ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL COMMISSION

IDOT Headquarters: Springfield & Chicago

September 10, 2025

Illinois Department of Transportation

www.idothsr.org

Agenda

10:30am:	Welcome & Introduction (Chair Derwinski) Roll Call (Morreale Communications)
10:35am:	Minutes Approval from July 14th Commission Meeting (Chair Derwinski)
10:40am:	Technical Assistance & Support Update (Quandel Consultants)
11:20am:	Public Comment
11:30am:	Commission Meeting Adjourns

Minutes Approval

- Meeting minutes from the **July 14th** Commission meeting were circulated with the agenda prior to today's meeting.
- Are there any requested changes?

Technical Assistance and Support Update

Presented by the Quandel Consulting Team

ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Strengthening our State. Connecting the Region.

Illinois High-Speed Rail Commission Meeting

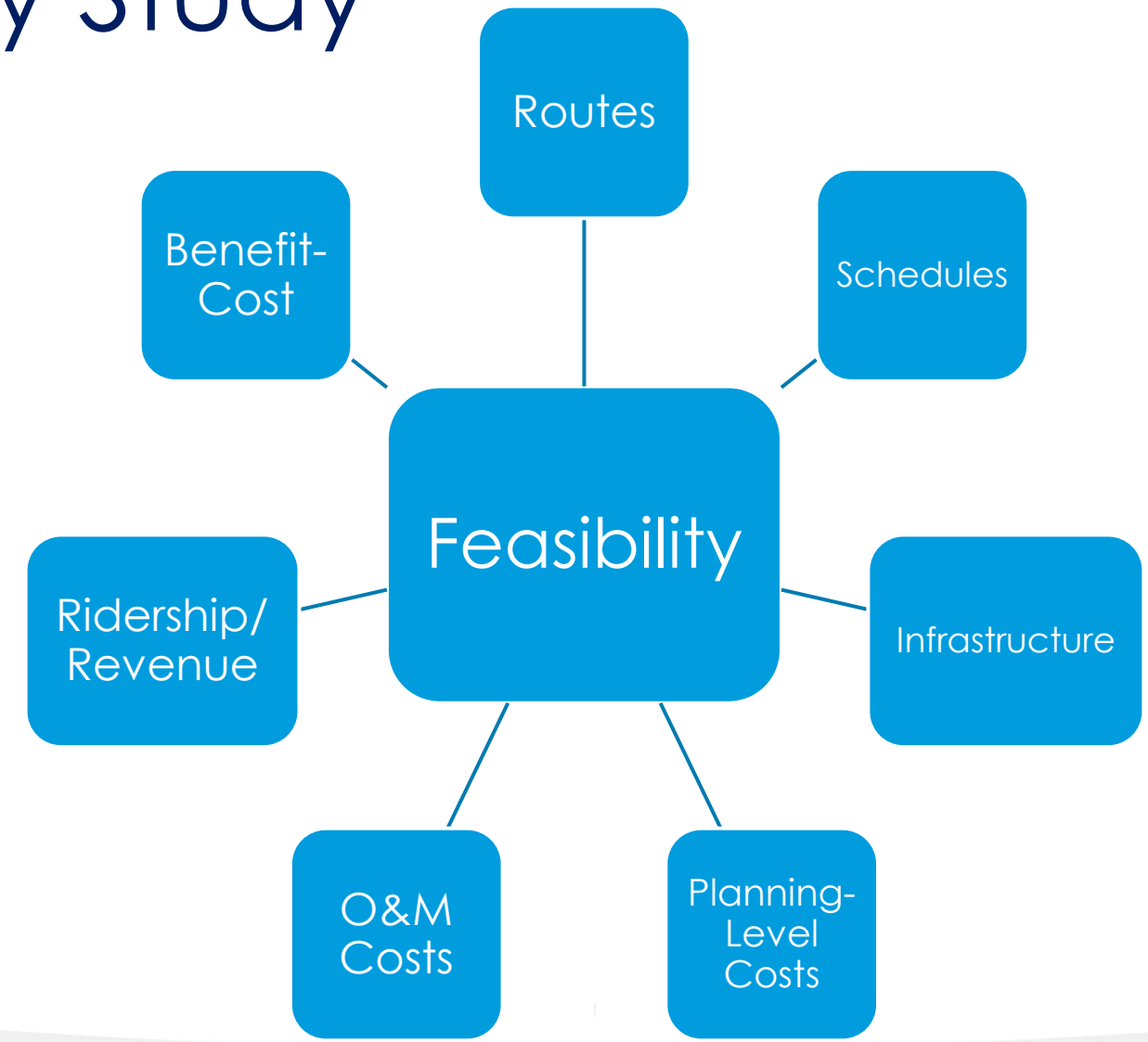
Wednesday, September 10, 2025

Illinois Department of Transportation

Agenda

- Feasibility Study
- Service and Investment Options
- Summary of Alternatives
- Market Analysis
- Outreach & Engagement

Feasibility Study



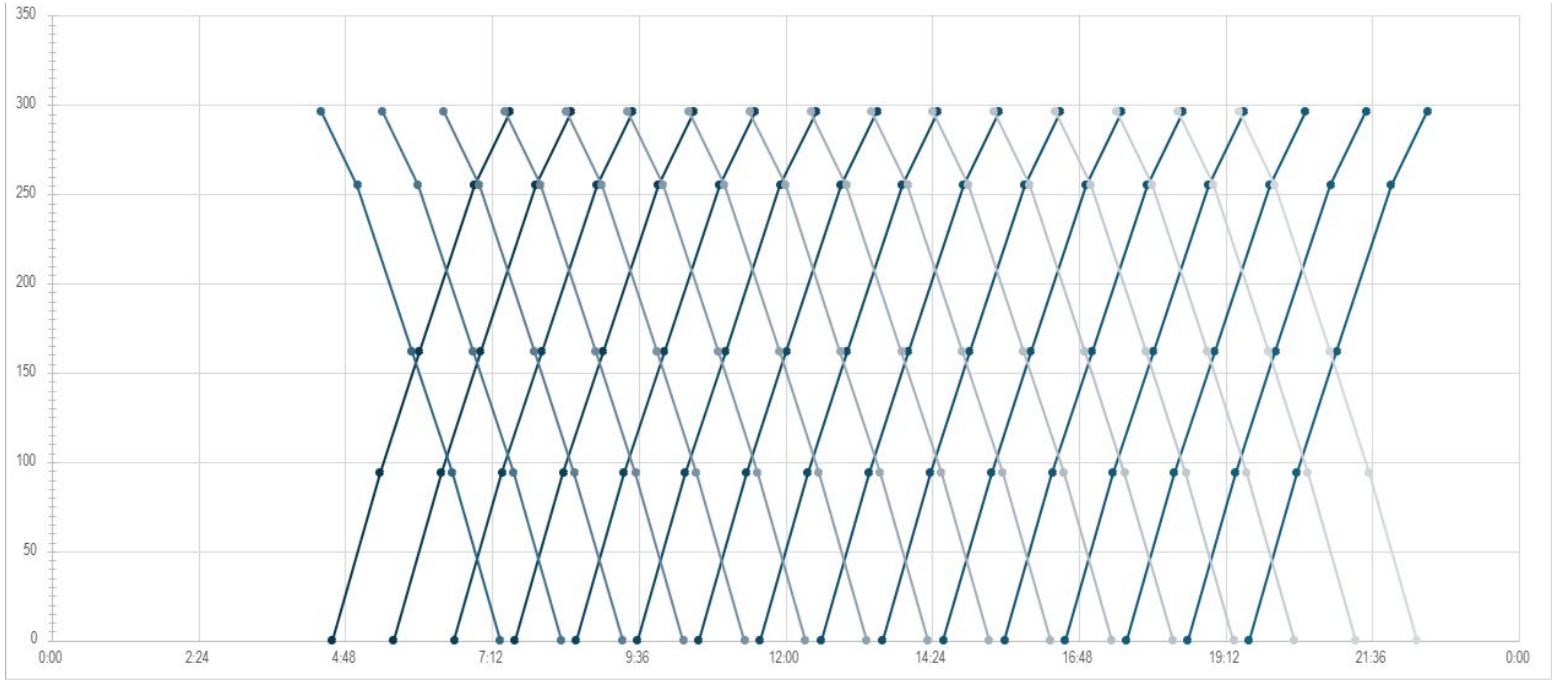
Potentially Feasible Routes

Route #	Intermediate Station Stops	Right-of-Way Type
1	Springfield - Bloomington/Normal - Joliet	Interstate Median
2	Springfield - Bloomington/Normal - Joliet	Greenfield
3	Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - University Park	Interstate Median
4	Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - University Park	Greenfield
5	Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - Joliet	Greenfield + County Road
6	Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - Joliet	Interstate Adjacent + County Road
7	Springfield - Peoria - Bloomington - Joliet	Interstate Median/Adjacent
8	Springfield - Peoria - Bloomington - Joliet	Greenfield

