



**ILLINOIS
HIGH-SPEED
RAIL**

COMMISSION

IDOT Headquarters: Springfield & Chicago

July 14, 2025



Agenda



10:30am:



Welcome & Introduction
(Chair Derwinski)
Roll Call (Morreale Communications)

10:35am:



Minutes Approval from May 19th
Commission Meeting (Chair Derwinski)

10:40am:



Technical Assistance and Support Update
(Quandel Consultants)

11:20am:



Public Comment

11:30am:



Commission Meeting Adjourns

Minutes Approval



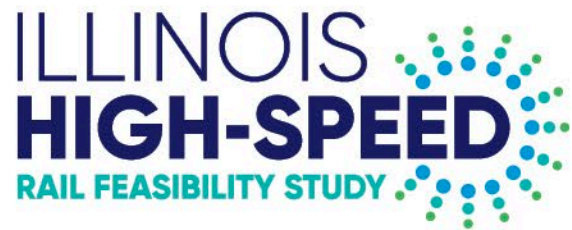
- Meeting minutes from the **May 19th** Commission meeting were circulated with the agenda prior to today's meeting.
- Are there any requested changes?

Technical Assistance and Support Update



Technical Assistance and Support Update

Presented by Quandel Consulting Team



Strengthening our State. Connecting the Region.

Illinois High-Speed Rail Commission Meeting

Monday, July 14, 2025

Agenda

- Project Timeline
- Alternatives Analysis
- Market Analysis
- Outreach & Engagement
- Questions and Comments

