



# WELCOME TO OUR OPEN HOUSE!

## GOAL OF TODAY'S OPEN HOUSE:

- ✓ Learn more about the project
- ✓ Review project maps
- ✓ Provide feedback and input to the project team



**We need the community's valuable feedback about LaSalle County to develop a route for this new line and energy investment.**



We look forward to your input in understanding the project area from the community's perspective.



## ABOUT THE PROJECT

Ameren Illinois is proposing the LaSalle Link Project to improve energy reliability for local customers in the LaSalle County area. This Project includes the construction of a new 138 kV transmission line to connect the new Corbin substation in Oglesby, Illinois to the existing North Utica substation near North Utica, Illinois.

### THE NEW LINE:



Improves local energy reliability by creating additional pathways to support current and future energy needs



Helps minimize power outage impacts to the local communities



Supports expansion needed for continued area growth



Upgrades aging substations



## WHY IS THE PROJECT NEEDED?

Communities in this area are currently supported by two Ameren Illinois transmission lines that serve as the backbone for the energy system in this area.



Continuing to rely on these transmission sources in the event of a power outage could result in extended restoration times and community-wide impacts.



This project will help minimize power outage impacts to the local communities by creating additional pathways to support current and future energy needs.



As we continue to serve and invest in our communities, new projects allow us to support the needs of our customers in your area.





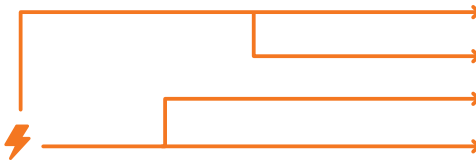
## WHAT IS ENERGY RELIABILITY?

### OUR ENERGY SYSTEM IS SIMILAR TO ROADS

When your main route is closed for construction, you review your options and find an alternative. But some of these alternatives can't handle the increased traffic and users experience backups or traffic jams.

**The energy grid is no different!** Unfortunately, the problems can be worse when more than one transmission "route" is out of service - for example, if a large storm were to take out multiple transmission or distribution lines.

### RELIABILITY IS PROVIDING MORE 'OPTIONS' FOR ENERGY.



This area has many substations and transmission lines that connect them but is primarily supplied by only two single transmission lines.

If these lines are out of service, local homes and businesses would be served by a lower capacity which could lead to reliability issues in the area.

**With this new project we can add more capacity or "alternate routes" to support your community!**

By building this new line and upgrading aging infrastructure in the project area, we're creating additional energy reliability for local homes and businesses. Through this energy investment, we're minimizing the risk of outages and community impacts.



## ANTICIPATED ROUTING SCHEDULE



### APRIL – MAY 2022

#### Study Area

- Develop study area and routing criteria
- Review of publicly available information
- Community Representative Forum (May 18)



### JUNE 2022

#### Route Segments

- Evaluate stakeholder input and develop Route Segments
- Present potential Route Segments to the public



### JULY 2022

#### Preliminary Route Alternatives

- Evaluate public input and develop Route Alternatives
- Present preliminary Route Alternatives to the public



### LATE SUMMER/EARLY FALL 2022

#### Identify Final Route(s)

- Evaluate public input and develop Final Route(s)