Service and Investment Options

Service Options

- Created using travel times from Train Performance Calculations
- Assumed 32 trains per day which is 1 train each hour in each direction
- Identify train meets and locations where double track is required from stringlines

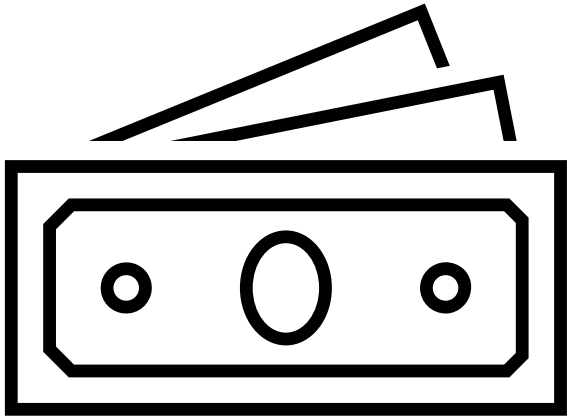


Determining Infrastructure Investments

- Evaluate infrastructure needs for each route
  - Track and structures
  - Stations
  - Facilities
  - Signal systems
  - Equipment
  - Interchange/interstate reconstruction

Planning-Level Costs

- Quantify infrastructure investments
- Apply unit costs
  - Costs based library of unit costs and on other HSR studies/projects
  - Broad cost assumptions made for stations and facilities
- Determine planning-level costs for each route



Operating & Maintenance Costs

- Review O&M costs developed for other HSR studies/projects
- Will apply cost per train-mile or cost per route-mile to IL HSR project

Benefit-Cost Analysis

- Will use standard USDOT BCA guidance for grant applications
- Benefits include:
  - Value of Travel Time Savings
  - Congestion
  - Roadway Maintenance
  - Travel Costs
  - Safety
- Costs include:
  - Capital
  - O&M

Summary of Alternatives

Summary of Alternatives Matrix

	Travel Time	Average Speed	ROW Acquisition	Planning-Level Cost	O&M Cost	Ridership	BCA
Route 1							
Route 2							
Route 3							
Route 4							
Route 5							
Route 6							
Route 7							
Route 8							

Next Steps

Next Steps

- Planning-level costs
- O&M costs
- Meetings with communities

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 finished

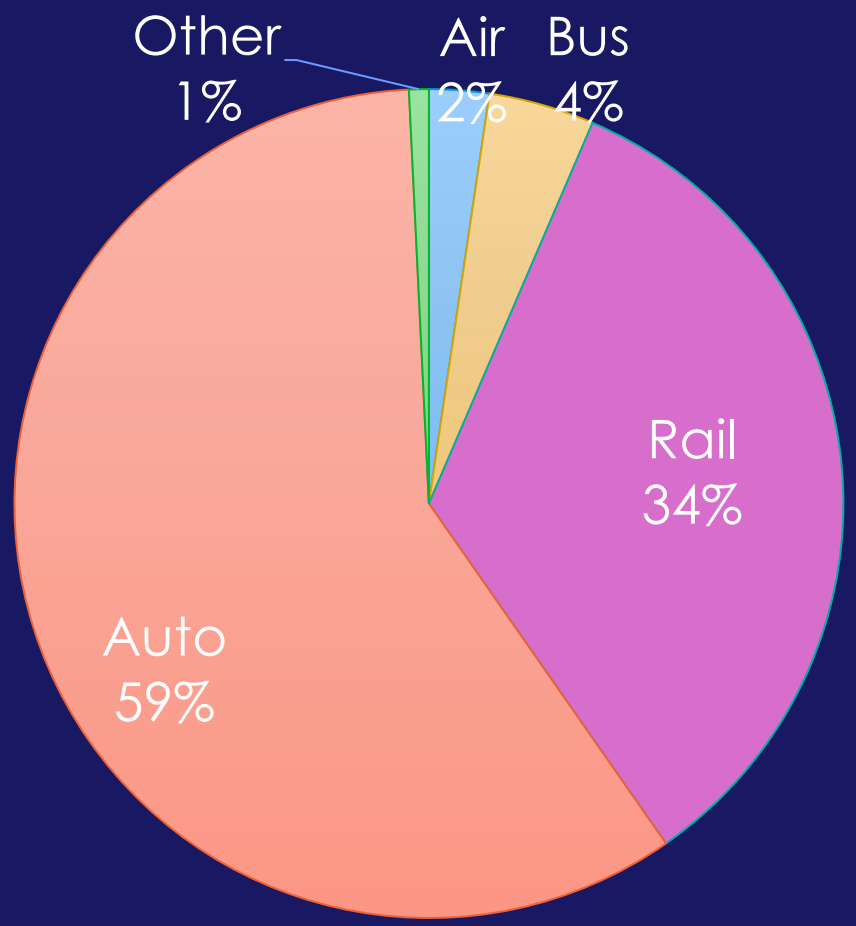
Stated Preference Survey Results

Study	Count	Percent
E-Panel	1,834	56%
Onboard Amtrak Train	906	28%
Toll User Database	109	3%
University Distribution	401	12%
Total	3,250	100%

Respondent Mode Choice

2

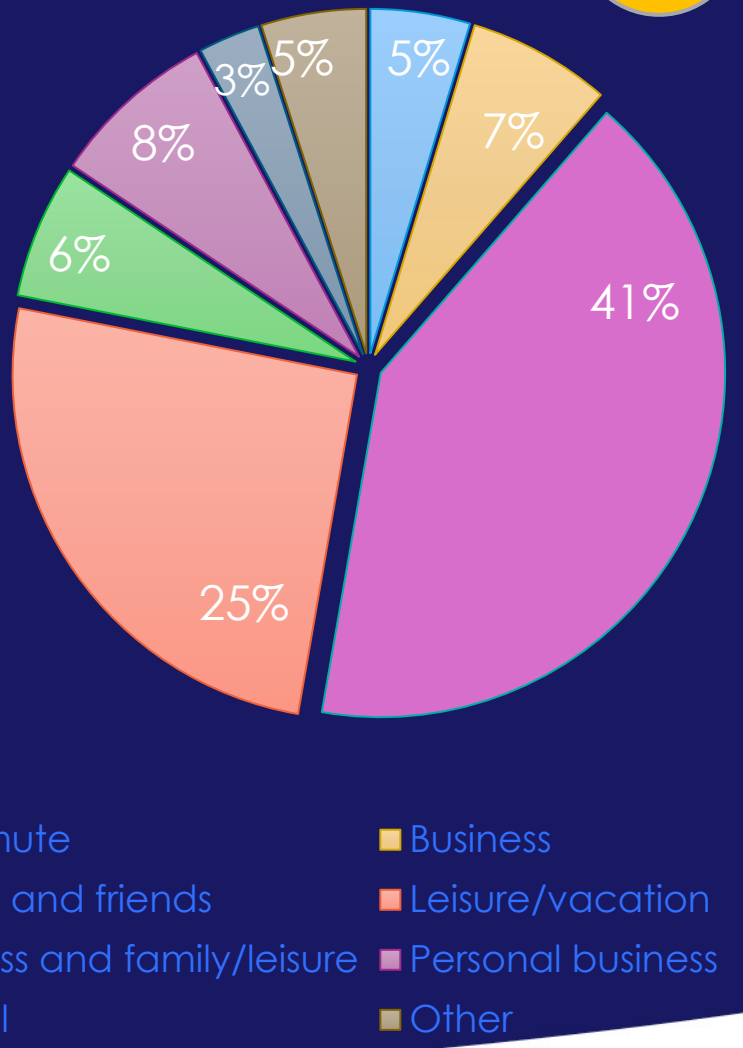
Mode	E-Panel	University	Toll user database	Onboard Amtrak train	Total
Air	4%	1%	0%	0%	2%
Bus	4%	17%	0%	0%	4%
Rail	7%	17%	3%	100%	34%
Personal car (driver)	62%	35%	85%	0%	42%
Personal car (passenger)	15%	25%	9%	0%	12%
Rental car (driver)	6%	1%	2%	0%	3%
Rental car (passenger)	2%	2%	0%	0%	2%
Other	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%
Total (percent)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total (count)	1,834	401	109	906	3,250