Project Timeline

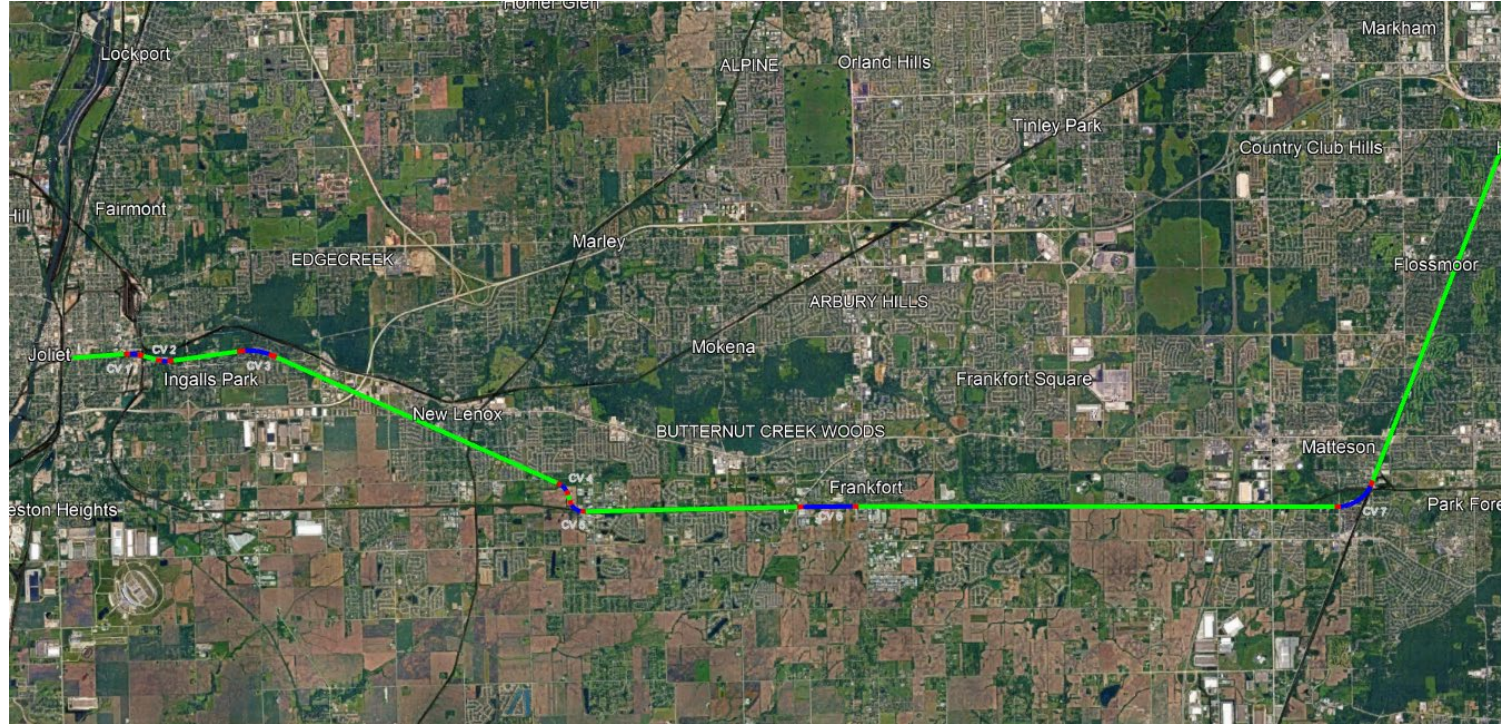


Alternatives Analysis

Route Options

New Chicago Access: Joliet-Metra Electric District

- Evaluated CN and Rock Island District from Joliet into Chicago
- Identified new Joliet-Metra Electric District connection along ComEd ROW



Peoria Route Option

- Alignment within interstate medians and adjacent to interstates
- Utilizes I-55, I-155, and I-74
- Serves Morton, IL east of Peoria
- Avoids significant challenges with entering downtown Peoria

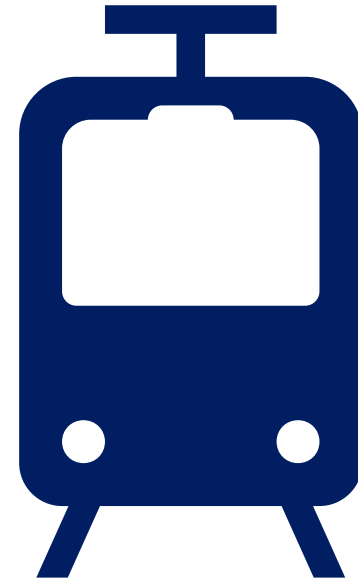


Preliminary Travel Times

Estimated Travel Times

Assumptions:

- Preliminary travel time estimates
- Developed using industry standard software
- Electric train propulsion
- Modern equipment
- Includes station dwell
- Dedicated track



New Assumptions

- No cross-platform transfers at Metra stations
- New connection from Joliet to the Metra Electric District and into Chicago for all Joliet routes
- Max speeds of 90 MPH on Metra Electric District

Estimated Travel Time - I-55 Median

Interstate Median Travel Time

○	Chicago	2:46
○	Joliet	2:14
○	Bloomington/Normal	1:23
○	Springfield	0:45
○	East St Louis	0:00

