



IL HSR Commission Meeting

May 30, 2024





ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL COMMISSION





Engagement



ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL COMMISSION





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Draft Purpose & Need

CONDUCT MARKET RESEARCH

- Considers existing and projected characteristics of the transportation market to be served
- Corridor-wide data trends (e.g., passenger travel volumes, demographic trends)
- Quantitative data is input to P&N











Draft Purpose & Need

REVIEW PREVIOUS STUDIES

- Gather previous reports from IDOT, High-Speed Rail Alliance, and other entities
- Review for technical content and relevant information for P&N

DELIVERABLES

- Draft and Final Technical Memorandum Summarizing Previous Studies
- Draft and Final Purpose and Need Statement









Develop Alternatives Analysis Methodology

- Methodology for identifying, defining, and evaluating the route, service, and investment options
- Define qualitative and quantitative metrics to assess options
- Prepare design criteria

DELIVERABLES

- Design Criteria
 Technical Memorandum
- Draft and Final Alternatives Analysis Methodology Technical Memorandum







Route Options Analysis

Identify physical routes over which the proposed service could operate

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THREE CATEGORIES OF ROUTE OPTIONS:

- HSR mainline
- Chicago terminal access
- St. Louis terminal access

ROUTE OPTIONS MAY CONSIDER:

- Greenfield corridor
- I-57 corridor
- I-55/I-57 corridor
- Existing UP route











Route Options Analysis

IDENTIFY ROUTE CHARACTERISTICS

- Communities and markets served (population and jobs) by route
- Potential for multimodal connectivity
- Consistency with prior planning efforts
- Operational viability
- Constructability







Route Options Analysis

ENVIRONMENTAL SCREEN

- Identify whether there are any potential significant impacts to environmental resources
- Will result in understanding of order of magnitude impacts in comparison to other route options

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Draft and Final Route
 Options Analysis
 Technical
 Memorandum







IDENTIFY SERVICE CHARACTERISTICS

- Speed and frequency options
- Stations options
- Terminal station analysis
- Fleet requirements, including, but not limited to, electrification/power needs

- Signal system requirements
- Other operational requirements
- Ridership demand
- Passenger comfort







PREPARE OPERATING PLANS

- Collect terrain, utilities, land use, and transportation network data from available sources
- Determine operating speeds for proposed route options alignments
- Develop fleet utilization plan
- Develop timetables from Train Performance Calculations









STATION ANALYSIS

- Identify potential station locations
- Identify metropolitan area terminal options
- Evaluate multimodal connection opportunities







RIDERSHIP FORECASTING

- Detailed forecasting for each combination route and service option
- Based on proposed operating plans

- Will test the following forecast assumptions:
 - HSR mainline (downtown Chicago to downtown St. Louis)
 - HSR mainline + network feeder system (bus, existing Amtrak, existing transit and commuter rail, and proposed intercity passenger rail (e.g., Chicago to Rockford))
 - HSR mainline + network feeder system + metro transit centers (south suburban Chicago and East St. Louis)









DELIVERABLES

- ✓ Draft and Final Operations Analysis Technical Memorandum
- Draft Station Area and Access Technical Memorandum
- ✓ Draft and Final Demand Forecasting Technical Memorandum
- ✓ Draft and Final Service Options Analysis Technical Memorandum









IDENTIFY INVESTMENT OPTIONS

- Investments needed to achieve the desired Service Option/Route Option combination
- Investments include:
 - ✓ Critical connections
 - \checkmark Stations
 - ✓ Terminals
 - ✓ Track, structural, and civil elements







CONCEPTUAL ENGINEERING

- Conceptual plans on scaled orthophoto imagery and/or track schematics
- Existing infrastructure and proposed investments

- Elements may include:
 - ✓ New main or siding track
 - Track upgrades (ties, ballast, surfacing)
 - Bridge, viaduct, and drainage structures
 - ✓ Drainage improvements

- ✓ Grade crossings
- ✓ Station footprints
- ✓ Land acquisition
- Highway infrastructure
- Electrification infrastructure







SECONDARY ENVIRONMENTAL SCREEN

• Refine proposed capital investments to minimize environmental impacts









CAPITAL COST ESTIMATES

- Unit costs based on current intercity passenger rail construction including California High-Speed Rail
- Will follow FRA's standard cost categories









OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE COSTS

 Estimates will be based on annual train-miles, ridership, and train crew hours

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- Conceptual Engineering Plans
- Draft and Final Preliminary Capital Cost Estimates
- Draft and Final Operating and Maintenance Cost Estimates









Summary of Alternatives

PREPARE BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS

- Alternatives matrix will summarize the characteristics of each Route/Service/Investment option:
 - ✓ Route length
 - ✓ Travel time
 - ✓ Ridership forecast
 - ✓ Capital cost

- ✓ Operating and
 - maintenance cost
- ✓ Benefit-Cost Ratio









Thank You!

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