



High-Speed Rail Races into 2015 WITH A FULL CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE



2015 Construction

The Illinois High-Speed Rail Chicago to St. Louis corridor improvements have been underway between the Joliet and the East St. Louis area since 2010.

In 2015, construction activities include:

Bridge Improvements:

- Salt Creek
- Macoupin River

Siding Reconstruction

- Carlinville
- Girard
- Athol
- Elkhart
- Ridgley
- Auburn

New Siding Construction:

- Braidwood

Bridge and Track Improvements:

- Joliet
- Wilmington

Crossing Work:

- Throughout the corridor

Additional Projects:

- Dwight through Joliet
- Godfrey through Shipman
- Springfield 3rd Street
- Stations along the corridor

By 2016, significant infrastructure improvements will be in place to support speeds of up to 110 miles per hour in areas between Joliet and Carlinville. Completed infrastructure improvements for the remainder of the corridor are expected to be in place by the end of 2017 allowing for an hour of time savings.

EMPHASIS ON SAFETY CONTINUES

To improve service reliability and to accommodate passenger trains operating up to 110 mph, numerous safety enhancements are underway. A major portion of the investment in the Chicago to St. Louis corridor is to improve safety systems.

The track and infrastructure has been upgraded with **new premium rail, new stone ballast and the replacement of wooden ties with concrete ties**. All of the rail-highway grade crossings have undergone an extensive field review to determine necessary improvements. **Warning devices at the crossings will be upgraded, and four-quadrant gates** will be installed at all public crossings. This gate system will prevent vehicles from driving around the gates, when a train is approaching.

Right-of-way fencing will also be installed along the corridor within urban areas and select rural areas. The fencing will be placed within Union Pacific Railroad's right-of-way. Typically, this will be one foot inside Union Pacific's right-of-way.

Finally, an **enhanced signal system** will be implemented on the corridor. This system will help keep trains separated from each other, as well as identifying roadway vehicles on the tracks at crossings.

Members of the project team along with a representative from the Illinois Commerce Commission are available to present information on safety to your school or group. For more information or to schedule a presentation, please contact Janet Henderson at 630-510-3944



Station Updates

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The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) continues to move forward with its plan to upgrade stations and facilities. Upgraded station facilities will provide better passenger safety and convenience, more efficient transportation linkages and technology improvements, while at the same time promoting local economic development. Similar to many of the High-Speed Rail improvements, this work is being funded through a grant from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). Among the station work is improvements in the municipalities of Dwight, Pontiac, and Lincoln.



Dwight Station Rendering

DWIGHT — A new station will be built south of the current location on property owned by the Village. A bid for construction was released this spring, with construction scheduled to begin this summer.

PONTIAC — A new station will be built southwest of the existing station on property owned by the City.

A bid for construction was released this summer and construction is expected to begin this fall.

LINCOLN — Site preparation services, including but not limited to, demolition of a portion of the existing station is underway.



Construction Accomplishments

Significant milestones have been achieved to date in the completion of the High-Speed Rail improvements, including the following:

- > Installed over 535 track miles of new rail
- > Installed 709,518 new concrete ties
- > Spread 1,527,982 tons of stone ballast
- > Interim renewal of 225 crossing surfaces and approaches
- > Final renewal of 36 crossing surfaces and approaches
- > Installed four-quadrant gate systems within 120 miles of the corridor
- > Signed up over 7,600 people to be on the Illinois High-Speed Rail Program stakeholder list
- > Provided railroad safety presentations to over 4,800 students

Did You Know...



- > The first studies for a new high-speed rail passenger train between Chicago and St. Louis was conducted in the 1970's.
- > Illinois High-Speed Rail is the first to begin higher speed passenger train operations in the Midwest.
- > The equipment being purchased as part of the High-Speed Rail Program will abide by the federal "Buy America" Program and will include products and parts manufactured in the United States.
- > Passenger rail is 17 percent more fuel efficient than airlines on a per passenger mile basis. (Source: U.S. Department of Energy, USDOT Preliminary National Rail Plan)
- > Use of High-Speed Rail results in a 71 percent reduction of carbon dioxide emission by train, per passenger mile, as compared to automobiles (Source: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 2011)

EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF.

For additional information and business opportunities regarding the Illinois High-Speed Rail Program, please visit the official High-Speed Rail websites:

www.idothsr.org

www.facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail

Program Hotline:
1-855-IDOT HSR
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