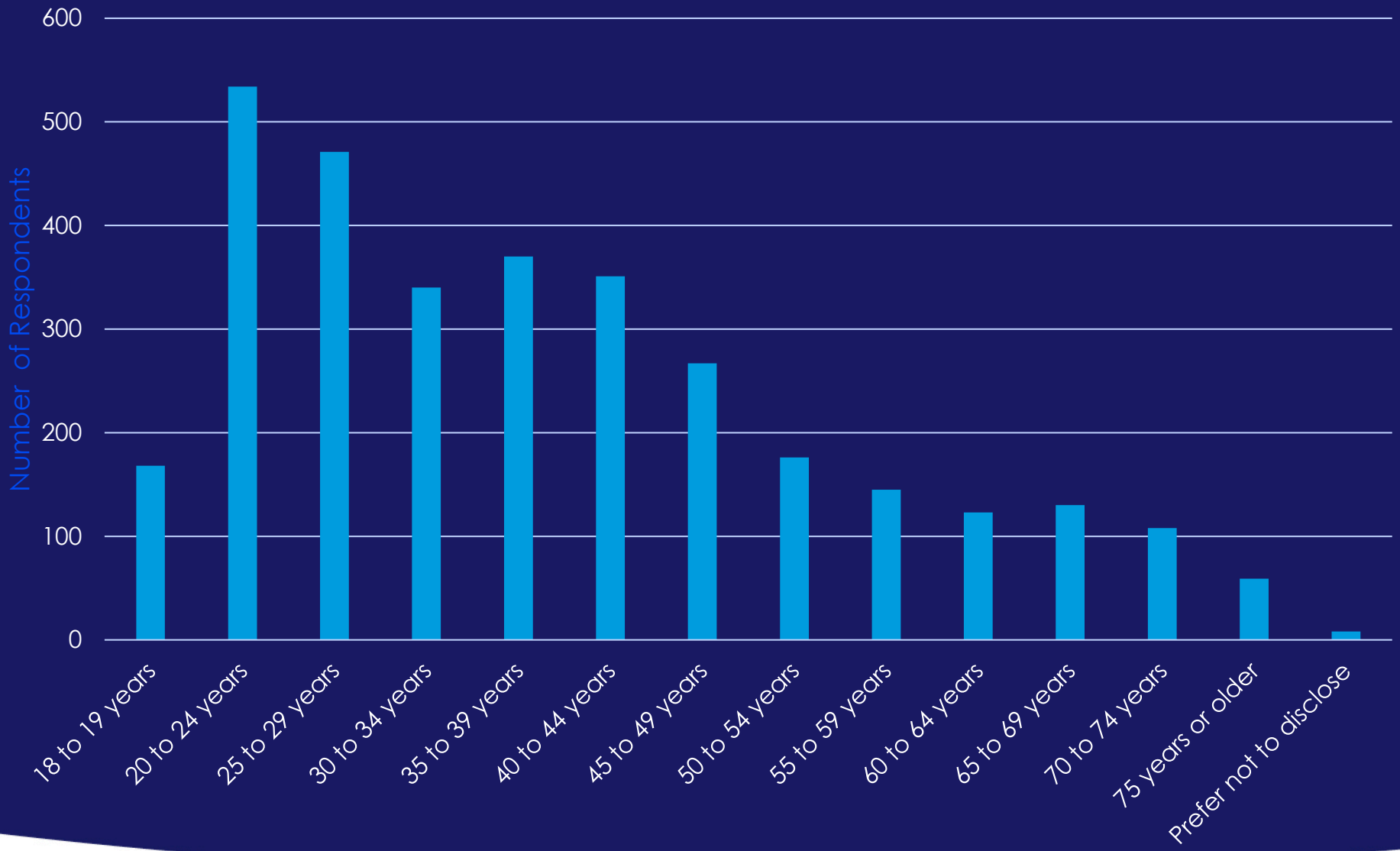
Respondent Travel Purpose

2

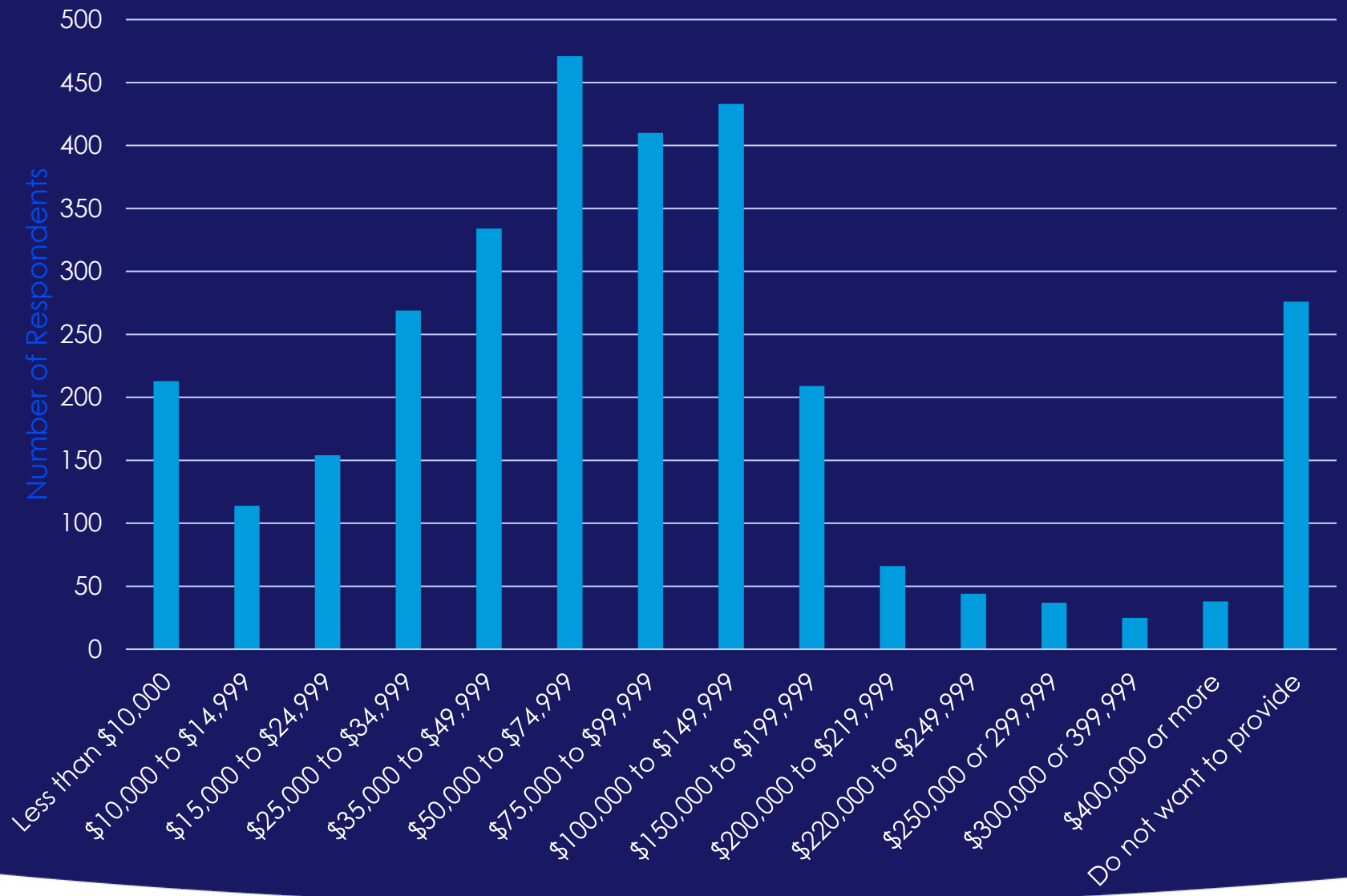
	E-Panel	Onboard Amtrak train	Toll User Database	University	Total
Commute	7%	2%	1%	1%	5%
Business	7%	7%	10%	2%	7%
Family and friends	38%	48%	41%	40%	41%
Leisure/vacation	26%	24%	20%	27%	25%
Business and family/leisure	8%	3%	3%	7%	6%
Personal business	7%	11%	14%	5%	8%
School	2%	4%	4%	5%	3%
Other	5%	1%	7%	11%	5%
Total (percent)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Total (count)	1,834	906	109	401	3,250



