



ILLINOIS
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS

Official IDOT fact sheet

EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF.



Senator Dick Durbin stops by to talk at the High-Speed Rail booth.



Dwight to Pontiac HIGHER SPEED TEST SEGMENT

The inaugural high-speed passenger rail service (running at speeds up to 110 miles per hour) on a 14 mile demonstration segment from **Dwight to Pontiac** is anticipated to take place in **October 2012**.

There are several factors contributing to the opportunity to operate high-speed passenger rail service on this particular segment:

- ✓ *The Union Pacific Railroad had already made enhanced signal improvements to the signal system between Dwight and Pontiac, allowing the opportunity to demonstrate higher speed operations this fall.*
- ✓ *Nearly half of the at-grade crossings between Dwight and Pontiac were already equipped with four-quadrant gates. The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) requires that all at-grade crossing be upgraded to four-quadrant gates prior to high-speed rail operation. Having many in place along this segment simplified and expedited the Enhanced Grade Crossing Warning System upgrade efforts needed to run higher speed service between Dwight and Pontiac.*
- ✓ *Track upgrades to the existing track along the route prepared it for future higher speed passenger train operations.*

In preparation of this significant milestone, The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) will be speaking with stakeholders to increase awareness of the project. The ICC has jurisdiction to administer and enforce the requirements of the Commercial Transportation Law.

In addition, there will be participation at community events focusing on pedestrian and driver education and the safety aspects associated with the higher speed trains. These events include: the Livingston County Fair; The Illinois State Fair; The Dwight Farmers Market and Fall Harvest Festival; and local high school football games through out the fall.

If you are interested in having an IDOT representative come and speak to you or your organization, please contact Janet Henderson at (630)510-3944 or janet.henderson@imagesinc.net. Additionally, the Illinois Commerce Commission has developed an Illinois Rail Crossing Safety Program in conjunction with Operation Lifesaver. To schedule a crossing safety program for your community, contact Chip Pew at (847) 433-3943 or cpew@icc.illinois.gov.

For additional information and business opportunities regarding the Illinois High-Speed Rail project or the Midwest Rail initiative, please visit the official high-speed rail websites:

Visit www.idothsr.org for Illinois High-Speed Rail Chicago to St. Louis project information and business opportunities.

www.facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail

Visit www.connectthemidwest.com for Midwest Passenger Rail initiative information.

www.facebook.com/MidwestHighSpeedRail

twitter.com/MWHighSpeedRail

Project Hotline:
1-855-IDOT HSR
(436-8477)



Experience it Yourself



The new service has more to offer than ever before. While it's true that new train cars and locomotives will be purchased for this line, this process is going to take some time. IDOT is in the process of receiving bids for these USA-built train sets. In the meantime, the State of Illinois is paying Amtrak to refurbish Amfleet cars for the Lincoln Corridor. Refurbished equipment will be easy to spot since it will be branded with the Illinois High-Speed logo.

Refurbished cars will feature all new interiors with more comfortable business and coach class seating, new LED reading lights, new heating/air conditioning systems, and Wi-Fi! Cafe cars will feature new menus with improved selection and higher quality products. The availability of wireless internet will allow you to decide if you want to spend your trip surfing the web or conducting business.

We didn't stop our improvements with the train cars; we are also improving the level of service you will receive. All Amtrak employees that will be working on these trains have participated in high-speed rail seminars. Service provided will be friendly, respectful and knowledgeable. Not only are they there for your safety, they are there to help make your trip enjoyable. ☺

It's a Whole New Rail



The construction that is underway on the Amtrak Lincoln Service Line has upgraded the track, replaced the wooden ties with concrete ties, and reconstructed roadway crossings. Some new sidings have been built and others are still in the works. A siding is a section of second track that connects to the main line track at each end. Having additional sidings along this route will allow slower moving trains to pull out of the way of higher speed trains to minimize any delays and to make your travel more reliable.

Be Smart. Be Safe.



As part of higher speed operation, new safety measures will be implemented. All roadway crossings will be equipped with four-quadrant gates. Fencing will be installed through communities along the corridor to deter people from walking along the tracks. A new signal system at grade crossings will be in place that communicates with the train to notify it if there is a vehicle blocking the tracks. This will provide the train enough time to stop to avoid an impact.

We've been working on the railroad



The State of Illinois continues to ensure that the Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Rail corridor remains at the forefront of passenger rail development. The latest phase of Track Renewal Train (TRT) construction began on April 18, 2012. The TRT performs the act of removing the existing rail and wooden ties and replaces them with concrete ties and new rail. A video of the TRT in action is available on the website, <http://www.idothsr.org> www.idothsr.org. These improvements were concentrated between Wann and Godfrey.