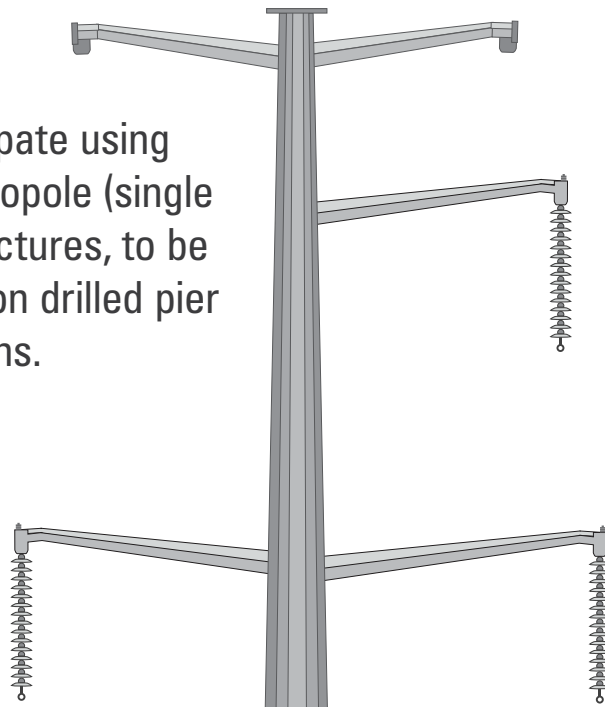
### FALL 2022

#### Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) Filing

- File Final Route(s) with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC)

\*All items shown are pending regulatory approvals.  
Schedule is subject to change.

We anticipate using steel monopole (single pole) structures, to be installed on drilled pier foundations.



#### STRUCTURE SNAPSHOT

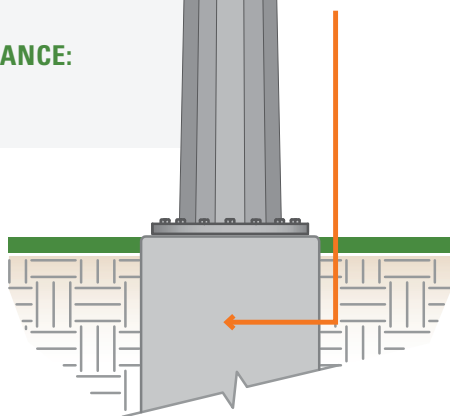
- VOLTAGE:**  
138,000 volts
- STRUCTURE:**  
Single-shaft steel poles
- FOUNDATION:**  
Concrete
- FOUNDATION DIAMETER:**  
6-10 feet (typical)
- HEIGHT RANGE:**  
80-120 feet tall (typical)
- SPAN LENGTH:**  
700-800 feet (average)
- STRUCTURES PER MILE:**  
7-8 (average)
- CONDUCTOR CLEARANCE:**  
21 feet (minimum)

#### EXISTING LINES IN THE AREA

Currently, there are existing Ameren transmission lines in area that may provide an opportunity to co-locate the new LaSalle Link line with the existing lines. These potential options will be studied and determined during the routing process.

#### WHAT ARE DRILLED PIER FOUNDATIONS?

Concrete foundations that are drilled into the ground to support transmission structures.



Note, this graphic is not to scale. The number of arms on a typical structure and the sizing of the structure may vary depending on the final route.



## ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND AGENCY COORDINATION

Our project team coordinates with federal, state and local agencies regarding protected or sensitive resources in a project area when siting a new transmission line. Sometimes additional permits or approvals from these agencies are necessary to construct a project:



### U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Section 404 Clean Water Act  
Section 10 Rivers and Harbors Act



### U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Endangered Species Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act,  
and Migratory Bird Treaty Act



### ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Section 401 Water Quality Certificate and General NPDES Permit  
for storm water discharge from construction site



### ILLINOIS HISTORIC PRESERVATION AGENCY

Section 106 Cultural Resources Review



### ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Road permits



### ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

State protected natural features and species



### ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA)



### LOCAL PERMITS

Erosion control and road crossings

## CONSTRUCTION

Transmission line is completed in intermittent phases and will not be constant on landowners' property during the construction period. We will provide more information before construction begins. There will be six major stages of construction including:



