

US 51

Christian, Shelby, Fayette, Marion, Clinton, Washington, and Jefferson Counties, Illinois

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Submitted Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(c) and 49 USC 303 by
the US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration
and Illinois Department of Transportation

Cooperating Agencies
US Environmental Protection Agency
Illinois Department of Natural Resources

February 18, 2014
Date of Approval


For Federal Highway Administration

February 18, 2014
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For Illinois Department of Transportation

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

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The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) propose a transportation solution to improve connectivity and to enhance the US 51 highway system continuity within the south central Illinois region between the Christian/Shelby County line and the Village of Irvington in Washington County. The communities of Oconee, Ramsey, Vandalia, Shobonier, Vernon, Patoka, Sandoval, Junction City, Central City, Centralia, and Wamac are located adjacent to the proposed improvements. This DEIS considers a total of eleven build alternatives: two build alternatives near Ramsey (R Alt 1 and R Alt 2), four build alternatives near Vandalia (V Alt 1, V Alt 2, V Alt 3, and V Alt 4), and two build alternatives near Sandoval (CS Alt 1 and CS Alt 2). Two build alternatives are also considered along existing US 51 near Ramsey Creek (RCOA and RCOB). One build alternative, the US 51 Build Alternative, is considered near Oconee, Shobonier, Vernon, Patoka, Junction City, Central City, Centralia, Wamac, and the areas along existing US 51 between communities where the proposed improvements follow existing US 51 or where only one build alternative remained after the alternative screening process. In addition, a No Build Alternative is considered. The build alternatives near each community had identical starting and end points so that the effects of the alternatives in each community could be compared. Effects of the alternatives on residences, businesses, agricultural lands, protected species, aquatic resources, floodplains, and wetlands were evaluated. The effects to the resources varied in magnitude among the build alternatives and are documented in this DEIS. A Preferred Alternative will be identified in the Final EIS.

FHWA will issue a single Final EIS and Record of Decision document pursuant to Pub. L. 112-141, 126 Stat. 405, Section 1319(b) unless FHWA determines statutory criteria or practicability considerations preclude issuance of the combined document pursuant to section 1319.

Comments on this DEIS should be submitted by April 21, 2014 and should be directed to Ms. Sherry Phillips, P.E., IDOT at 400 W. Wabash Avenue, Effingham, Illinois 62401. Comments may also be submitted through email at: sherry.phillips@illinois.gov or via the US 51 website at: <http://www.us51eis-idot.com>.