Respondent Age



Respondent Household Income



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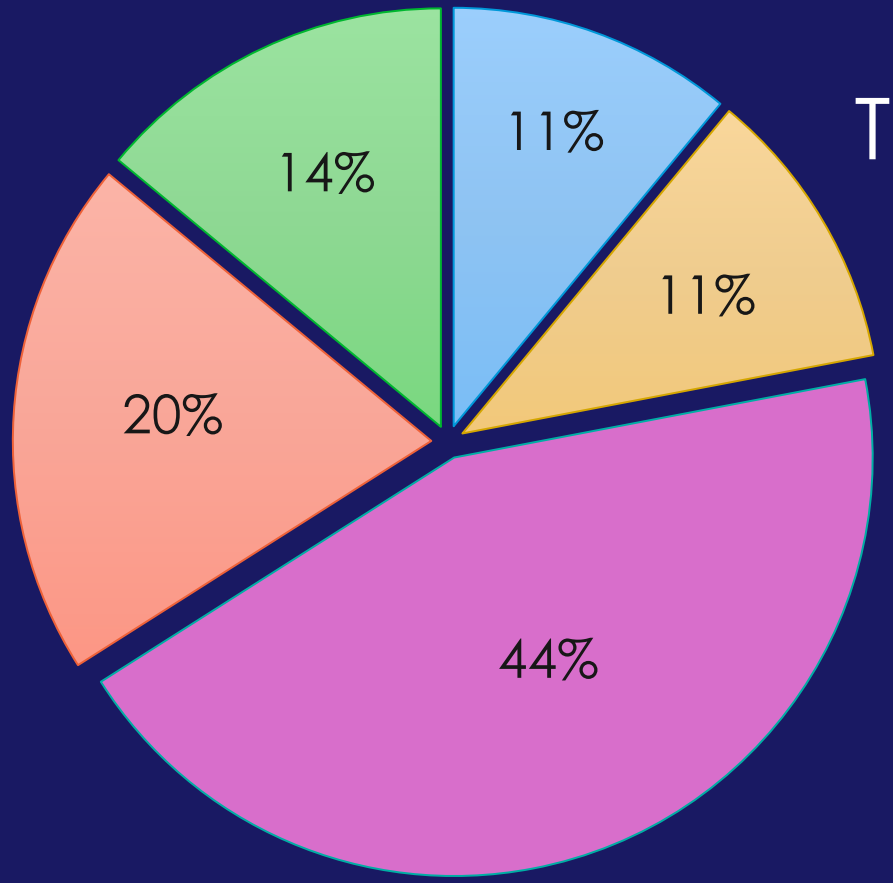
Onboard Amtrak Survey

- 906 respondents
- Travel purpose
  - 7% business + 3% combination of business and leisure
  - 2% commute
  - 4% school
  - 84% other (leisure, family, personal)
- Travel party size
  - 63% one-person
  - 24% two-person
  - 13% three-person or more

Onboard Amtrak Survey Results



Amtrak Onboard Survey
Station Access Mode

Access Mode	Percent	Count
Dropped off	37%	337
Rideshare	29%	263
Drive	11%	104
Rail	8%	76
Bus	6%	53
Walk	5%	49
Taxi	1%	13
Other	1%	11
Total	100%	906

Amtrak Onboard Survey
Station Egress Mode

2

Egress Mode	Percent	Count
Picked up family/friend	40%	362
Rideshare	33%	303
Rail	7%	63
Walk	6%	50
Bus	5%	41
Taxi	3%	30
Other	6%	57
Total	100%	906

How Will this Information Be Used?

Multiple uses:

- Willingness to pay for time savings offered by high-speed rail
- Mode preferences
- Description of the current rail passengers

Proposed Schedule

- Draft ridership and revenue forecast: Nov 30
- Final Annual ridership and revenue forecast: Dec 31
- Draft report: Jan 31
- Final report: within 3 weeks after comments

Outreach & Engagement

Public Interest *Survey Results*

Survey run time:

April 28 - May 31

Number of participants:

7,506

Technology

TOP DEVICES

iOS **43%**
Android **25%**
Windows **21%**
Mac OS **10%**
Other **1%**

TOP BROWSERS

Chrome **38%**
Mobile Safari **29%**
Facebook **11%**
Firefox **11%**
Edge **6%**
Safari **4%**
Instagram **1%**

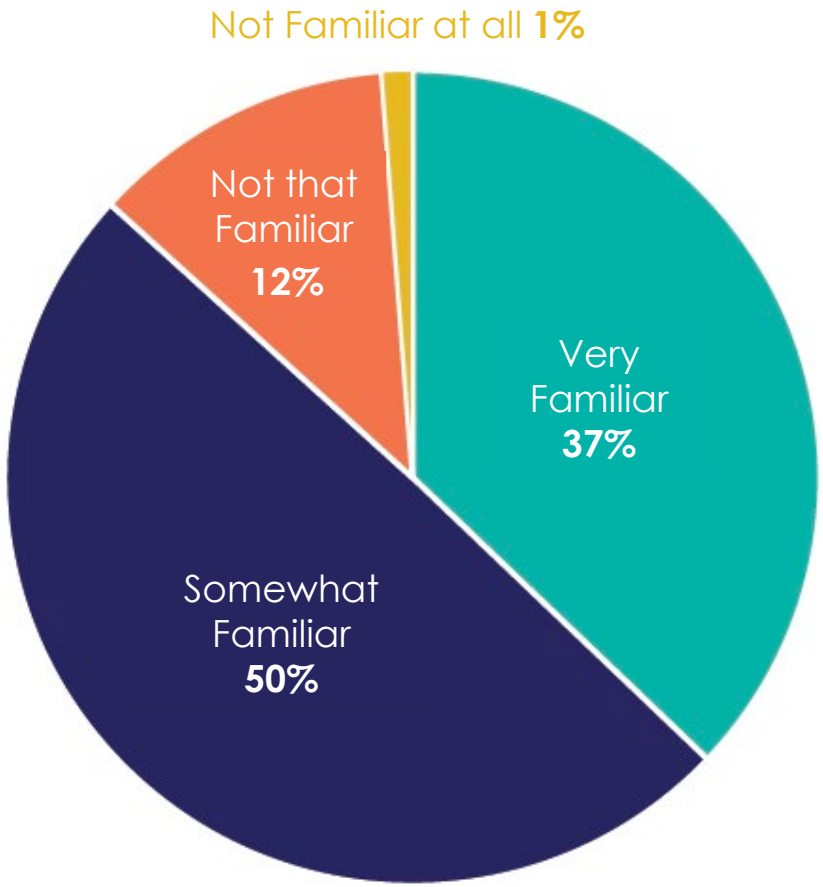
TOP LOCATIONS

Direct **78%**
Reddit **16%**
Bit.ly **1%**
BlueSky **1%**
EveryAction **1%**
Facebook **1%**
Instagram **1%**
LinkedIn **1%**