Average
Speed of
109 MPH



Estimated Travel Time – I-55/I-72/I-57

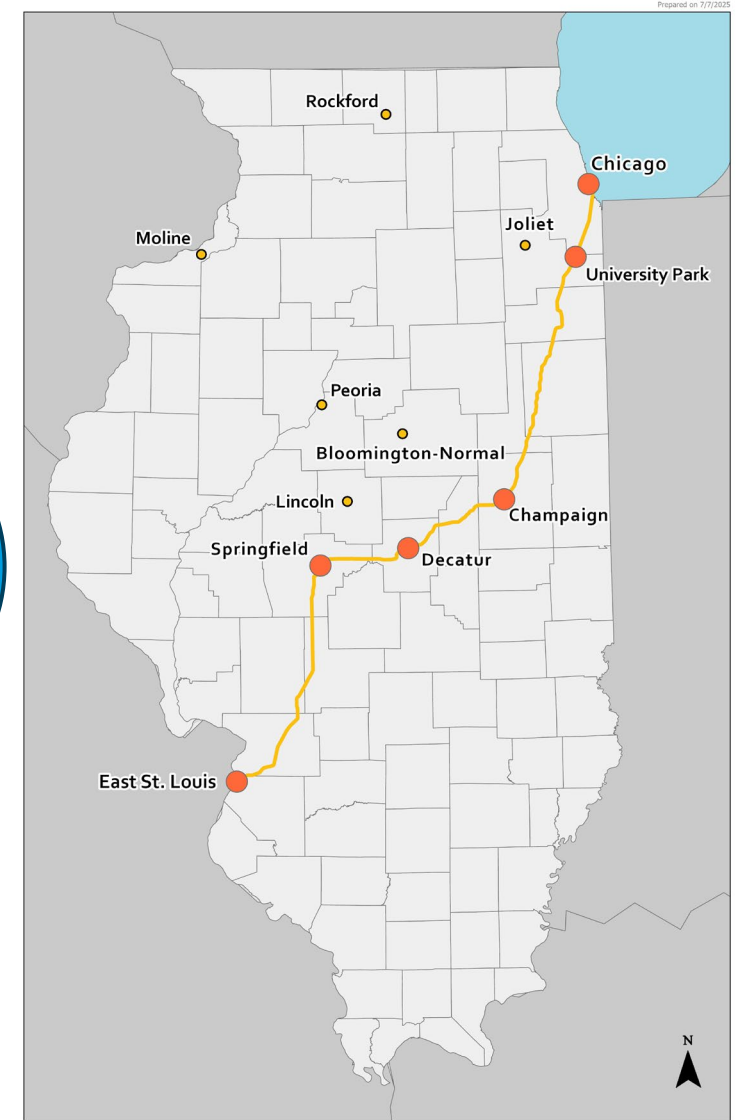
Median

Interstate Median

Travel Time

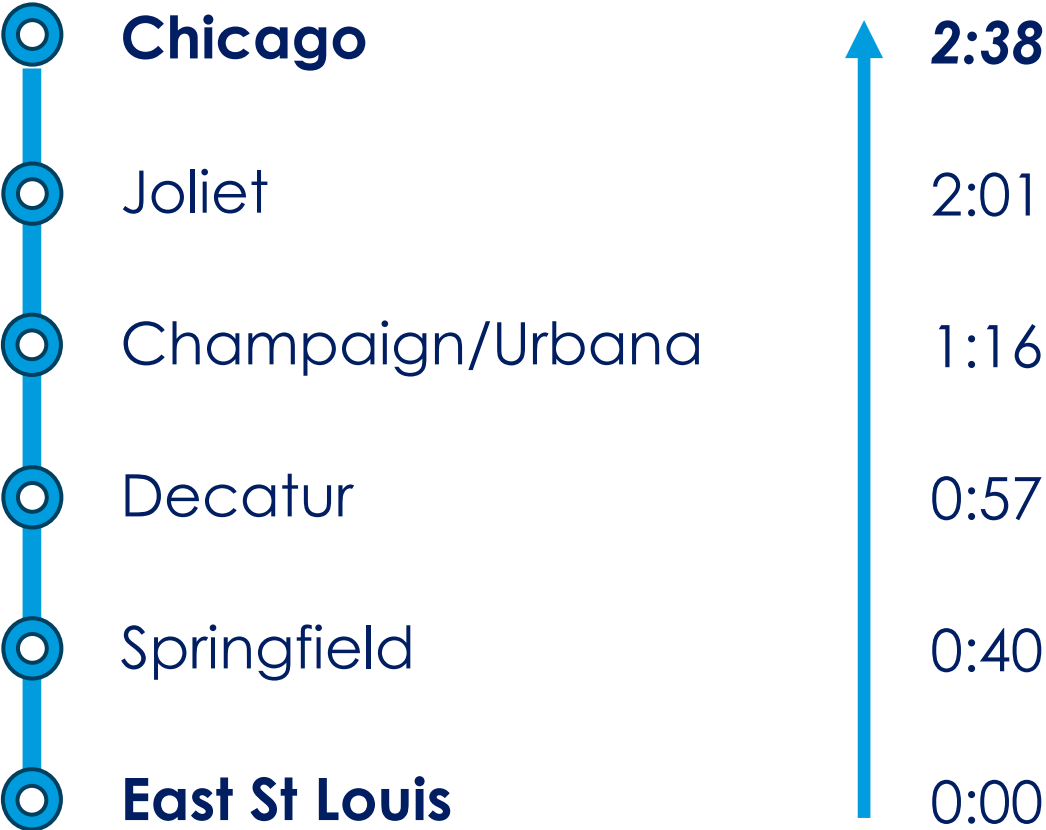
○ Chicago	2:47
○ University Park	2:25
○ Champaign/Urbana	1:33
○ Decatur	1:09
○ Springfield	0:46
○ East St Louis	0:00

