

# *High Speed Rail*

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Elected/Local Official  
Meetings

August 30-31, 2010

**CHICAGO TO ST. LOUIS  
HIGH SPEED RAIL  
2010 CONSTRUCTION**



Illinois Department  
of Transportation

# Agenda

- » High-Speed Rail Program
- » 2010 Construction
- » Full Build Out of Corridor
- » Next Steps



# What are High-Speed Trains?



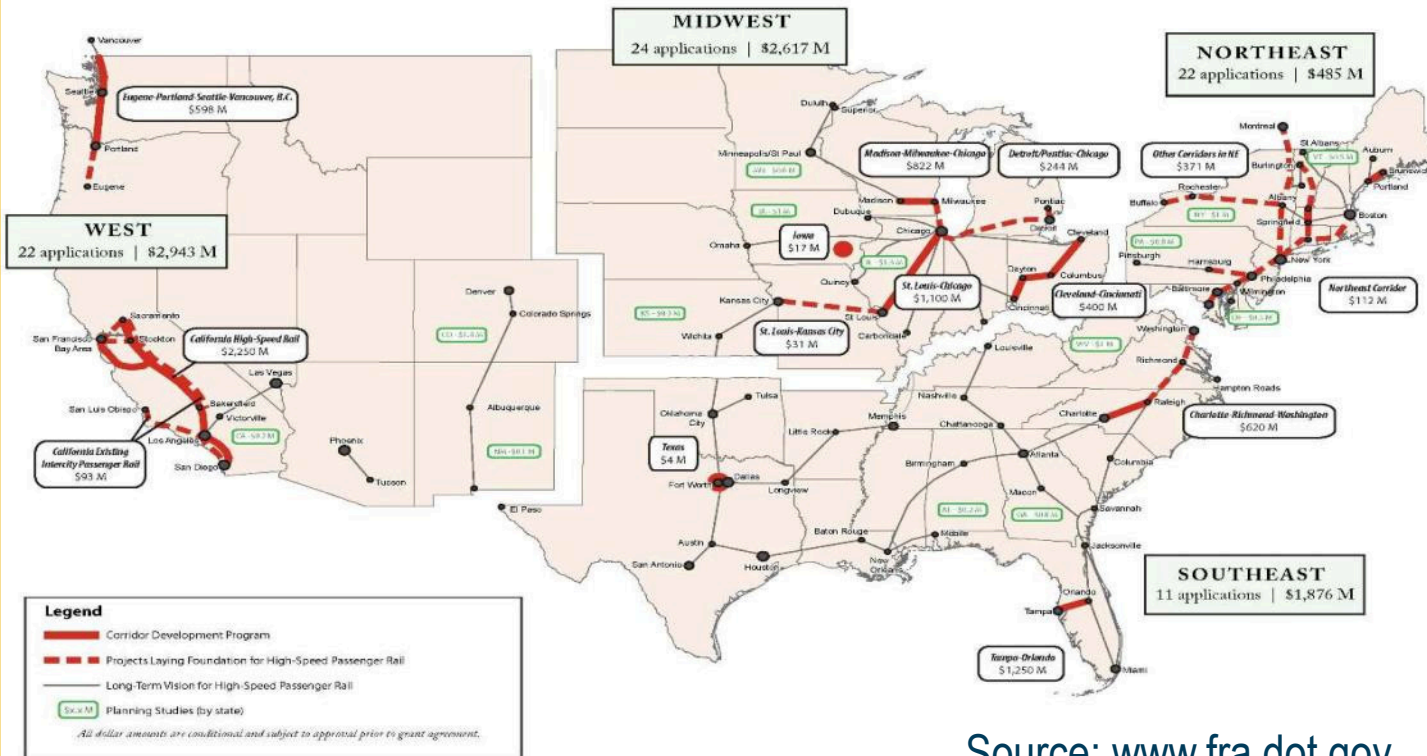
- » Chicago to St. Louis high-speed trains are proposed. to operate at a maximum speed of 110 mph, where safe and practical.
- » Service will continue to be operated by Amtrak with new locomotives and cars.