1  
Survey structure locations, soil borings and vegetation clearing



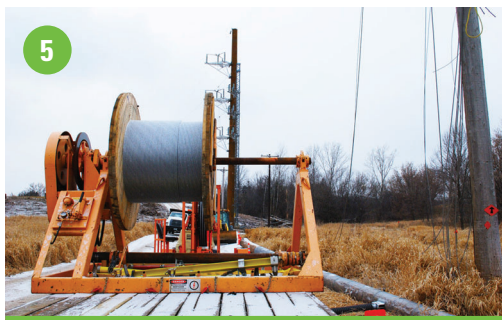
2  
Drill hole and pour foundation



3  
Assemble structure on the ground



4  
Lift and place structure on foundation



5  
String wires



6  
Restore easement and energize line





## RIGHT-OF-WAY

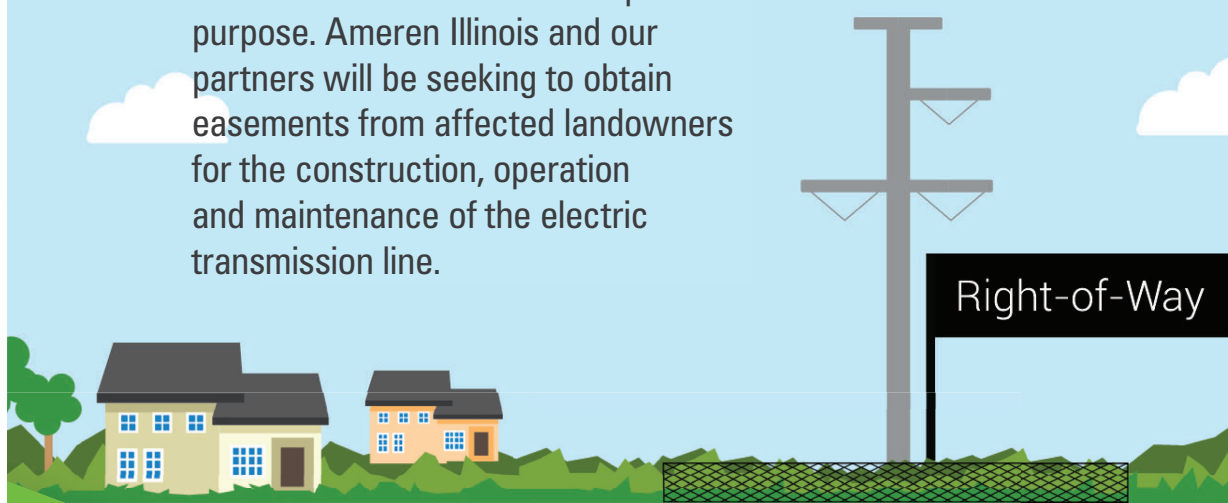
Once a final route has been approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC), our team will begin real estate discussions with impacted landowners. Our team will continue to keep landowners updated during this process.

### EASEMENT ACQUISITION PROCESS FOR THE TRANSMISSION LINE

- 1 Final route(s) filed with the ICC requesting a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN).
- 2 ICC reviews and approves final route.
- 3 Notification letters mailed to landowners along the final route to request access to conduct land, environmental and civil (soil) surveys/studies and begin negotiations for acquiring easements.
- 4 Project representatives begin meeting with affected landowners to discuss:
  - Project overview
  - Land surveys/studies
  - Proposed easement
  - Type of structures
  - Compensation
  - Land restoration
  - Damage settlement

### WHAT IS AN EASEMENT?

An easement is an interest or right to use the land of another for a specific purpose. Ameren Illinois and our partners will be seeking to obtain easements from affected landowners for the construction, operation and maintenance of the electric transmission line.





# WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

## TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS



### COMMENT FORM

Submit a comment form today or email/mail it to us later.



### ONLINE COMMENT MAP

Submit a comment on our online comment map.



### VISIT OUR ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Review similar information from today's open house.



### VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT

Learn more at [LaSalleLinkProject.com](http://LaSalleLinkProject.com).



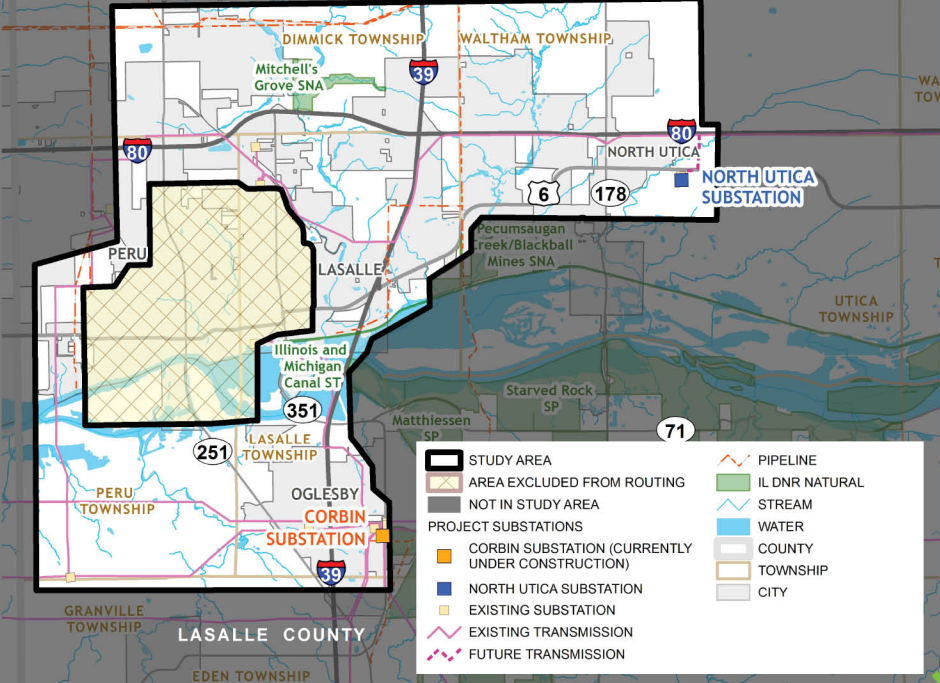
SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR  
SMARTPHONE TO VISIT THE WEBSITE  
AND VIRTUAL ENGAGEMENT



### CONTACT US

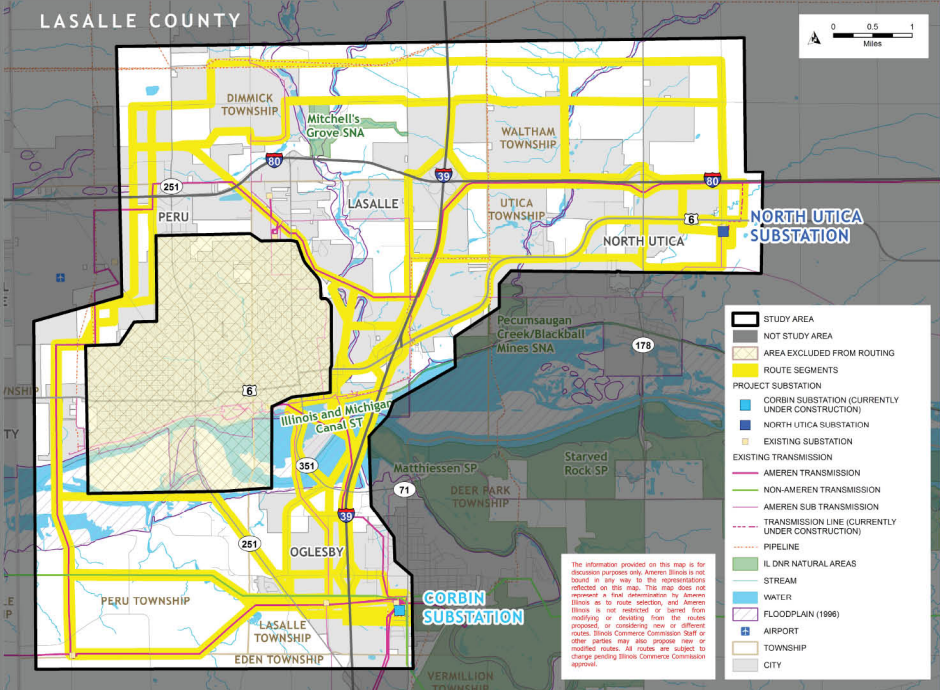
815.745.4368

[LaSalleLink@Ameren.com](mailto:LaSalleLink@Ameren.com)



### STEP 1: DEFINE STUDY AREA

Our team started by using data from publicly available data sources to create our study area. We considered existing utility corridors, resource areas, natural environment data and field survey data to develop a Study Area that provides feasible routing opportunities.