RESULTS

Participants

Familiarity with HSR service around the world



BY CITY

Champaign
Chicago
Urbana
Decatur

BY AGE

<18	**1%**
18-24	**17%**
25-34	**30%**
35-54	**33%**
55-64	**8%**
65+	**10%**
N/A	**1%**

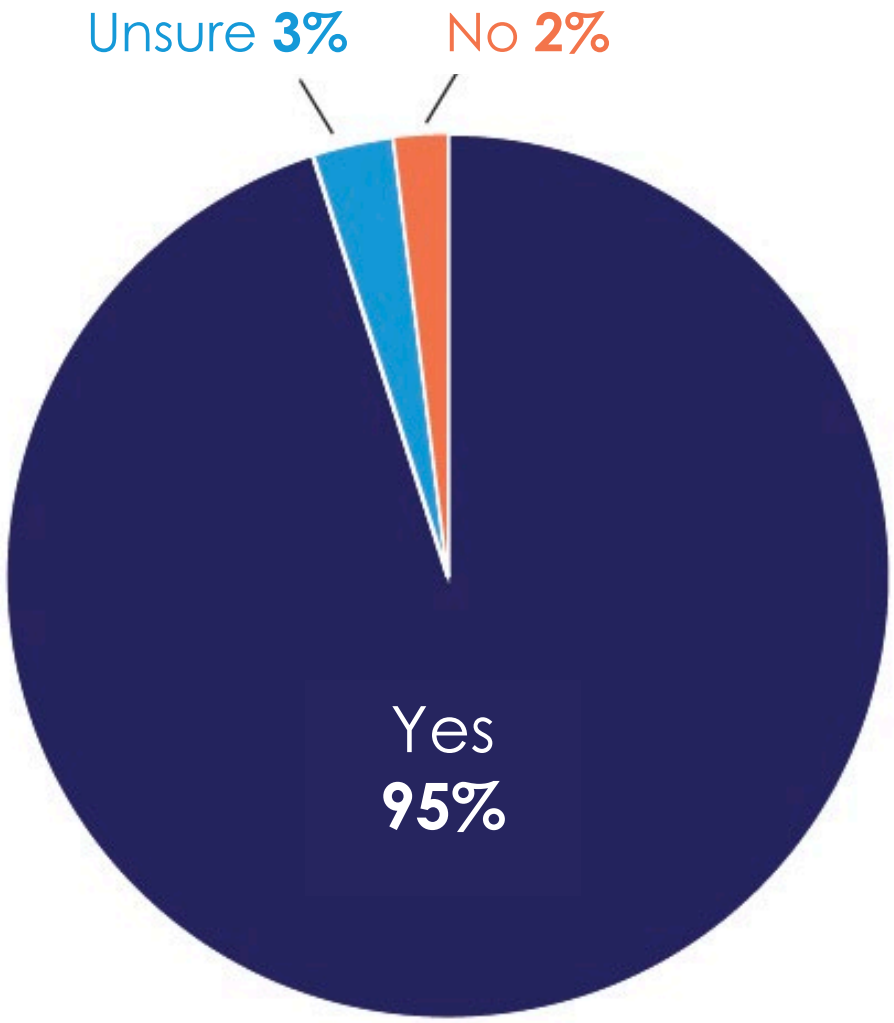
RESULTS

Survey Questions

OVERALL **SUPPORT**

Very Supportive **91%**
Somewhat Supportive **6%**
Neutral **1%**
Somewhat Opposed **1%**
Very Opposed **1%**

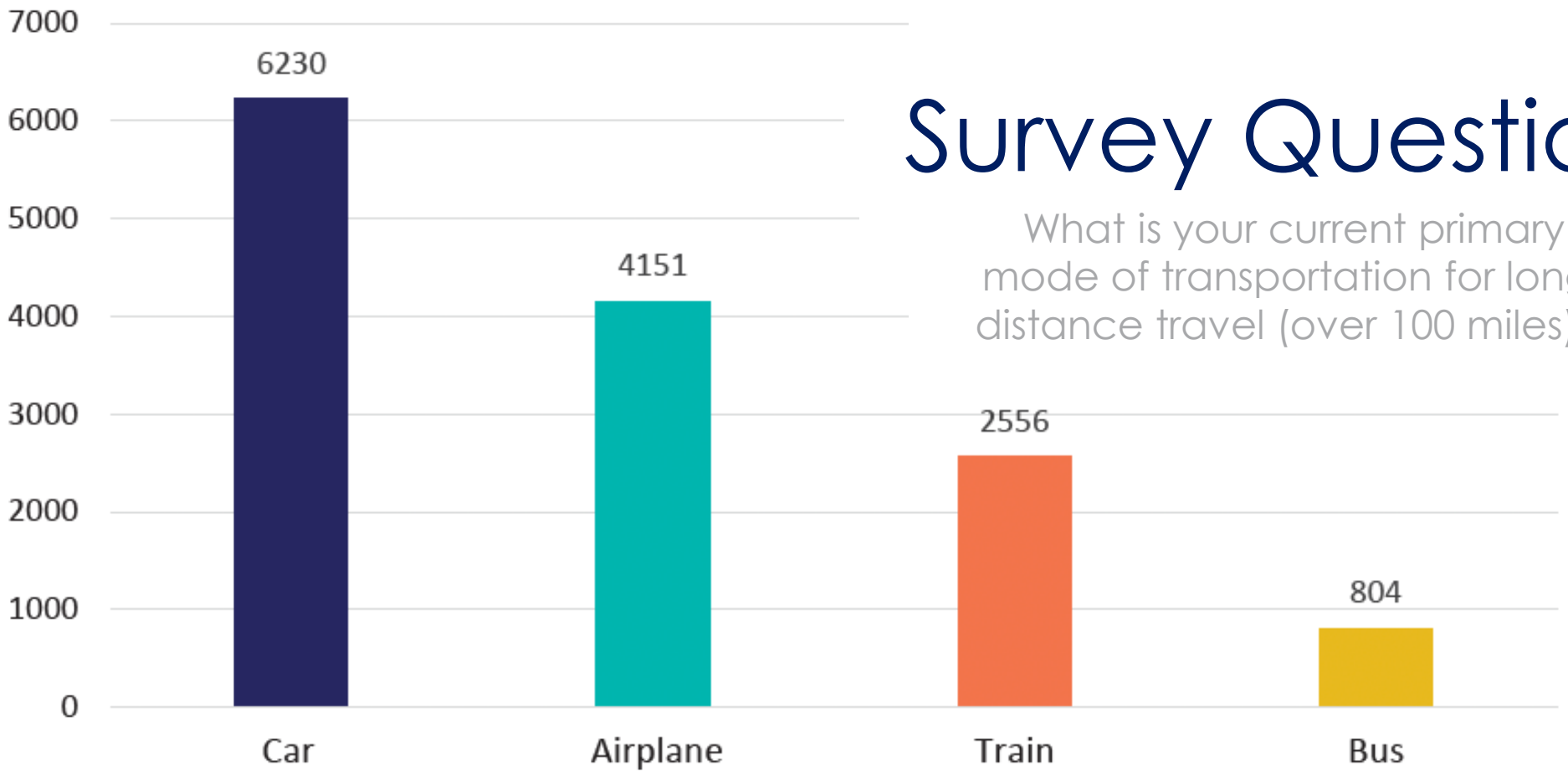
Is HSR service a viable mode of transportation for Illinois?