# National High Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Vision



## High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program

National Summary of Selected Projects



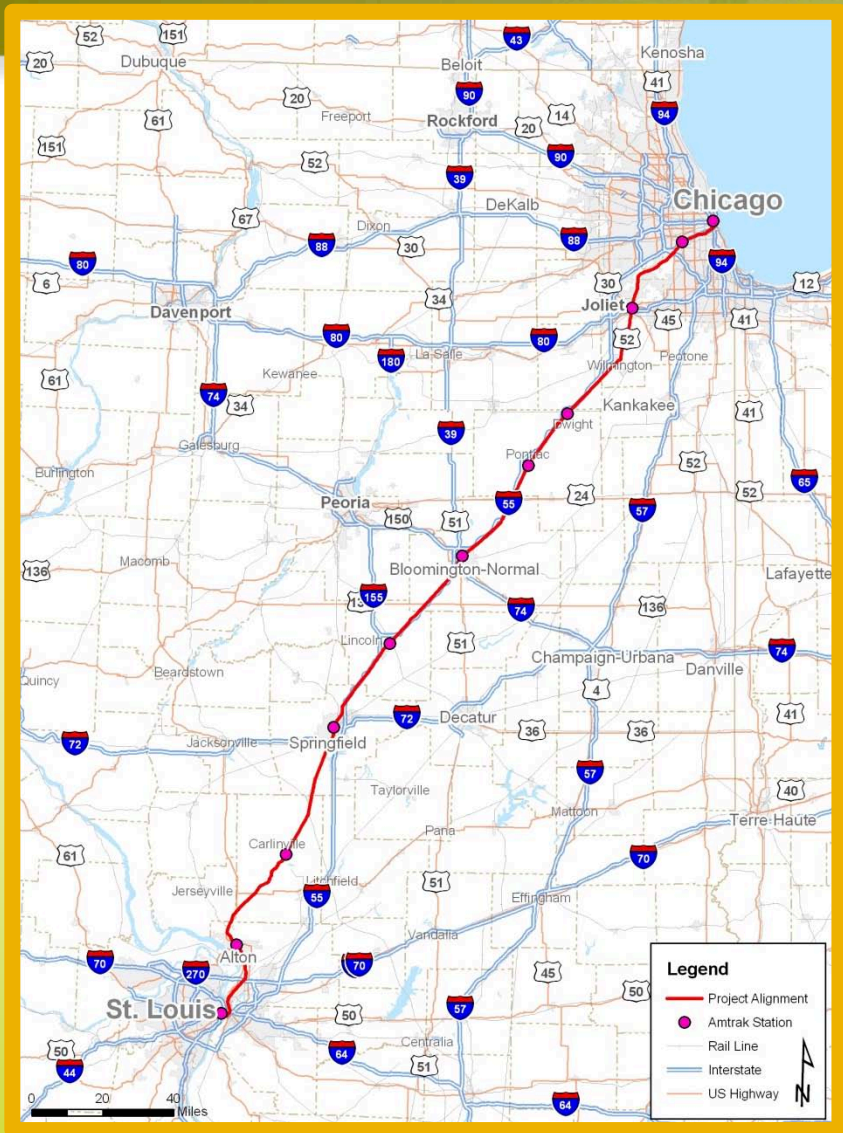
Source: [www.fra.dot.gov](http://www.fra.dot.gov)

[www.connectthemidwest.com](http://www.connectthemidwest.com)

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# Chicago – St. Louis Corridor



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# Illinois Projects Selected for FRA Funding



- » FRA High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)
- » \$1.1 Billion for the corridor improvements between Dwight-St. Louis area.
- » \$1.25 Million for Tier 1 EIS environmental/planning.

**\*Note: The CREATE project was selected to receive \$133M of the Illinois funding allocation.**

# Funded HSR Project: 2004 Record of Decision (ROD) Improvements



- » New track built to FRA Class 6 (110 mph) standards.
- » Sidings and crossovers.
- » New grade crossing surfaces
- » Signal and grade crossing warning systems.
- » Upgraded stations and amenities at intermediate locations
- » 6 new sets of passenger equipment suitable for 110 mph

# Dwight – St. Louis ROD Milestones



**Summer / Fall 2010**

» Track reconstruction and upgrades

**2012**

» Initial operation of trains at up to 110 mph

**2014**

» Anticipated project completion (Dwight to St. Louis)

# Benefits on Completion of the ROD

- » Reduction in travel times.
- » Improve service reliability.
- » Livable communities.
- » Economic development.
- » Support job creation.



# 2010 Construction



# 2010 Construction Location



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# Who is involved in the work?



- » Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) is performing most work using railroad union crews
  - » Limited construction, design, and oversight work performed by contractors including DBEs
  - » Amtrak is the service operator.
- Note: This is one of the first high-speed rail construction projects in the country as part of the HSIPR program

# Track Renewal Train



- » Much of the work will be completed using a Track Renewal Train (TRT).
- » Replaces rail, ties, and ballast while traveling over the railroad
- » Can install up to 5000 ties per workday (1-2 miles per day).



# Grade Crossing Work



- » Crossing surfaces will be replaced.
- » No upgrade to warning gates or flashers is planned as part of the 2010 work.
- » Crossings will be temporarily closed as work progresses.
- » Any potential permanent closure of a crossing will involve a negotiation process with the landowners, county and/or local municipality.

- » Some Amtrak service will be interrupted during construction.
- » Shuttle buses will be operated in place of trains as necessary.
- » Notice of substitute bus service will be posted on Amtrak.com as well as at stations and on-board trains.

# *Full Build Out*



# What is Full Build Out?



- » Additional main tracks and other improvements over the entire Chicago-St. Louis corridor.
- » Additional new train equipment to operate more frequent service throughout the day.
- » More segments capable of 110 mph.
- » Additional station improvements.

# Benefits of Full Build Out of Corridor

## Current Schedule

- » 521,000 annual trips
- » 99 million annual passenger-miles
- » 73% on-time
- » 50.1 mph average speed
- » **One-way time 5.5 hours**



## Improved Service

- » 1.2 million annual trips
- » 230 million annual passenger-miles
- » 90% on-time
- » 72.6 mph average speed
- » **One-way time 4.0 hours**

# FRA Tier 1 EIS of the Full Build Out



- » FRA Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be conducted for Chicago-St. Louis Corridor.
- » Kick-off for Tier 1 EIS in Fall 2010.
- » Tier 1 EIS will incorporate findings of the Springfield Railroad Corridor Study (currently ongoing).

# Next Steps



# Public Involvement Opportunities

## Stakeholder Outreach



Public Opinion Surveys/  
Focus Groups

Public Meetings &  
Workshops

Visualization Techniques

Stakeholder  
Meetings/Briefings

Agency Meetings

Newsletters/Fact  
Sheets

Small Group  
Meetings

Speakers Bureau

Media Outreach

Project Website

# Website



- » Visit [www.connectthemidwest.com](http://www.connectthemidwest.com) for Midwest High-Speed Rail information
- » Visit [www.idothesr.org](http://www.idothesr.org) for more project specific information and to comment on the Illinois High-Speed Rail project

# Questions