### STEP 2: DEVELOP ROUTE SEGMENTS

Then our team used data collected from our stakeholders and federal, state and local agencies to develop potential Route Segments based on the four categories of routing criteria: Opportunities, Sensitivities, Technical Guidelines and Statutory Requirements.

# ROUTING CRITERIA

PHASE 1



For the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) process, we'll provide a preferred and alternative route for ICC review. We need your valuable feedback about the LaSalle County community to develop a route for this new line and energy investment. The goal of the routing process is to take advantage of Opportunities while understanding and minimizing impacts to Sensitivities and adhering to Technical Guidelines and Statutory Requirements.



## OPPORTUNITIES

Linear features that are oriented in the direction of the project:

- Field lines
- Property lines
- Section lines
- Roads
- Utility corridors



## SENSITIVITIES

Area resources or conditions that may require additional review and consideration:

- Agricultural conflicts
- Airports/VOR
- Cemeteries
- Communication Towers
- Conservation Areas/Nature Preserves
- Contaminated Areas
- Cultural/Historic Resources
- Planned Development (future)
- Floodplains (*more difficult construction and many times have sensitive species*)
- Forest/Grassland
- Hospitals
- IL DNR Resource Lands
- IL DNR State Parks
- Karst Areas
- Levees/Dams
- Mines/Quarries
- Pipelines\*
- Railroads\*
- Recreation/Tourism
- Religious Facilities
- Residences  
(*especially large clusters of homes*)
- Scenic Roads
- Schools/Daycares
- Sensitive Crops
- Sensitive Species
- Streams/Wetlands
- Wells

\*Linear features with additional precautions and studies needed



# ROUTING PROCESS

PHASE 2



Routing a transmission line is a phased process that involves collaboration with agencies, community members and landowners to collect information that helps our team understand and identify opportunities and sensitivities within Lasalle County. Review the steps below to see how we came up with our Preliminary Route Alternatives.



## STEP 1: DEFINE STUDY AREA

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## STEP 2: DEVELOP ROUTE SEGMENTS

