Overview

• Iowa’s Passenger Rail Vision
• Quad Cities to Iowa City Update
• Iowa City to Cedar Rapids Commuter Rail
Passenger Rail Update
Intercity Passenger Rail History in Iowa

- **1996** – Iowa becomes one of the Midwest States to study intercity passenger rail for the Midwest through the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI)
- **2004** – MWRRI publishes a comprehensive plan to improve and expand passenger rail in the Midwest
- **2007** – Amtrak is asked by Illinois DOT to complete a feasibility study and ridership of extending the Chicago to Moline service to Iowa City
- **2009** – Iowa DOT/Illinois DOT apply for federal funding to introduce intercity passenger rail between Chicago to Iowa City
- **2010** – A $230M grant is awarded to Illinois and Iowa
- **2011** – Project split into two phases
Quad Cities to Iowa City
Passenger Rail Update

Chicago to Quad Cities to Iowa City Route

PHASE 2
79 mph
2 Round Trips

PHASE 1
79 mph
2 Round Trips
Iowa DOT’s Phase 2 Project (Quad Cities to Iowa City Extension)

• Preliminary Engineering / Tier 2 NEPA
  • Rail Traffic Controller (RTC) Operations Modeling - in progress 95% complete
  • 30% Preliminary Engineering Development – in progress 40% complete
  • Completion of an Tier 2 Project Level Environmental Assessment (EA) – in progress 20% complete
  • Service Development Plan Update - in progress 70% complete
Passenger Rail Update

**Outcome of the Study – QC to Iowa City**

- RTC Modeling
- Preliminary Engineering
- Capital Costs Estimate
- Operating and Maintenance Costs Estimate
- Ridership and Revenue Forecast
- Financial Plan
- Benefit/Cost Analysis
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Site-specific environmental field studies and analysis with refined study area
- Tier 2 Environmental Document for Moline to Iowa City Section
- Identify project-level environmental commitments (mitigation)
- Permit decisions
- Localized option selection (ex., Iowa City Station; Iowa City Layover Facility; Track Improvements)

*Estimated Completion: 2021*
Other Passenger Rail Efforts
Iowa City-Cedar Rapids Passenger Rail Conceptual Feasibility Study

- **2015** - CRANDIC Railway, MPO JC (the Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Iowa City area) and Iowa DOT agreed to support study activities to further examine the conceptual feasibility of a passenger rail service operating between Iowa City, Iowa and Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- **Fall 2015** - Initial feasibility study completed
- **Fall 2016** - Further refined study investigating the feasibility between Iowa City and North Liberty was completed
- **Summer 2018** - Third phase of the Iowa City to North Liberty study was initiated to further determine estimated ridership and revenue opportunities as well as a more detailed cost estimate
- **Winter 2020** – Third phase was just finished and now we are waiting for our next stakeholder meeting to discuss the study findings
- **Next Steps** - Depending on the decisions made after the next stakeholder meeting, any future action for implementation of a service would be led by local and metropolitan jurisdictions
Questions?