Average
Speed of
110 MPH



Estimated Travel Time – Greenfield via Champaign and Joliet

Interstate Median Travel Time



Average
Speed of
118 MPH



Estimated Travel Time - Interstate Adjacent and County Road via Champaign

Interstate Median Travel Time

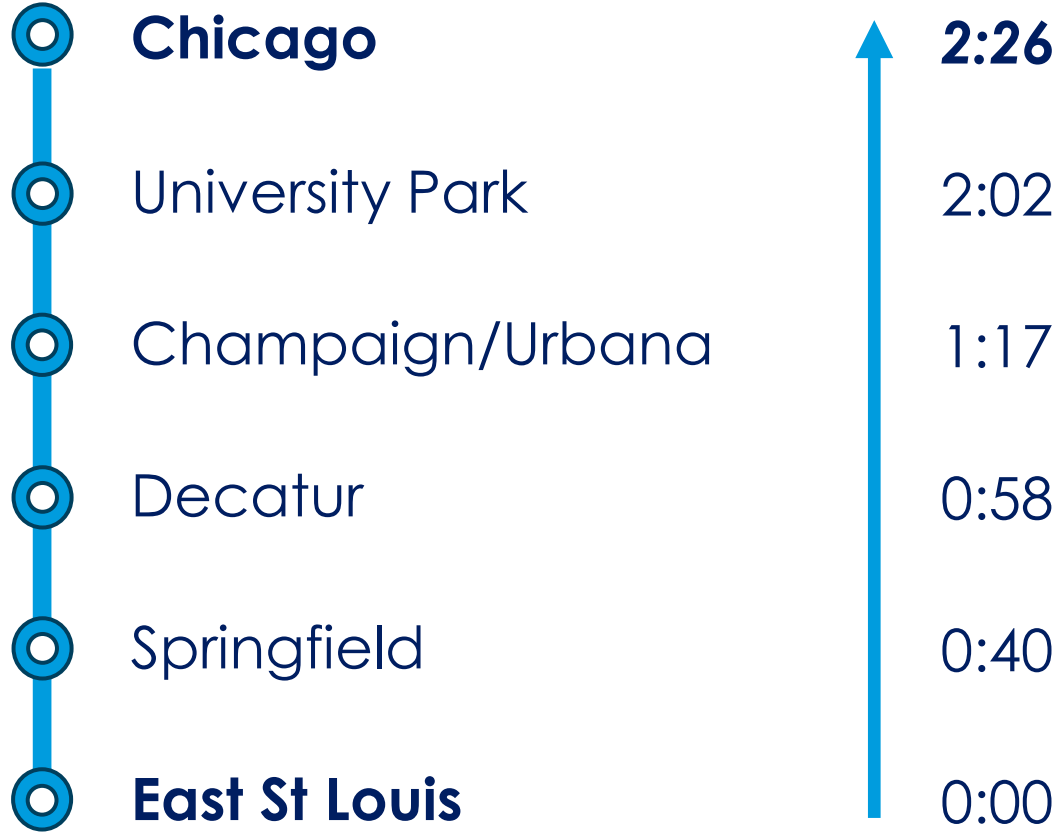
○ Chicago	2:31
○ Joliet	1:59
○ Champaign/Urbana	1:20
○ Decatur	1:02
○ Springfield	0:43
○ East St Louis	0:00

Average
Speed of
128 MPH



Estimated Travel Time – Greenfield via Champaign and University Park

Interstate Median Travel Time



Average
Speed of
126 MPH



Estimated Travel Time – Peoria Interstate Route

Interstate Median Travel Time

○	Chicago	2:59
○	Joliet	2:27
○	Bloomington/Normal	1:37
○	Peoria (Morton)	1:22
○	Springfield	0:45
○	East St Louis	0:00

Average
Speed of
109 MPH



Updated Estimated Travel Times

Name	Intermediate Station Stops	Right-of-Way Type	Equipment Type	Total Runtime (HH:MM)	Total Miles	Avg Speed w/dwell (MPH)
Route 1	Springfield - Bloomington/Normal - Joliet	Interstate Median	Tilting	2:46	301	109
Route 2	Springfield - Bloomington/Normal - Joliet	Greenfield	Conventional	TBD	TBD	TBD
Route 3	Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - University Park	Interstate Median	Tilting	2:47	307	110
Route 4	Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - Joliet	Greenfield	Conventional	2:38	311	118
Route 5	Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - Joliet	Interstate Adjacent + County Road	Conventional	2:31	321	128
Route 6	Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - University Park	Greenfield	Conventional	2:26	306	126
Route 7	Springfield - Peoria - Bloomington - Joliet	Interstate Median	Tilting	2:59	324	109

