Regional Transportation Authority
				Chicago Transit Authority
				Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program
	Thomas	Ross	Executive Director	PACE
	Michael	Franke	Assistant Vice President	National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)
				Chicago Department of Transportation
				Blackhawk Hills Resource Conservation and Development District
				Boone-Belvidere Regional Planning Commission
				North Central Illinois Council of Governments
				Western Illinois Regional Council

Iowa County Conservation Districts

				Adair
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			Adams
			Benton
			Black Hawk
			Boone
			Buchanan
			Butler
			Calhoun
			Carroll
			Cass
			Cedar
			Clarke
			Clinton
			Crawford
			Dallas
			Delaware
			Des Moines
			Dubuque
			Franklin
			Greene
			Guthrie
			Hamilton
			Hardin
			Harrison
			Henry
			Iowa
			Jackson
			Jasper
			Jefferson
			Johnson
			Jones
			Linn
			Lucas
			Madison
			Marshall
			Mills
			Monroe
			Montgomery
			Muscatine
			Polk
			Pottawattamie
			Poweshiek
			Sac
			Scott
			Shelby
			Story
			Tama
			Union
			Wapello
			Webster

Other Local Agencies			
	Pamela	Horiwitz	Big Bureau Creek Watershed
	Mark	Miller	Director Bureau County
	Natalie	Mahler	Resource Conservationist Grundy County
	Nick	Schaefer	Director Grundy County
	John	Oliver	Associate Director Henry County
	Douglas	Peterson	Director Henry County
	Elizabeth	Hagen-Moeller	Administrative Coordinator Kane-DuPage
	Pat	Hogan	Director Kendall County
	Jason	Pettit	Director Kendall County
	JoAnn	Adams	Director LaSalle County
	Dennis	Ford	Director LaSalle County
	Paul	Burrs	Director Lee County
	Jeff	Craver	Director Rock Island County
	Brian	Parkinson	Director Rock Island County
	Paul	Young	Director Whiteside County
	Suzanne	Malec-McKenna	Acting Commissioner City of Chicago
	Steven	Bylina	General Superintendent Cook County Forest Preserve District
			Forest Preserve District of DuPage County
			Forest Preserve District of Will County
	Monica A.	Meyers	Executive Director Forest Preserve District of Kane County
			Lake County Forest Preserves
	Terry	Hannan	Superintendent DeKalb County Forest Preserve
			Winnebago County Forest Preserve District
			Byron Forest Preserve District

STUDY DESCRIPTION

The Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), is evaluating alternatives for the reestablishment of intercity passenger rail service from Chicago, Illinois, through Iowa, to Omaha, Nebraska (the Project). FRA and Iowa DOT's evaluation will be documented in the Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail System Planning Study (the Study) Tier 1 Service Level Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The Tier 1 EIS will analyze a range of reasonable corridor-level route alternatives between Chicago and Omaha for a conventional locomotive-hauled, passenger train service, operating on track used jointly with freight trains, at an initial maximum speed of 79 to 90 miles per hour (mph). The Study will examine necessary improvements to support additional passenger trains. FRA and Iowa DOT will consider increasing the frequency of passenger rail service as well as increasing the currently planned maximum speed of such service in the Chicago to Omaha corridor (the Corridor). The need for the Project stems from the increasing travel demand resulting from population growth and changing demographics along the Corridor as well as the need for competitive and attractive modes of travel.

An EIS is a National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) document that is required in the preliminary stages of the planning process for all major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the environment. The EIS is a written record of the analysis of potential impacts on the environment resulting from construction and operation of the Project. Impacts on both the natural and socioeconomic environment are evaluated.

FRA and Iowa DOT will use a tiered process, outlined in Chapter 40 of the Code of Federal Register (40 CFR Section 1508.28 and in accordance with FRA guidance), in the completion of the environmental review of the Project. "Tiering" is a staged process applied to environmental reviews for complex projects. The Tier 1 EIS will address broad corridor-level issues and alternatives. The Tier 1 EIS is a service-level NEPA analysis that will address the broader questions relating to the type of service being proposed (including cities and stations served, route alternatives, service levels, ridership projections, and major infrastructure components), and the associated transportation and environmental impacts.

The Tier 1 EIS will be developed in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500 et seq.) implementing NEPA (42 USC 4321 et seq.) and FRA's Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts (64 FR 28545; May 26, 1999). In addition to NEPA, the analysis will be undertaken consistent with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, and Iowa DOT guidance, along with other applicable Federal, state, and local regulations in the level of detail appropriate for a Tier 1 EIS.

