April 2020 Illinois Passenger Rail Update
Todd Popish
Illinois Department of Transportation
Passenger Rail in Illinois

- Amtrak operates 56 daily trains in and through Illinois.
- Amtrak serves nearly 5 million riders at Illinois stations.
- Illinois subsidizes 30 state-sponsored trains that provide service in 4 regional corridors, with 2 million annual riders.
Amtrak Illinois Corridors

Chicago - St. Louis *Lincoln Service*
  • 4 daily round trips

Chicago – Quincy *IL Zephyr/Carl Sandburg*
  • 2 daily round trips

Chicago – Carbondale *Illini/Saluki*
  • 2 daily round trips

Chicago – Milwaukee *Hiawatha Service*
(jointly supported with WisDOT)
  • 7 daily round trips (6 on Sundays)
‘Rebuild Illinois’ Capital Plan

» $45B capital plan for infrastructure, state facilities, education, and environmental projects

» Passed by IL General Assembly and signed into law by Gov. Pritzker on 6/28/19

» Rail highlights:
  – Additional $225M to complete Chicago-Quad Cities service expansion project
  – $275M to reinitiate Chicago-Rockford service expansion project
  – Up to $100M for Chicago-Carbondale corridor improvements
  – $122M for Springfield 10th St Improvement project
  – $400M for the Chicago CREATE program
Chicago Terminal Study

- FRA grant to Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT), and Metra

- Study will yield recommendations for: improved intercity passenger rail service in the Midwest; long-distance Amtrak trains; and planned expansion of Metra rail service

- Study will supplement rail planning efforts:
  - Chicago/Joliet corridor
  - CREATE program
  - Chicago Union Station (CUS) Master Planning Study
Chicago to Quad Cities Passenger Rail Service

- Proposed Amtrak Service between Chicago and Moline with stops at La Grange, Naperville, Plano, Mendota, Princeton, and Geneseo (new station)
- Uses existing BNSF line between Chicago and Princeton, and Iowa Interstate Railroad (IAIS) from west of Princeton (Wyanet) to Moline.
- Program currently totaling approximately $450 Million.
- Preliminary engineering activities with Iowa Interstate continuing with IDOT’s program manager (design, environmental, construction management services). We anticipate the completion of scoping by the end of this year.
Chicago to Rockford Passenger Rail Service

» Proposed Amtrak Service between Chicago and Rockford with stops at Elgin, Huntley, and Belvidere.

» Uses existing Metra Milwaukee District West line between Chicago and Elgin-Big Timber, and Union Pacific from Elgin to Rockford.

» Program currently totaling approximately $275 Million.

» Project had been on hold since fall 2014. With new funding commitment, IDOT will now pursue reengagement with Metra and Union Pacific and advancement of preliminary engineering activities.
EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF.

ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL
CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS

Chicago – St. Louis HSR

Illinois Department of Transportation
www.idothsr.org
www.connectthemidwest.com
Chicago to St. Louis Corridor with 9 stops in between

Current Improvements
Between Joliet & East St. Louis

13 Counties
Cook, DuPage, Will, Grundy, Livingston, McLean, Logan, Sangamon, Macoupin, Jersey, Madison, St. Clair, and St. Louis
HSR Corridor Accomplishments

• Installation of new rail, concrete ties and related components
• Upgrades made to bridges and culverts, drainage and signaling systems
• New sidings and sections of double track
• Major safety upgrades at crossings with four-quadrant gates and loop detectors
• New stations open in Joliet, Dwight, Pontiac, Alton, and Carlinville and upgraded stations in Lincoln and Alton
• 33 Siemens Charger locomotives delivered and in use throughout Midwest.
Ongoing and Future Challenges

» PTC design and certification (intermediate speed increase to 90 mph expected in 2020)

» Kankakee Street crossing In Wilmington

» Second main from Elwood to Braidwood
Horizon Car Refresh
Upcoming: Equipment Delivery

- 88 new single-level cars
  - Multi-state procurement led by CalTrans
  - Built by Siemens in Sacramento
  - In production
  - Delivery to begin in 2020
  - Branded “Amtrak Midwest”
Styles of cars for the Midwest

» Single Level Passenger Railcar
  – Coach Car
  – Semi-Permanently coupled coach car
  – Business/Coach
  – Café/Coach
Semi-Permanently Coupled Coaches

Semi-permanent coupling  Walkway between the semi-permanently coupled cars

The trainset combination of standard coaches plus married pairs allow smooth, open transition between the two married cars, while not adversely impacting the maintenance capability of the fleet.
Car delivery schedule

» Coach cars delivered beginning in June 2020 (into revenue service in Fall 2020)
» Coach/business delivered beginning in June 2021
» Coach/café delivered beginning March 2022
» Deliveries complete by June 2023
Car Interiors

Leather Business Class Seating – 3 Seats Across

32 inch wide aisles for wheelchair access in all cars

Coach Class Seating- 4 Across
Car Enhancements

» ADA enhancements:
  - Integrated wheelchair lifts
  - Fully ADA compliant washrooms
  - Allows for freedom of movement for ADA customers between cars

- Outlets and USB ports at seats
- Onboard information system
- Modern Wi-Fi
- Enhanced food service area
- Bicycle racks incorporated into cars
Thank you!

ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL
CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS