



Introducing the Illinois High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study

Building a Vision for Faster, Connected Travel Across Illinois

The Illinois High-Speed Railway Commission is conducting the Illinois High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study to assess the potential for high-speed rail between Chicago and St. Louis with a feeder network that includes existing Amtrak, Metra and MetroLink services, and connects major cities across the state. By integrating current Amtrak, Metra, MetroLink, and intercity bus services, the proposed high-speed rail network would aim to improve connectivity across Illinois, enhance travel options for residents, and support the state's long-term transportation needs.

The study follows the 2021 signing of the High-Speed Railway Commission Act, which established a 21-member commission to guide the project. Together, the study and the Commission will lay the groundwork for a statewide high-speed rail plan, ensuring it aligns with Illinois' transportation goals and evaluating its overall feasibility.



High-Speed Railway Commission

Mission Statement

To create a statewide high-speed railway network for Illinois through actionable, achievable recommendations engaging governments on the local, state, and federal levels. Our efforts will support connecting the state with high-speed trains integrated with other modes of transportation linking additional communities into the passenger rail system. Our plan will benefit the people of Illinois through enhancements to both passenger and freight rail mobility, positive environmental benefits, potential economic development, and positioning Illinois for future funding opportunities.



Amtrak's Lincoln Service operating between Chicago and St. Louis

Imagine the possibilities...



Your college student home for the holidays in record time.



A weekend getaway, no road trip required.



Transportation that is safer and more reliable than driving.

with next-generation passenger cars and Charger locomotives. However, shared tracks and at-grade crossings limit further improvements.

Illinois has been a leader in advancing passenger rail, achieving 110 MPH speeds on the Lincoln Service corridor and modernizing equipment

This study explores the potential for a dedicated, fully electrified, grade-separated passenger rail corridor, allowing speeds up to 220 MPH. The goal is to enhance service frequency, expand connections, and build a strong future for passenger rail in Illinois.

High-Speed Rail Around The World

Fuxing Hao (CHINA)		220 mph	(819 miles in 5 hours)
Frecciarossa (ITALY)		200 mph	(360 miles < 3 hours)
Brightline West* (USA)		200 mph	(218 miles in 2 hours)
Shinkansen (JAPAN)		199 mph	420 miles in 3 hours)
Haramain HSR (KSA)		186 mph	(280 miles in 2.5 hours)

*Service slated to begin in late 2028

CASE STUDY

Brightline West

Brightline West will be America's first true high-speed passenger rail, connecting Las Vegas and Los Angeles with a modern, 218-mile system. Expected to generate over \$10 billion in economic impact, the project will create 35,000 construction jobs and 1,000 permanent jobs. Funded primarily through private bonds, with only \$3 billion in public funding, it serves as a model for high-speed rail in the U.S. Running mostly along I-15, Brightline West will connect with the San Bernardino Metrolink in Rancho Cucamonga, offering seamless travel to L.A. With service launching in late 2028, it aims to shift millions from congested highways to reliable rail.



Photos courtesy of Brightline West

Benefits of High-Speed Rail

"User" (Traveler) Benefits Elements	Broader Societal Impact Elements	Local (Area & Stakeholder) Impact Elements
Travel Time Savings	Safety Benefits	Station Area Land Development
Travel Cost Savings	Emissions Reduction	Land Value Increases
Travel Time Reliability	Accessibility & Intermodal Connectivity Benefits	Regional Economic Development
		Government Revenues from Taxes

Our Study

This feasibility study will use lessons learned from Brightline West's success story including environmental stewardship through construction in disturbed areas, enticing private development and investment in the service, and utilizing existing transit routes for multimodal connections. The study will evaluate potential high-speed rail routes for ridership potential, public benefits, and costs to construct, operate, and maintain the service.

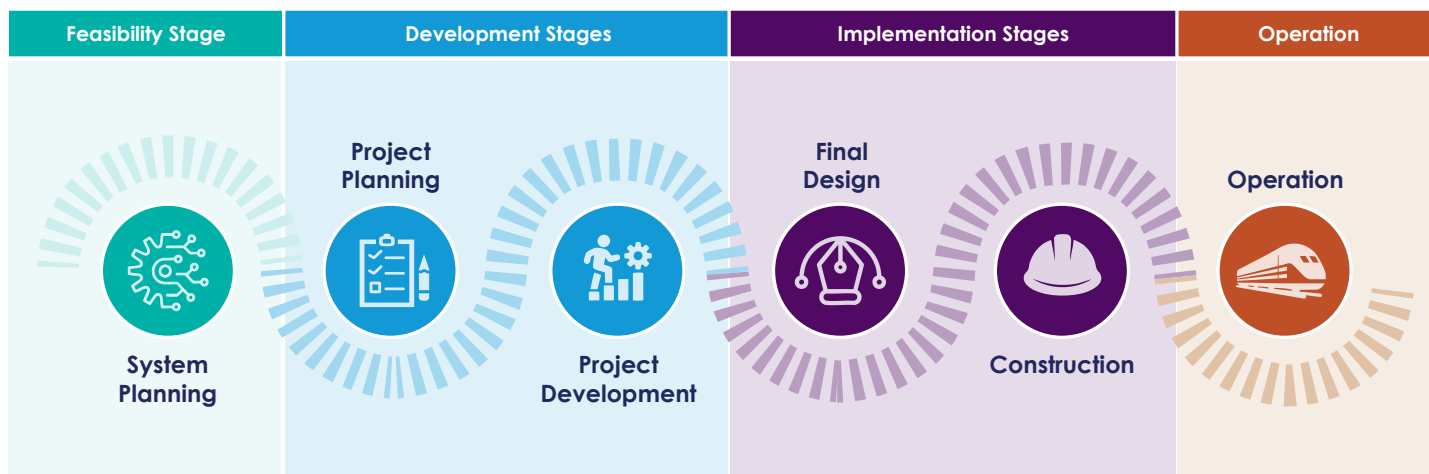


Vision for Illinois High-Speed Rail Connectivity

ADVANCING ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL
Responding to the state's commitment to high-speed rail options

MAJOR CITY CONNECTIONS
Links Chicago and St. Louis

ENHANCED STATEWIDE CONNECTIVITY
Integrates with Amtrak, Metra, MetroLink, and intercity buses



Project Lifecycle Stages

The Illinois High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study is the first step in the project lifecycle process defined by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). Feasibility studies, which occur during the systems planning stage, are high-level planning studies that can examine needs, challenges, and opportunities that can be addressed with a rail transportation solution. Systems planning considers connections with other transportation modes for safe, seamless, integrated transportation networks that carry travelers between large cities and communities across a corridor and region.

Stay Connected

Stay connected with the Illinois High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study and be a part of shaping the future of transportation in our state. Visit our website to:

- Learn more about the study
- Subscribe and receive updates
- Share your feedback and ideas

Visit us at **ilhightspeedrail.org** to take part in this exciting journey toward building a more connected Illinois.



Take the
survey

*Get Involved!
Take the survey!*

**Share Your Input on the Future
of High-Speed Rail in Illinois**

The success of this feasibility study depends on input from Illinois residents. We invite you to participate in our survey to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas for the Illinois high-speed rail network. Your feedback will help shape the development of this transformational transportation project and ensure it meets the needs of the communities it will serve.

Available in English: bit.ly/HSRStudySurvey

Available in Spanish: bit.ly/HSRStudySurveySpanish

Strengthening our State. Connecting the Region.



ILLINOIS
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
COMMISSION



Illinois Department
of Transportation