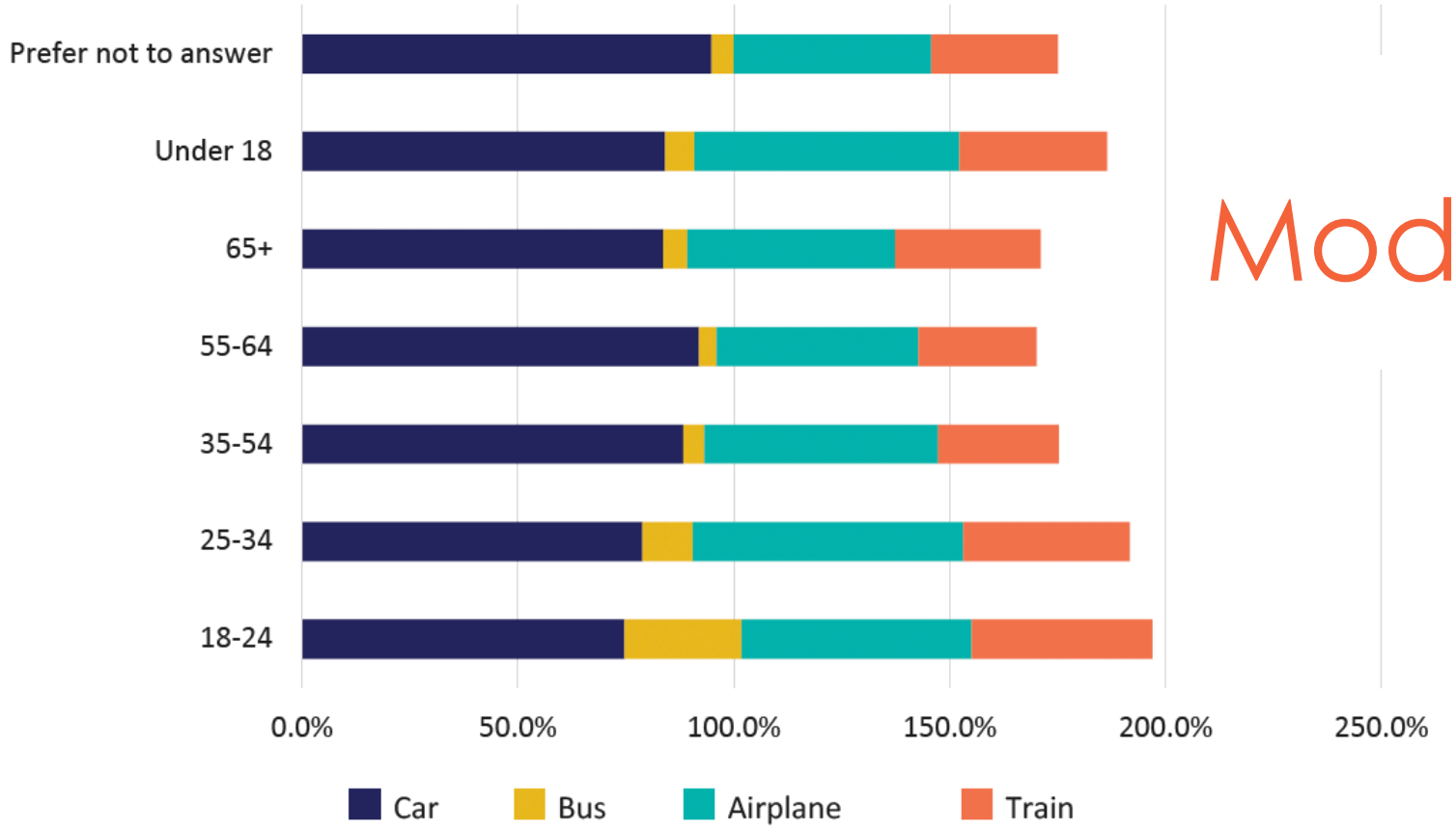


RESULTS

Survey Questions

What is your current primary mode of transportation for long-distance travel (over 100 miles)?




Prefer not to answer
Under 18
65+
55-64
35-54
25-34
18-24
0.0%
50.0%
100.0%
150.0%
200.0%
250.0%
Car
Bus
Airplane
Train

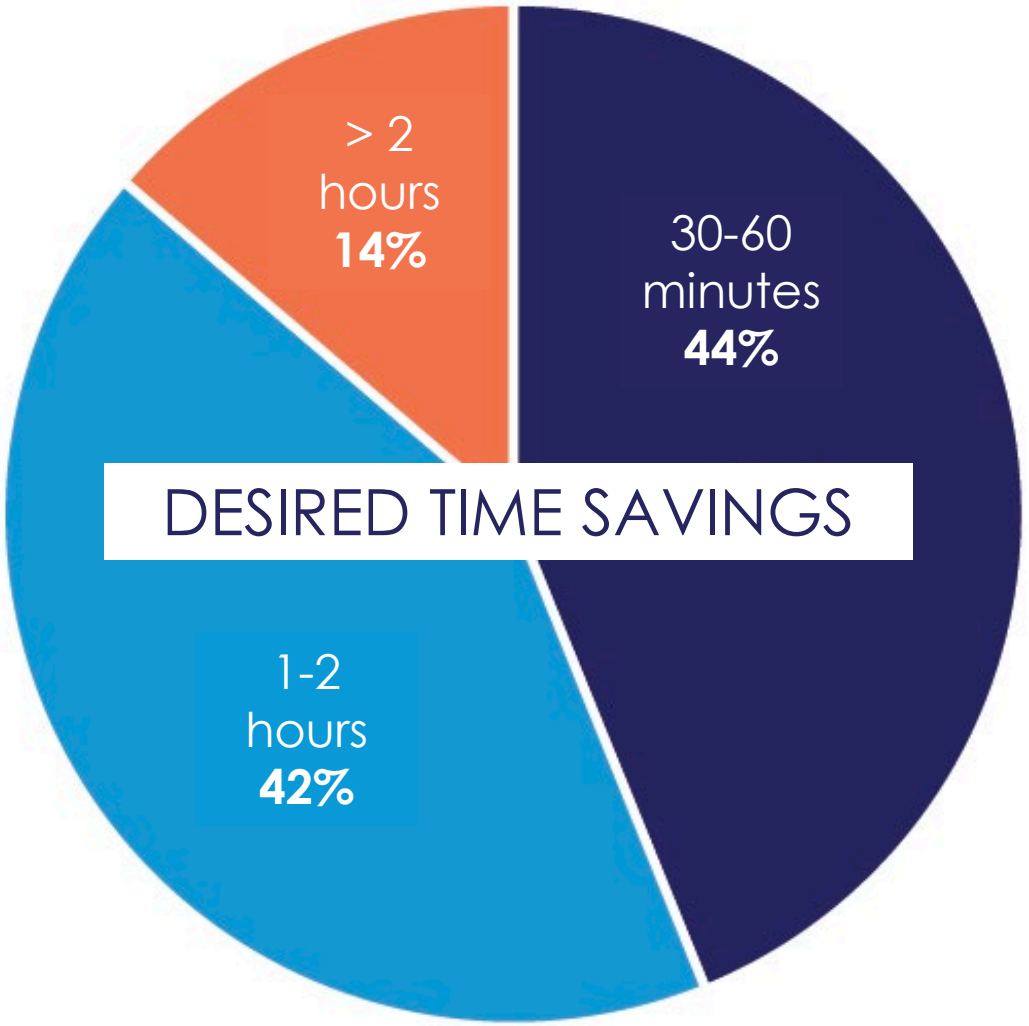
Modes by age

RESULTS

Survey Questions

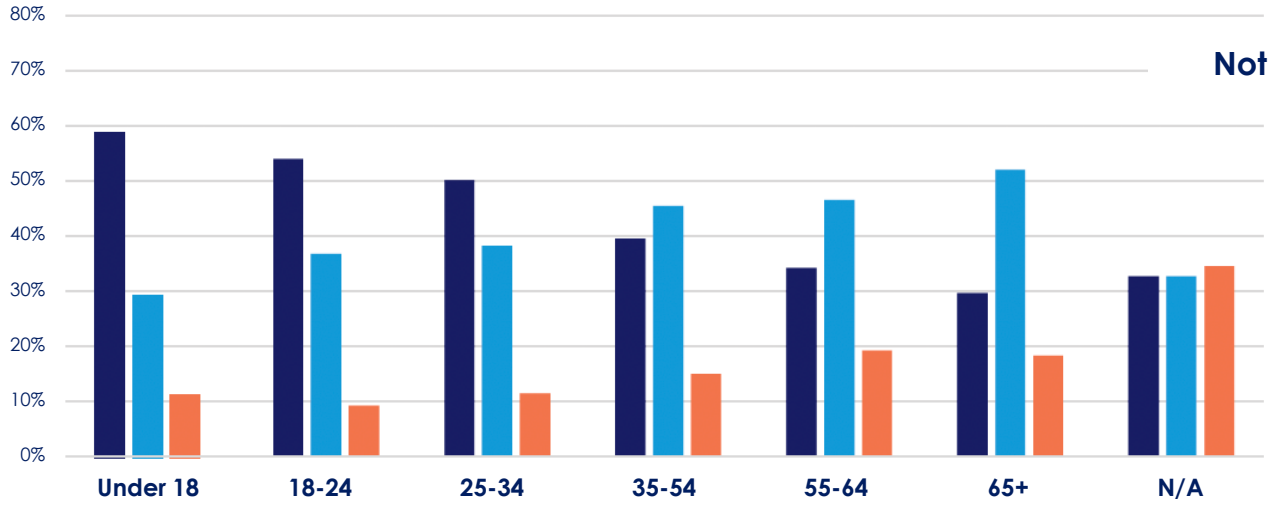
USAGE IF AVAILABLE

Very Likely **86%**
Somewhat Likely **11%**
Neutral **1%**
Somewhat Unlikely **1%**
Very Unlikely **1%**