The Chicago to Omaha corridor extends from Chicago Union Station, in downtown Chicago, on the east to a terminal in Omaha on the west. The Study Area consists of the five previously established passenger rail routes between Chicago and Omaha that pass through the states of Illinois and Iowa. Each route is approximately 500 miles long. In Illinois, the Study Area runs generally west from Chicago Union Station, which is the hub for the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI), to the Mississippi River and, depending on the route, is a distance of between 150 and 250 miles. In Iowa, the Study Area runs west from the Mississippi River across the entire state to the Missouri River, a distance of approximately 300 miles. In Nebraska, the Study Area terminates in Omaha, which is located at the Missouri River, the eastern border of the state. The general location for the terminal in Omaha will be identified as part of this Study.

Figure 1 shows the location of Chicago and Omaha and different rail routes between the two cities.

The five previously established passenger rail routes that compose the Study Area include the former Illinois Central route (Route 1), the former Chicago & North Western route (Route 2), the former Milwaukee Road route (Route 3), the former Rock Island route (Route 4), and the former Burlington route (Route 5), as shown in Figure 1. These routes are numbered from north to south. For each route, the counties that are traversed in Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska are listed east to west in Table 1.

Table 1. Counties Traversed by Routes in the Study Area

State	Route 1	Route 2	Route 3	Route 4	Route 5
Illinois	Cook	Cook	Cook	Cook	Cook
	DuPage	DuPage	DuPage	Will	DuPage
	Kane	Kane	Kane	Grundy	Kane
	DeKalb	DeKalb	DeKalb	La Salle	Kendall
	Boone	Ogle	Ogle	Bureau	DeKalb
	Winnebago	Lee	Carroll	Henry	La Salle
	Stephenson	Whiteside		Rock Island	Bureau
	Jo Daviess				Henry Knox Warren Henderson
Iowa	Dubuque	Clinton	Jackson	Scott	Des Moines
	Delaware	Cedar	Clinton	Muscatine	Henry
	Buchanan	Linn	Jones	Cedar	Jefferson
	Black Hawk	Benton	Linn	Johnson	Wapello
	Butler	Tama	Benton	Iowa	Monroe
	Franklin	Marshall	Tama	Poweshiek	Lucas
	Hardin	Story	Marshall	Jasper	Clarke
	Hamilton	Boone	Story	Polk	Union
	Webster	Greene	Boone	Dallas	Adams
	Calhoun	Carroll	Dallas	Madison	Montgomery
	Sac	Crawford	Guthrie	Guthrie	Mills
	Crawford	Harrison	Carroll	Adair	Pottawattamie
	Harrison	Pottawattamie	Crawford	Cass	
Pottawattamie		Shelby Harrison Pottawattamie	Pottawattamie		
Nebraska	Douglas	Douglas	Douglas	Douglas	Douglas

These previously established routes will be screened to determine which route alternatives would be evaluated in detail in the Tier 1 EIS. Geographic information system data on environmental resources will be used to help screen route alternatives; no field studies are planned for the Tier 1 NEPA process. It is anticipated that the Tier 1 EIS will examine the viability of one or more reasonable and feasible route alternatives.

The No-Build Alternative will represent no action and will be used as a baseline for comparison to all other route alternatives. The No-Build Alternative represents other transportation modes, such as automobile, intercity bus, air travel, and existing rail, and the physical characteristics and capacities as they exist at the time of the Tier 1 EIS, as well as planned and funded improvements that will be in place at the time the proposed improvements would become operational.

Future Tier 2 NEPA evaluation(s) will address one or more specific sections of the Corridor to be implemented within the route alternative selected in the Tier 1 EIS, and will incorporate by reference the data and evaluations included in the Tier 1 EIS. The Tier 2 NEPA evaluations will concentrate on the resource-specific issues relevant to the section of the selected route alternative identified in the Tier 1 EIS, and identify the environmental consequences and measures necessary to mitigate environmental impacts at a site-specific level of detail.

ANTICIPATED IMPACTS

A wide spectrum of resources will be evaluated in the Tier 1 EIS, including (but not limited to) cultural resources, natural resources, impacts to homes and businesses, socioeconomic resources, noise and vibration, and air quality. Impacts may vary depending on the elements of the final design.

