

Public Information Meeting

September 29, 2009

Chicago to Iowa City
Intercity Passenger Rail Service



The Chicago to Iowa City Project is part of the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI)

Goals of MWRRI

- Upgrade existing track to permit frequent, reliable passenger train operations to areas currently underserved
- Establish Chicago as the Midwest hub
- Introduce modern train equipment
- Provide multimodal connections and feeder bus systems to improve access to the rail system
- Improve efficiency, reliability and on-time performance



Chicago - Quad Cities - Iowa City Route Alternatives to Reestablish Service



Application for Federal Funding

Illinois and Iowa DOTs are applying to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.



An Environmental Assessment has been prepared as part of the application process to evaluate issues like:

- Route alternatives
- General station locations
- Track improvements
- Construction activities
- Operational issues

The application is due October 2, 2009, to FRA.



Comparison of Physical Impacts

	Route A	Route B
Route Length	219 miles	238 miles
Upgrades	102 miles	196 miles
Threatened and Endangered Species	10 federally listed species present	11 federally listed species present; adjacent to Indiana Bat Critical Habitat
Additional Connections	New 4000 foot track needed near Wyanet, IL	None required
Waterways	120 crossings	128 crossings
Wetlands	144 within 100 feet	263 within 100 feet

Chicago - Quad Cities - Iowa City Route Alternatives to Reestablish Service



Comparison of Annual Operational Impacts

	Route A	Route B
Ridership	187,000 riders	147,000 riders
Trips Diverted	117,000 from auto 16,000 from bus 42,000 from air	92,000 from auto 12,000 from bus 33,000 from air
Fuel Saved	266,000 gallons	159,000 gallons
Greenhouse Gas Reduction	2,000 tons	1,000 tons
Reduction in Pollutants	Hydrocarbons 7 tons Carbon monoxide 199 tons	Hydrocarbons 5 tons Carbon monoxide 155 tons
Increase in Pollutants	Nitrogen oxides 90 tons Particulate matter 2 tons	Nitrogen oxides 78 tons Particulate matter 2 tons

Next Step: Project Development

The following activities will proceed based on federal funding.

Location-specific Environmental Studies	Station Design	Track Improvements	Equipment Acquisition
New stations	Moline, IL	Wyanet to Iowa City	Locomotives
Areas of major track improvements	Geneseo, IL	Signals	Passenger Cars
	Morris, IL*	Rock Island Yard Bypass	
	Peru-La Salle, IL*	BNSF Crossing at Colona	
	Iowa City, IA	Layover Facilities	

* Needed only if Route B is selected



Proposed Schedule

Based on March, 2010 Receipt of Funds

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Service Development	■					
Location-specific Environmental Studies		■				
Project Design		■				
Construction				■		
Operation						★