

**Chicago to St. Louis High-Speed Passenger Rail Service**  
**TIER 1 SERVICE LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

Submitted Pursuant to 64 FR 28545

by the

US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

and

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

and

MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

9-30-09  
Date of Approval

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9-30-09  
Date of Approval

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For Federal Railroad Administration

**ABSTRACT:** The Illinois Department of Transportation (DOT) and the Missouri DOT, in conjunction with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) are evaluating alternatives to improve high-speed passenger rail service between Chicago, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri. This is a Tier 1 Service Level Environmental Assessment (EA) which addresses the service level issues that would be part of infrastructure and service improvements to achieve a four-hour travel time between Chicago and St. Louis. These improvements were not included in the Chicago – St. Louis High Speed Rail Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), completed in January 2003 and the Record of Decision (ROD) signed in January 2004. The preferred alternative follows the current Amtrak service routing and includes double tracking along the Union Pacific Railroad from Joliet to St. Louis, and other improvements to support a total of eight high-speed (110 mph) rail round trips per day. The majority of right-of-way currently exists to expand from a single track to double track, since this right-of-way was previously double tracked.

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Comments on the Tier 1 Service Level EA are due by October 19, 2009, and should be sent to either George Weber or Rod Massman at the address shown above.

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