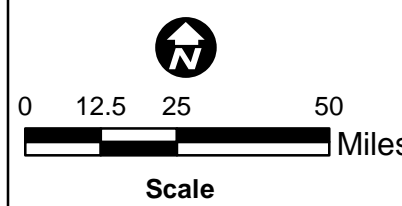
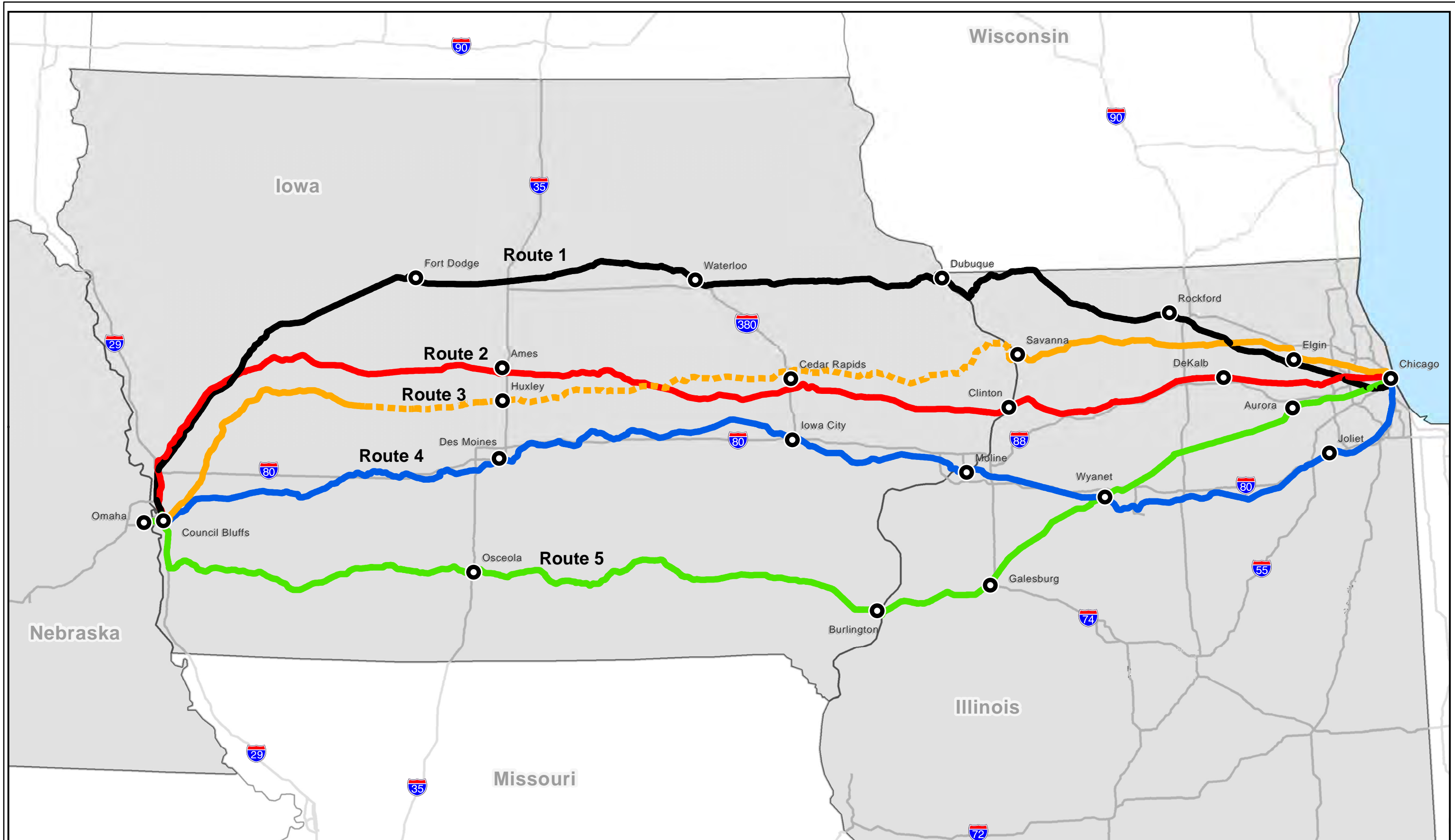
DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURES

This Project is being developed for Federal funding participation. A determination by Iowa DOT and FRA has identified this Study as requiring preparation of an EIS.

Current regulations governing development of Federally funded railroad improvements require early coordination with units of government that may have interests in the Proposed Action or its potential impacts. This coordination packet is intended to provide early notification of the Study for the Project and to solicit comments regarding the potential impacts of such an action. Several Federal, state, and local agencies will also be contacted directly to request their early input as part of the Study impact identification process.

Public involvement, including scoping, is also being conducted for this Study. Relevant information on the NEPA process and the Study is available on <http://www.iowadot.gov/chicagotoomaha>.

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- Legend**
- Route 1 (Canadian National Railway, former Illinois Central)
 - Route 2 (Union Pacific Railroad, former Chicago & North Western)
 - Route 3 (Canadian Pacific Railway and BNSF Railway, former Milwaukee Road)
 - Route 3 Abandoned Portion
 - Route 4 (Iowa Interstate Railroad and CSX Transportation, former Rock Island)
 - Route 5 (BNSF Railway, former Chicago, Burlington & Quincy)



Chicago to Omaha Routes

Chicago to Omaha
Regional Passenger Rail System Planning Study

DATE	January 2012
FIGURE	1