



**ILLINOIS  
HIGH-SPEED  
RAIL**

COMMISSION

# IDOT Headquarters: Springfield & Chicago

May 19, 2025





# Agenda



**10:30am:**



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

**10:35am:**



Minutes Approval from April 14th  
Commission Meeting (Chair Derwinski)

**10:40am:**



Technical Assistance and Support Update  
(Quandel Consultants)

**11:20am:**



Public Comment

**11:30am:**



Commission Meeting Adjourns



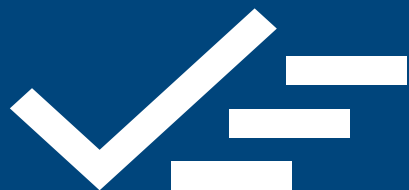
# Minutes Approval



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



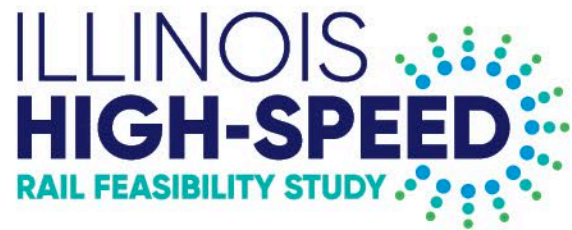
# Technical Assistance and Support Update



