

# News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR WORK CONTINUES *Amtrak Lincoln Service and Texas Eagle trains affected*

CHICAGO – Upgrading of approximately ninety-six miles of railroad track, including installation of a quarter-million railroad ties for future high-speed Amtrak trains, will resume May 20. This work will lead to the substitution of chartered motorcoaches for some *Lincoln Service* trains and the detour of the *Texas Eagle* between Chicago and St. Louis.

The temporary changes will allow Union Pacific Railroad crews to improve infrastructure to allow Amtrak service at speeds up to 110 mph (177 kph), an increase from the current maximum of 79 mph (127 kph). The Illinois Department of Transportation anticipates operation of some *Lincoln Service* trains at speeds up to 110 mph next year between Dwight and Pontiac.

The Chicago to St. Louis high-speed rail corridor is among the first high-speed rail projects in the country to begin construction, breaking ground in Brighton (between Alton and Carlinville) last September. Track renewal for this year's construction season began on April 2, 2011, from Elkhart (between Springfield and Lincoln) and is currently proceeding north. It is scheduled for completion by late summer.

The attached Passenger Service Notice covers the second phase of the 2011 work from May 20 to May 24 and June 1 to 9, along 54 miles between Normal and Dwight and for about 26 miles south of Joliet. The plan is similar to the first phase of this year's construction season.

Last year, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) selected Illinois to receive \$1.1 billion for corridor improvements to bring high-speed passenger rail service to Illinois by 2014. The plans also include new locomotives and passenger cars, station improvements, installation of premium rail and concrete ties, enhanced grade crossing warning systems with four-quadrant roadway and pedestrian gates (subject to state and federal regulatory approvals) and implementation of state-of-the-art safety signaling technology. The State of Illinois showed its financial commitment by providing more than \$42 million in capital funding.

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**NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION**

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Earlier this month, Illinois was selected by FRA to receive \$186.3 million in additional funds to further upgrade the route and provide high speed service between Dwight and Joliet. Additionally, Illinois and four other Midwestern states were awarded a total of \$268.2 million to purchase 48 passenger rail cars and seven locomotives compliant with standards for use on corridors with speeds up to 110 mph. Illinois intends to issue a Request for Proposals for the new rail equipment later this year.

Until the new trains arrive in a few years, *Lincoln Service* trains will continue to operate with the current Amtrak cars and locomotives, which are capable of higher speeds.

Passenger Service Notices are posted at stations and will be displayed as part of the booking process on [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com), with updates on the Official Illinois High-Speed Rail Chicago to St. Louis project website, [www.idothsr.org](http://www.idothsr.org).

Further notices will be issued through the 2011 construction season

**About Amtrak®**

Celebrating 40 years of dedicated service as America's Railroad<sup>sm</sup>, Amtrak is the nation's intercity passenger rail provider and its only high-speed rail operator. A record 28.7 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2010 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies. Amtrak also is a strong financial performer achieving an 85 percent cost-recovery ratio in FY 2010. Enjoy the journey<sup>sm</sup> at [Amtrak.com](http://Amtrak.com) or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on [facebook.com/Amtrak](http://facebook.com/Amtrak) and follow us at [twitter.com/Amtrak](http://twitter.com/Amtrak).

**About Illinois DOT**

The Illinois Department of Transportation provides safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois in ways that enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity, and demonstrate respect for our environment. Illinois DOT provides leadership throughout Illinois for the improvement and coordination of the state's multi-faceted transportation system and serves as an advocate and trusted adviser to local governments and other community agencies involved in providing transportation access and services for all of Illinois. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/>. For project specific information, visit [www.idothsr.org](http://www.idothsr.org) or call 855-IDOT-HSR (855-436-8477). Join us on Facebook at [facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail](http://facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail).

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