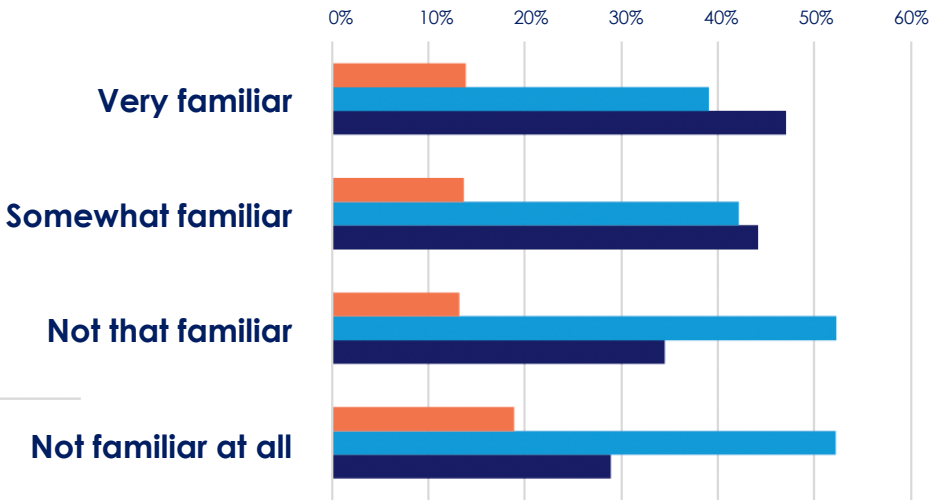


RESULTS

Time Savings



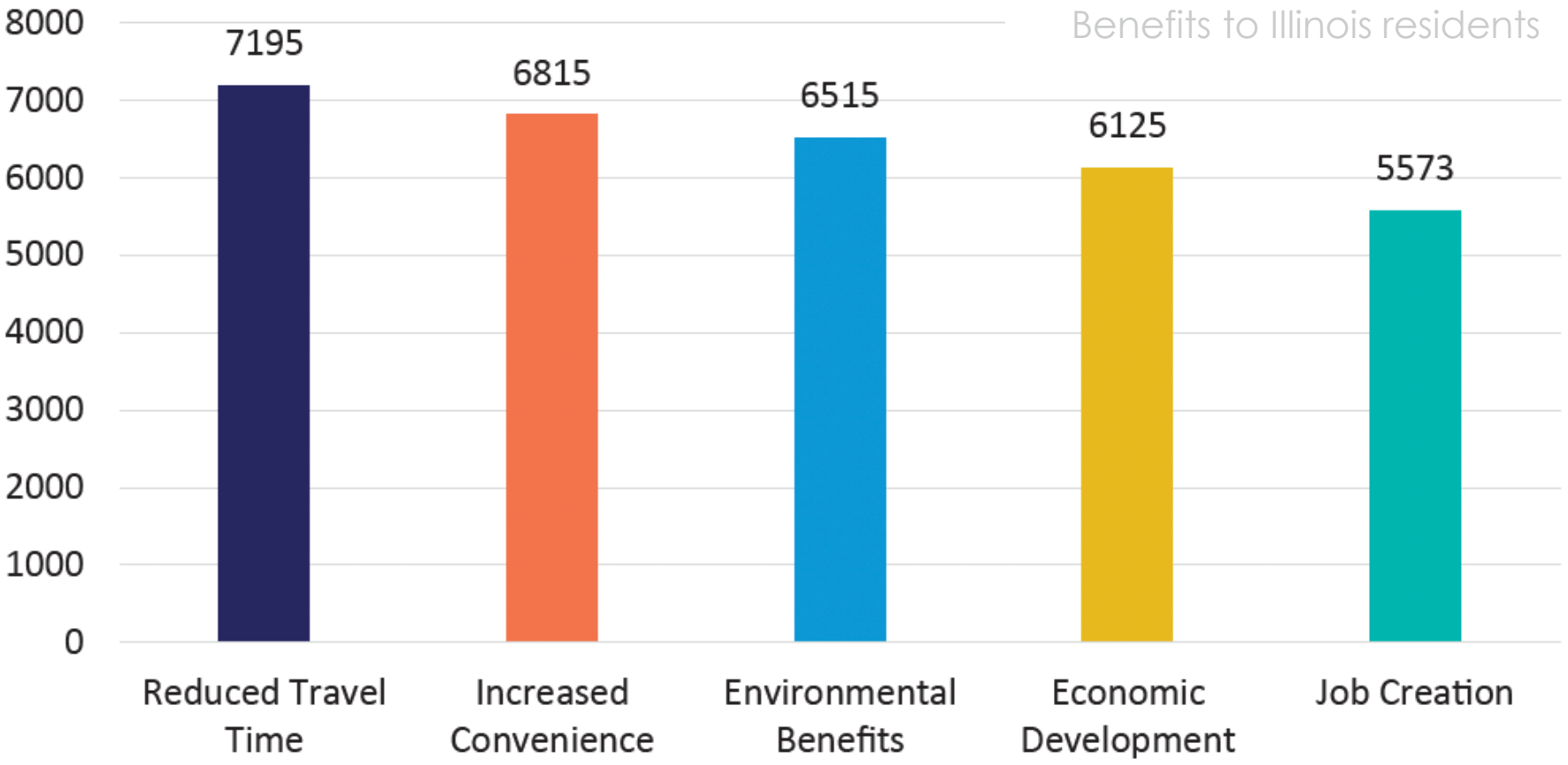
BY AGE



BY FAMILIARITY

- 30-60 minutes
- 1-2 hours
- > 2 hours

Survey Questions



Reduced Travel Time

	REDUCED TRAVEL TIME	PARTICIPANTS
Under 18	91%	40
18-24	98%	1,255
25-34	98%	2,206
35-54	96%	2,387
55-64	92%	589
65+	92%	673
N/A	78%	45

Increased Convenience

	INCREASED CONVENIENCE	PARTICIPANTS
Under 18	89%	39
18-24	94%	1,202
25-34	95%	2,141
35-54	90%	2,227
55-64	86%	550
65+	84%	617
N/A	68%	45

Environmental Benefits

	ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS	PARTICIPANTS
Under 18	91%	40
18-24	90%	1,148
25-34	92%	2,075
35-54	86%	2,133
55-64	77%	496
65+	80%	590
N/A	59%	35

Economic Development

	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	PARTICIPANTS
Under 18	89%	39
18-24	85%	1,080
25-34	86%	1,940
35-54	82%	2,034
55-64	72%	459
65+	74%	543
N/A	59%	35

