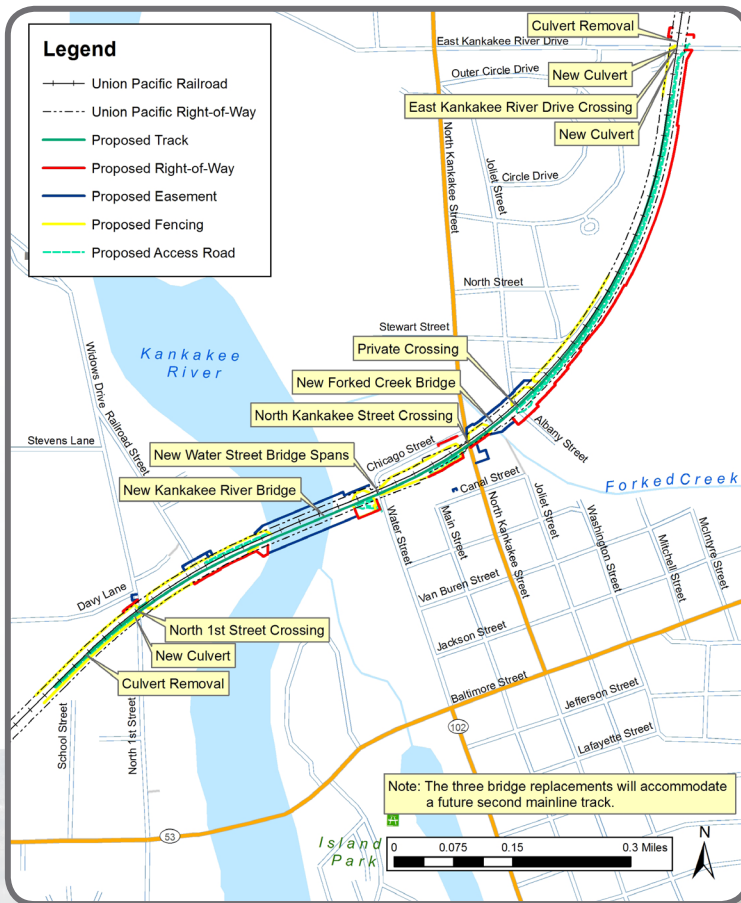




Vision for the Future

The demand for fast, reliable public transportation is growing and Illinois is working hard to plan for future travel needs throughout the state. The Illinois High-Speed Rail (HSR) Program is upgrading the Chicago to St. Louis rail network to provide service at up to 110 mph. The HSR Program is the first step in bringing Illinois' passenger rail network into the 21st century.



Wilmington bridge and track improvements

The project study area is a 1.31 mile portion of the HSR Chicago to St. Louis corridor between East Kankakee River Drive to south of North 1st Street in the City of Wilmington.

PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- > Install a second mainline track along the project area
> Shift the existing track to accommodate the new second track
> Replace the Kankakee River Bridge, Water Street Bridge, and Forked Creek Bridge
> Create a new maintenance access road within railroad right-of-way
> Enhance grade crossings at East Kankakee River Drive, North Kankakee Street, and North 1st Street with safety improvements, including crossing protection gates and pedestrian gates
> Culvert improvements at various locations
> Install Positive Train Control (PTC) signaling
> Install new fencing
> Private crossing at Albany Street will be closed

For more information about proposed improvements, see the Supplemental Environmental Assessment available on the HSR website at http://idothsr.org/pdf/kankakeeriverbridgesupplementalea.pdf.

Why do the bridges and tracks need to be improved?



To support higher train speeds and develop a reliable form of public transportation, a variety of track improvements and safety enhancements are necessary. Between Joliet and St. Louis, there is only a single track, which reduces operational flexibility along the line, often relegating Amtrak trains to wait on passing sidings while freight trains pass. This impacts the reliability of passenger rail service, causing delays and hindering on-time performance. In addition, bridges along the corridor in Wilmington are nearly 100 years old with deteriorating and functionally obsolete components and need to be replaced.



UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION

Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-2016 and will involve temporary partial or full closure of track crossings. Detours will be coordinated with the City of Wilmington, emergency departments, and schools to minimize impacts. Traffic may also experience brief delays to allow entry and exit of construction vehicles at the work sites. To accommodate work and demolition of the Kankakee River Bridge, a temporary bridge will be constructed. Work on the Water Street bridge will require temporary closure of Water Street. North Kankakee Street and Water Street will not be closed at the same time. To accelerate construction at the North Kankakee Street crossing, the crossing will be temporarily closed and traffic will be detoured to River Road or Water Street and IL-53. Access to businesses along North Kankakee Street would be maintained.

It is anticipated that construction will be completed in late 2017. **Updated crossing closure information is available at www.idothsr.org.**

We want to hear from you!

Public participation is an important part of the Illinois High-Speed Rail Program. **Get involved today** by submitting your comments and signing up for the mailing list at www.idothsr.org.

North Kankakee Street IMPROVEMENTS



Was grade separation considered?

Based on public interest, the HSR team evaluated grade separation alternatives as part of the improvements at North Kankakee Street.

Evaluation Included:

- 1 closing North Kankakee Street and improving the existing Water Street grade separation
- 2 raising the existing railroad tracks over existing North Kankakee Street
- 3 reconstructing North Kankakee Street under the existing railroad tracks

During the development and assessment of grade crossing options, the HSR team met with City of Wilmington representatives and together concluded that a **grade separation is not recommended** because of adverse impacts. Reasons varied by alternative but included displacement of residents and businesses, new right-of-way needs, changed traffic patterns and business access, underpasses being prone to flooding, and visual change.

Proposed Improvements

North Kankakee Street will be reconstructed between Canal Street and Chicago Street, including both intersections, to improve sight distances from one side of the grade crossing to the other. The improvement will include starting the street's rise to the grade crossing further away from the crossing, retaining walls, business access changes, and drainage improvements.

For more information about the North Kankakee Street grade crossing improvement, see the Supplemental Environmental Assessment available on the HSR website at <http://idothsr.org/pdf/kankakeeriverbridgesupplementalea.pdf>.

EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF.

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