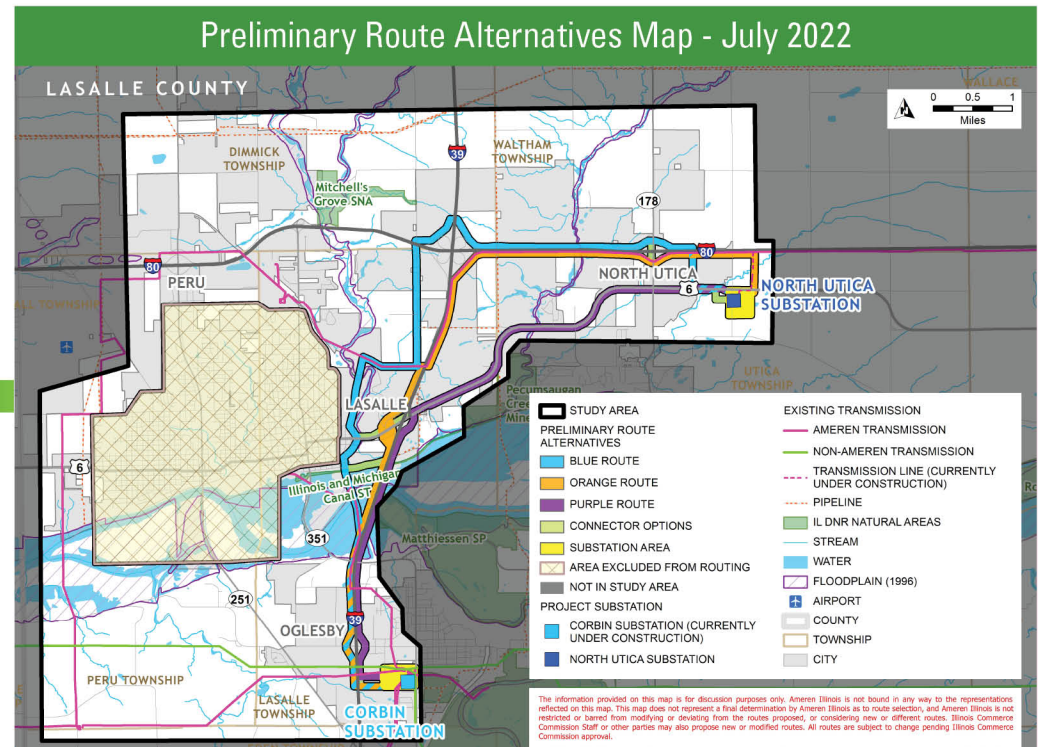
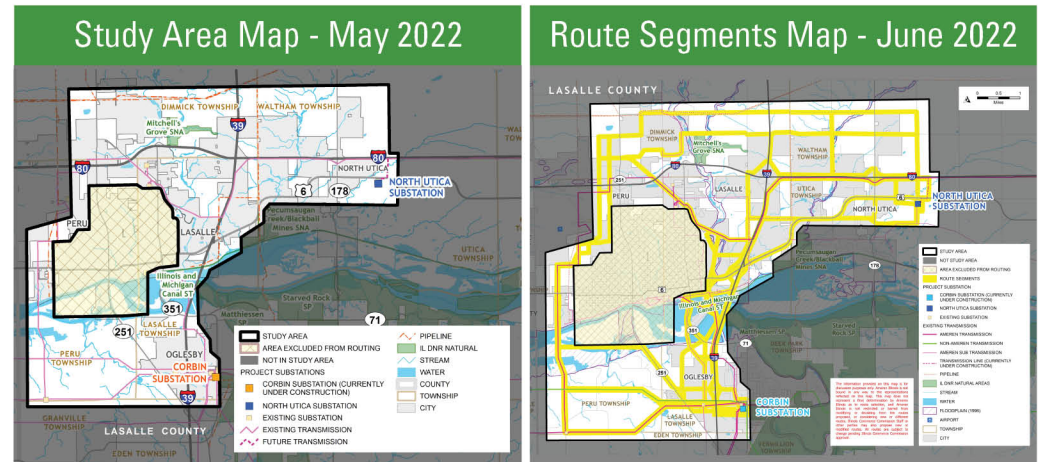
Then our team used data collected from our stakeholders and federal, state and local agencies to develop potential Route Segments based on the three categories of routing criteria: Opportunities, Sensitivities, Technical Guidelines and Statutory Requirements.



## STEP 3: DEVELOP PRELIMINARY ROUTE ALTERNATIVES

WE ARE HERE!

Using the routing criteria, as well as input received from stakeholders and community members during our our first series of engagement, our team developed Preliminary Route Alternatives.



The information provided on this map is for discussion purposes only. Ameren Illinois is not bound in any way by the representations reflected on this map. This map does not represent a final determination by Ameren Illinois as to route selection, and Ameren Illinois is not restricted or barred from modifying or deviating from the routes proposed, or considering new or different routes. Illinois Commerce Commission Staff or other parties may also propose new or modified routes. All routes are subject to change pending Illinois Commerce Commission approval.

# ROUTING CRITERIA

PHASE 2



We need the community's valuable feedback about LaSalle County to develop a route for this new line and energy investment. The goal of the routing process is to take advantage of Opportunities while understanding and minimizing impacts to Sensitivities and adhering to Technical Guidelines and Statutory Requirements.



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- Mines/Quarries
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- Railroads\*
- Recreation/Tourism
- Religious Facilities
- Residences (*especially large clusters of homes*)
- Scenic Roads
- Schools/Daycares
- Sensitive Crops
- Sensitive Species
- Streams/Wetlands
- Wells

\*Linear features with additional precautions and studies needed

# TELL US YOUR THOUGHTS!

PHASE 2



What "sensitivities" are most important to you? Place your dot stickers next to the ones below that are more important to you.