The current phase of construction is taking place between Dwight and Joliet and is scheduled for late June or early July. Temporary crossing closure information is available under the construction section of the project website.

Since construction began in 2010, 232 miles of track have been upgraded. Work crews have installed 602,011 concrete ties, 1,195,512 tons of stone ballast, and have refurbished 217 crossings with new concrete road surfaces. Work also included building new sidings, upgrades to bridges and culverts, drainage improvements and installation and upgrades to signal and wayside equipment. ☺

Now Departing...The New Commute

Higher speed rail will soon be here and the very first stretch will run from Dwight to Pontiac. There are many reasons why you should consider traveling by Amtrak on the higher speed rail. Amtrak offers a new level of train travel and you will get to your destination in style with:

- > UPGRADED INTERIORS
- > WI-FI
- > CONVENIENCE
- > FOOD CAFÉ ON EACH TRAIN
- > COMFORT
- > RELIABILITY

Amtrak is very affordable, especially if you are in the Amtrak Guest Rewards program. Members earn two points for every \$1 spent on all Amtrak travel. Free travel starts at just 1,500 points. For more information about the Amtrak Guest Rewards program please visit www.amtrakguestrewards.com.

Stop worrying about congestion, construction, breaking down, or icy road conditions; just sit back, relax, sleep, read, work, spend time with your kids or visit the internet. These are just some of the perks you can have while traveling high-speed rail instead of being stuck behind the wheel of your car.

Go ahead, treat yourself and take a ride. You may never want to drive again!

Come Tour with Us

When planning your family vacation this summer, think Amtrak. Traveling by rail is less stressful than driving and more convenient than flying. Think of the time you will save in driving to the airport and waiting in long lines just to wait at your gate for two hours prior to departure.

There are many things to do and see right here in Illinois on the Lincoln Service Line. You can take the train to many locations and stay for a day or for a week.

Check Out...

- > **Chicago** and tour museums and the lake front or take in a ball game and sample some of the fine restaurants the city has to offer.
- > **Joliet** and tour the conservatory, see a show at the Rialto Square theatre or spend time at the Hollywood Casino.
- > **Dwight** and play a game of golf or go bowling and visit the historic sights.
- > **Pontiac** and check out the Route 66 Museum or the Pontiac Auto Museum.
- > **Bloomington / Normal** and stroll the downtown shops, go to the zoo, the Children's Discovery Museum, or the Golf Hall of Fame.
- > **Springfield** and learn about the state's history with a tour of the capitol, Lincoln's Presidential Library and the State Museum.
- > **Alton** and tour a few of the haunted sites or a local winery.

Amtrak can also take you to *St Louis, Missouri* where you can go up in the Arch, catch a baseball game or spend the day shopping

Contact Amtrak at **1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245)** or at www.amtrak.com and start planning your trip today.

New service. New level of safety.

HIGHER SPEED TRAINS
FROM DWIGHT TO PONTIAC

<p>We've installed upgraded track, train crossings and signals, and are notifying communities of changes in their area. So higher speed rail is not only the fastest trip you've ever taken, it's also the safest.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Obey all crossing signals.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Be safe. Don't walk on or along the tracks.</p>	<p style="font-size: x-small;">Cross the tracks only at crosswalks.</p>
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ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL
CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS

Scan with your Smartphone
Learn more about educational opportunities.

Visit www.idothsr.org for more information.
Project Hotline: 1-888-IDOT-HSR (436-8477)

Travel Smart

The Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Rail Corridor will focus on the multi-modal concept for the future of transportation. All modes of transportation need to be integrated, coordinated, planned and built with the idea that present and future travel options and access is user focused, economically sensible, and ecologically practical. This multi-modal approach will offer reasonable and favorable connections among highways, public transportation, and rail. We encourage you to use multi-modal links and all available travel options for your daily commute and travel throughout Illinois.



With this multi-modal concept in mind, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is investing in building three new Amtrak stationhouses and renovating one Amtrak stationhouse on the Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Rail Corridor. The new stationhouses will be located in Carlinville, Pontiac and Dwight and the Lincoln stationhouse will be renovated.

All the stationhouses will integrate with bicycle and pedestrian options to encourage more energy efficient travel and to improve community life. In addition, there will be adequate parking and access to facilities, and most offer connections and easy access to community business centers.

Additionally, the City of Normal has built a new multi-modal train station with federal grant funds. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held in July 2012 and photographs from the event can be found on our facebook site. The Cities of Joliet and Alton have also received grant funding for new stations, both are currently in the planning stages.

Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Rail will provide you with as many viable transportation alternatives throughout your travels as possible, to enable logical and sensible choices that ensure access, safety, efficient use of travel time, and maximum mobility. ●

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