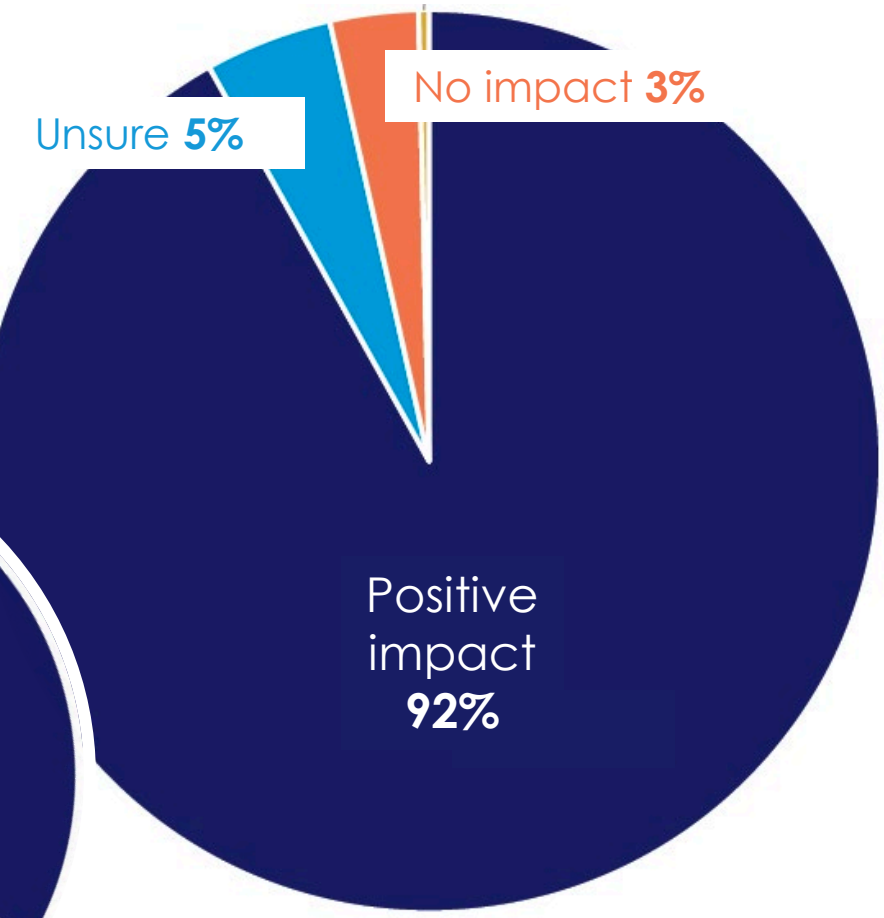
Job Creation

	JOB CREATION	PARTICIPANTS
Under 18	77%	34
18-24	78%	1,001
25-34	79%	1,784
35-54	73%	1,802
55-64	67%	427
65+	68%	496
N/A	48%	29

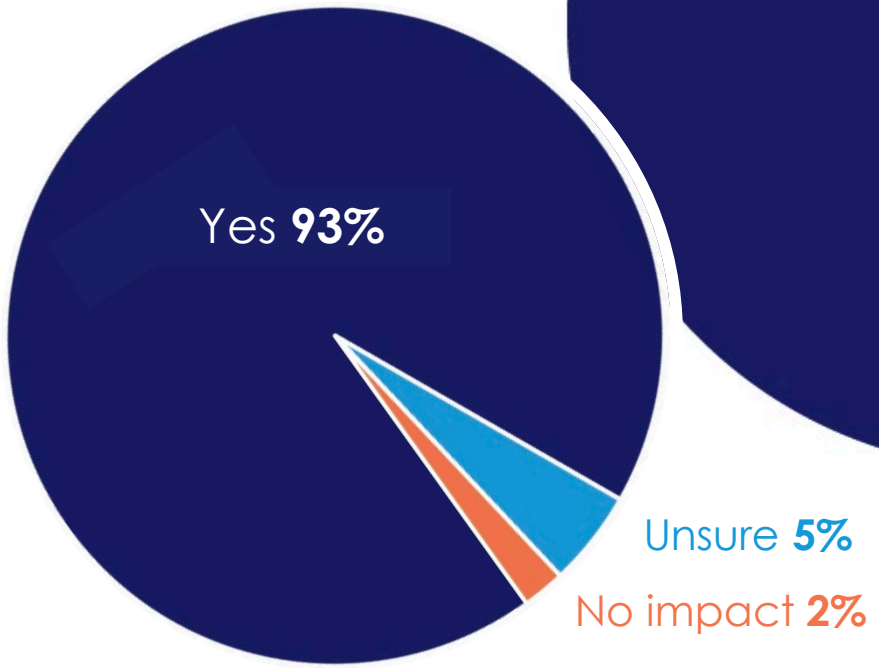
RESULTS

Survey Questions

TOURISM IMPACT



ECONOMIC IMPACT



Send Comment Responses
Host PI TAC #2
Virtual Public Meeting #2

ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Strengthening our State. Connecting the Region.

PUBLIC INTEREST SURVEY

SUMMARY
JULY 2025

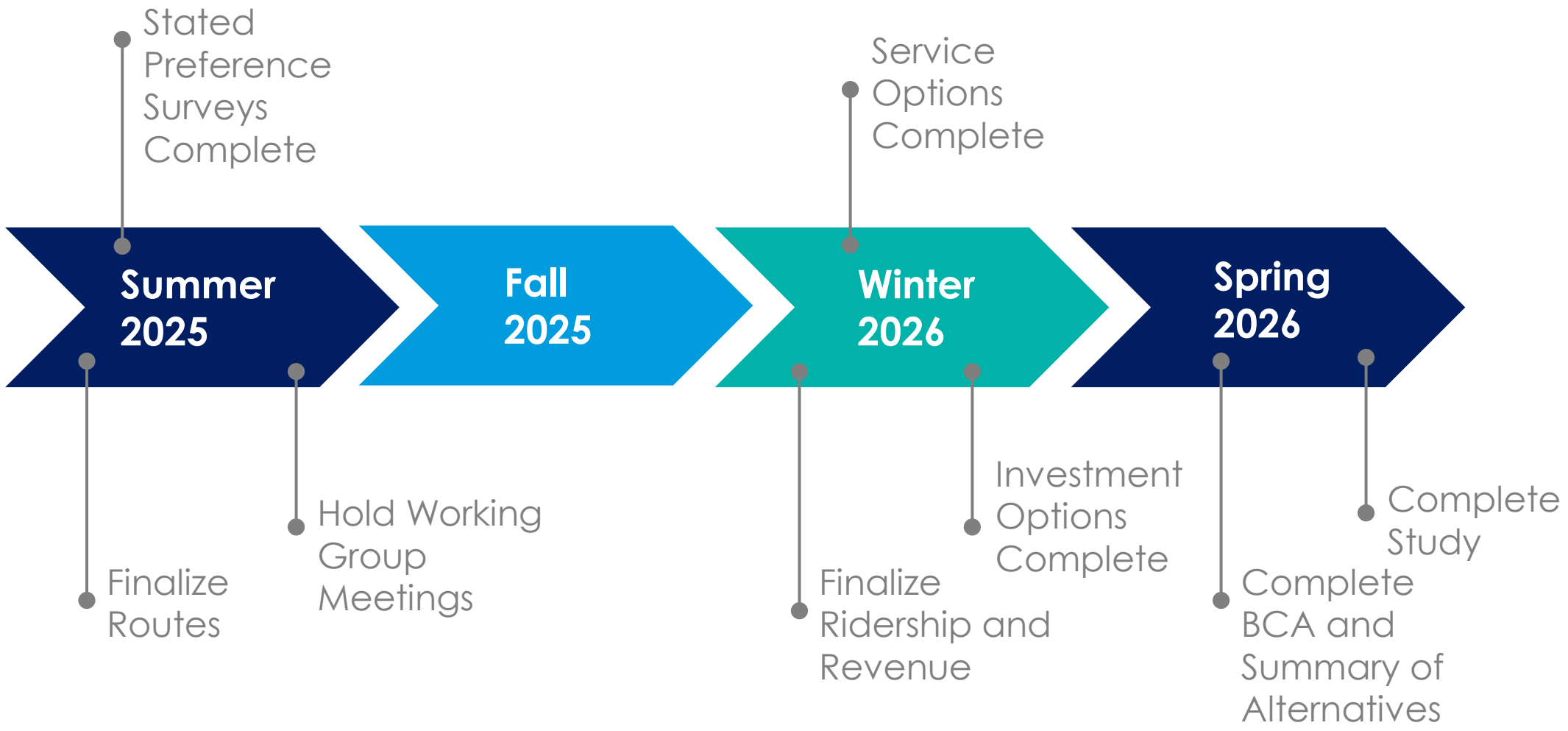
ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY

Illinois Department of Transportation

ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL COMMISSION

Schedule

Schedule


Stated Preference Surveys Complete
Summer 2025
Finalize Routes
Hold Working Group Meetings
Fall 2025
Service Options Complete
Winter 2026
Finalize Ridership and Revenue
Investment Options Complete
Spring 2026
Complete BCA and Summary of Alternatives
Complete Study

Thank you!

Public Comment

We will now open the floor for public comment.

Adjournment

Jim Derwinski, Chair, HSR Commission

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High-Speed Rail Commission Email

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