*Total Runtime: Includes schedule pad and 2-minute station dwell

- **Downtown** station routes to be refined with city leadership and Class I RRs

Project Delivery TAC

TAC Meetings

June 23, 2025 – Springfield

- Attendees
 - Mike Vanderhoff – IDOT
 - DeAnna Smith – IDOT
 - Hannah Martin – IDOT
 - Tim Butler – IL RR Association
 - Jim Wild – EWGCOG

June 30, 2025 – Chicago

- Attendees:
 - Erin Aleman – CMAP
 - Brian Vercruysse – ICC
 - David Kralik – Metra
 - Elliot Ramos – IDOT
 - Todd Popish – IDOT

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Finalizing greenfield route
- Refining travel times
- Stringlines and schedules
- City leadership meetings
- Financial analyses

Market Analysis

Methodology to Forecast High Speed Rail Ridership (HSR)

1

Establish total demand between city pairs

2

Estimate high speed rail's market share

Preferences of current travelers (ILHSR survey)

3

Estimate high speed rail demand

2

Current Status

- Survey Data collection ongoing

Stated Preference Survey Progress

- E-panel
 - 1,400 + completes (as of 7/9)
 - Attempting to increase sample size for intermediate city pairs along the corridor
- Amtrak Onboard
 - 140 + completes (as of 7/9)
 - Continue until Tue July 15th
- Rest Stops along I-57
 - Will be performed Wednesday July 16th

Stated Preference Survey Progress

- Tollway
 - 100 completes (as of 7/8)
- Universities
 - IL State: 5
 - U of I Champaign : ~ 30
 - Email invite 7/9
 - First reminder 7/15
 - Second reminder 7/21
 - U of I Chicago

Model Development Progress

- Assess current demand by station pair (under review)
- Characterize level of service (almost complete)
- Collect stated preference survey data (in progress)
 - anticipated complete July 31st
- Estimate mode choice model (in progress)
- Implement mode choice model
- Calibrate mode choice model
- Identify revenue maximizing fare
- Develop base year forecast
- Assess future demand by station pair (in progress)
- Develop future year forecasts
- Develop annual ridership and revenue estimates

Outreach & Engagement

Public Event

VIRTUAL EVENT April 28 - May 31

EDUCATION on true HSR

INCLUDES

- Registration
- Presentation
- Displays
- Newsletter
- Comment Section
- Link to Public Interest Survey



Event Success

TRAFFIC SOURCE

Direct
Facebook
Reddit
Survey Planet
WAND TV
Google
IDOT

SITE SESSIONS

8,827

To May 11

6,729

To May 31

2,098

PAGE VIEWS

14,842

mobile 70%
desktop 29%
tablet 1%

Unique Visitors

7,341

To May 11

5,787

To May 31

1,554

Event Success



Comments

71 COMMENTS RECEIVED

Mostly
supportive

Focus more
on frequency
and less
on speed

Train to train
feeders are
preferred to bus
connections

Service should
connect the
country not just
Illinois with
infrequent stops

Strong push for
route to include
Champaign/
Urbana

Believe the
benefits
would improve
the state

Support to
connect to
Decatur
and Peoria

Concern about
cost/spend funds to
maintain existing
infrastructure

Public Meeting Report



VIRTUAL OUTREACH MEETING #1

SUMMARY

JUNE 2025



Next Steps

- Respond to all comments
- Finalize Public Meeting Summary
- Complete Survey Results Report
- PI TAC Meeting
- Begin Planning Virtual Public Event #2

Thank you!

Public Comment



**We will now open the floor
for public comment.**

Adjournment



Jim Derwinski, Chair, HSR Commission

 JDerwinski@metrarr.com

Tim Butler, Vice Chair, HSR Commission

 Tim@ilrail.org

High-Speed Rail Commission Email

 DOT.HighSpeedRailwayCommission@illinois.gov