AGRICULTURAL CONFLICTS <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>	KARST AREAS
AIRPORTS/VOR	LEVEES/DAMS
CEMETERIES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	MINES/QUARRIES
COMMUNICATION TOWERS	PIPELINES
CONSERVATION AREAS/NATURE PRESERVES <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>	RAILROADS
CONTAMINATED AREAS	RELIGIOUS FACILITIES
CULTURAL/HISTORIC RESOURCES <input checked="" type="radio"/>	RESIDENCES <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
PLANNED DEVELOPMENT (FUTURE)	SCENIC HIGHWAYS <input checked="" type="radio"/>
FLOODPLAINS	SCHOOLS/DAYCARES <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/>
FOREST/GRASSLAND <input checked="" type="radio"/>	SENSITIVE CROPS
HOSPITALS	SENSITIVE SPECIES
IL DNR RESOURCE LANDS <input checked="" type="radio"/>	STREAMS/WETLANDS
IL DNR STATE PARKS <input checked="" type="radio"/>	WELLS

**REMINDER:** Sensitivities are area resources or conditions that may require additional review and consideration.



# WHAT WE HEARD

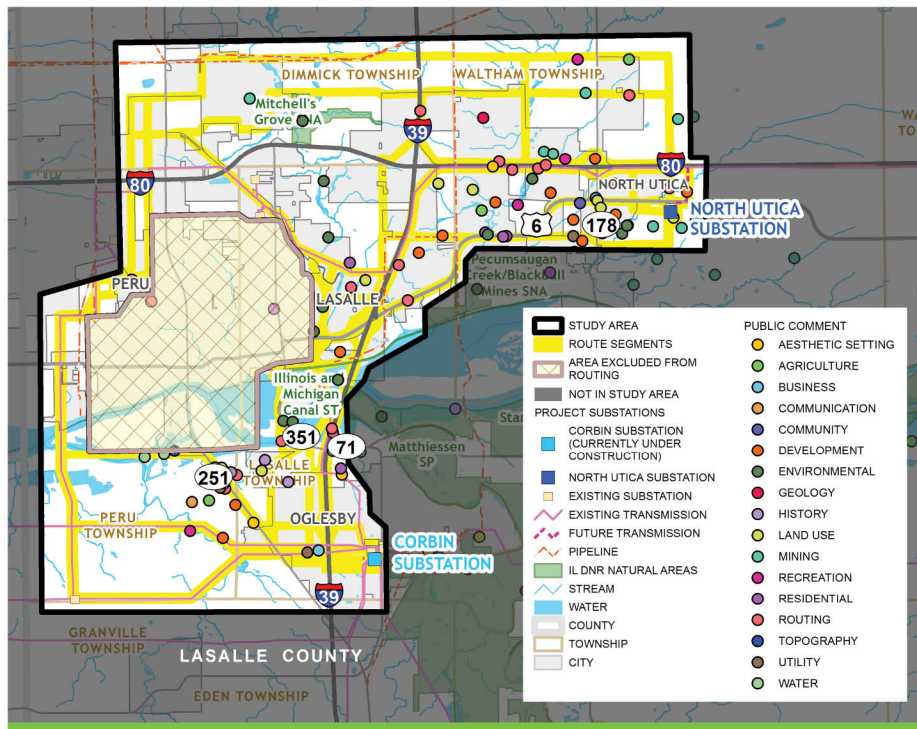
We appreciate the active participation and input community members and stakeholders provided during the first series of engagement of the Route Segments in June 2022. All input received was reviewed and considered during the development of the Preliminary Route Alternatives.

In general, most comments fit into the following categories:

- Development
- Environmental
- Land Use
- Mining
- Residential/Business/Community
- Routing

## First Series of Engagement - Sensitivities Results

We asked community members and stakeholders during our first series of engagement to tell us what sensitivities are most important to you.



Data on this map includes comments from our CRF and first series of engagement.

## HERE'S WHAT WE HEARD:

- 2% Karst Areas
- 2% Levees/Dams
- 2% Religious Facilities
- 2% Sensitive Crops
- 5% Mines/Quarries
- 5% Wells
- 12% Streams/Wetlands
- 16% Schools/Daycares
- 19% Sensitive Species
- 35% Residences

