



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
wisconsin.gov

16-0473

Telephone: (608) 266-1113
FAX: (608) 266-9912

JENNIFER HUDON, CLERK
CITY OF MANITOWOC
900 QUAY ST
MANITOWOC, WI 54220-4543

April 12, 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



SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
Washington, DC 20423

Office of Environmental Analysis

March 18, 2016

Michael Hoelker
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

RE: Docket No. FD 35952, Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc (GLBT)—Authority to Construct and Operate a Rail Line in Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin: Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, Draft Scope of Study, Notice of Scoping Meetings, and Request for Comments on Draft Scope

Dear Michael Hoelker:

Great Lakes Basin Transportation, Inc (GLBT) plans to file either a petition for exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10502, or an application pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 10901, seeking authority from the Surface Transportation Board (Board) to construct and operate an approximately 278-mile rail line. According to GLBT, the proposed rail line would extend generally from La Porte, Indiana through Illinois to Milton, Wisconsin and would connect with existing Class I railroads.

The construction and operation of the proposed GLBT rail line has the potential to result in significant environmental impacts; therefore, the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) has determined that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is appropriate pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.).

Today, OEA issued a Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS for the project, Draft Scope of Study, Notice of Scoping Meetings, and Request for Comments on the Draft Scope, which can be viewed on a Board-sponsored project website at www.GreatLakesBasinRailEIS.com by clicking on "Notice of Intent" under "Related Links and Documents." This project website includes a map of the project area including GLBT's proposed alignment.

Following the scoping period, OEA will review the scoping comments and then finalize the Scope of Study including the list of alternatives for the proposed rail line to be carried forward for detailed study in the EIS. ICF International, OEA's third-party contractor, will be assisting OEA throughout its EIS process and may contact you directly regarding scoping, data required for the EIS, etc.

We invite you to participate in this EIS scoping process and would appreciate your written comments on the Draft Scope of Study and potential alternatives to GLBT's proposed alignment by the close of the scoping comment period on **May 16, 2016**.

We encourage you to submit scoping comments electronically on the Board's website, www.stb.dot.gov, by clicking on the "E-FILING" link on the home page and then selecting "Environmental Comments." Log-in accounts are not needed to file environmental comments electronically, and comments may be typed into the text box provided or attached as a file. If you have difficulties with the e-filing process, please call 202-245-0350.

You may also send your written comments to Dave Navecky, OEA's Project Manager for the EIS, at:

Dave Navecky
Surface Transportation Board
Docket No. FD 35952
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

OEA will be hosting a webinar to discuss the project on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 9:00 AM Central Time for Indiana, Illinois, and Wisconsin Federal Highway Administration state divisions, state Departments of Transportation, Indiana Toll Road, and Illinois Tollway Authority. If you are interested in participating in the webinar please contact Dave Navecky by phone at 202-245-0294 or by email at David.Navecky@stb.dot.gov.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dave Navecky by phone at 202-245-0294 or by email at David.Navecky@stb.dot.gov. We look forward to your participation in the Board's environmental review process.

Sincerely,



Victoria Rutson
Director
Office of Environmental Analysis