## Technical Assistance and Support Update

*Presented by Quandel Consulting Team*





*Strengthening our State. Connecting the Region.*

# Illinois High-Speed Rail Commission Meeting

Monday, May 19, 2025



# Agenda

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



# Project Timeline







# Alternatives Analysis



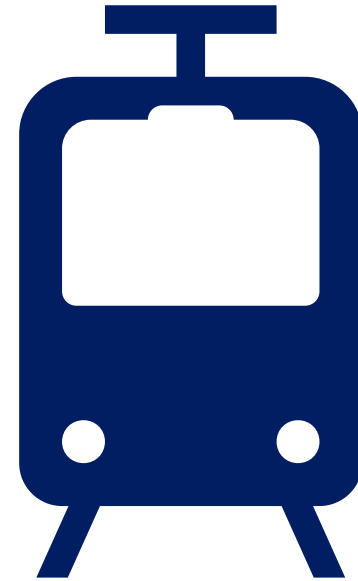
# Preliminary Travel Times



# Estimated Travel Times

## Assumptions:

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



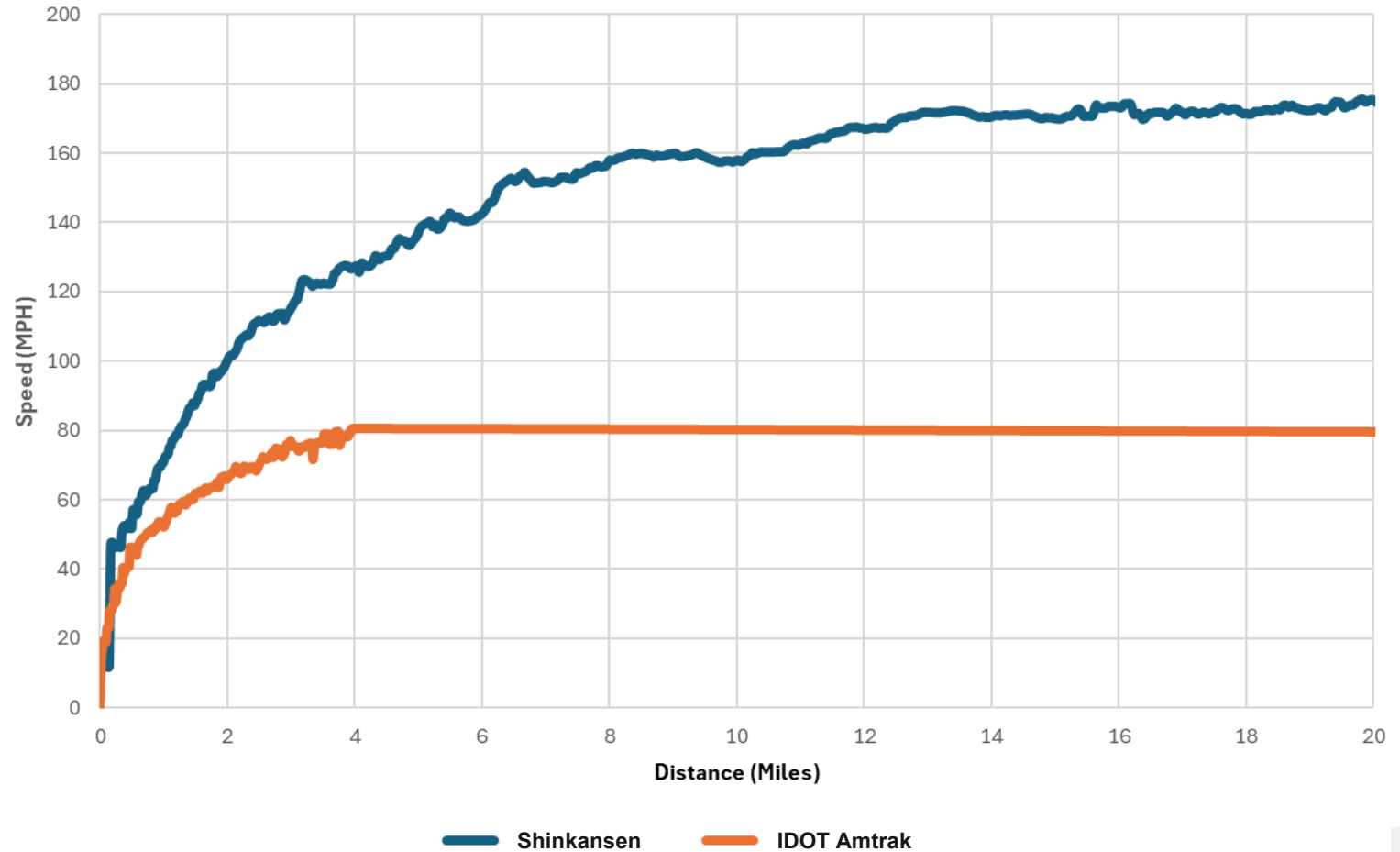


# Train Performance

## Performance Notes

- Electric trains accelerate faster than diesel
- Acceleration slows at higher speeds

*Train Acceleration Examples*



Passenger Train Acceleration Comparison

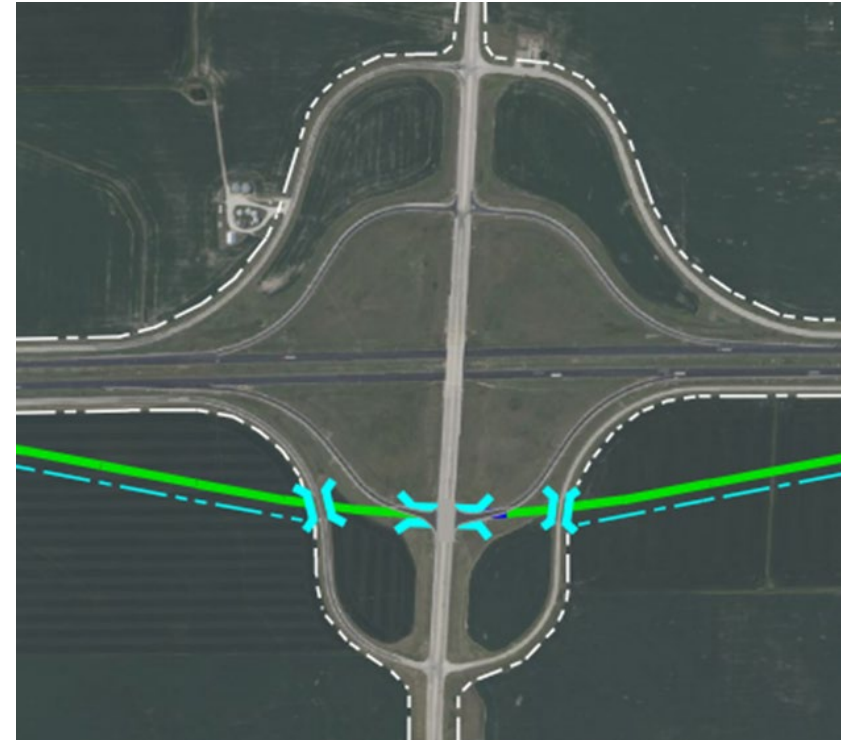


# Right-of-Way Types

## Interstate Median



## Interstate Adjacent





# Right-of-Way Types

## County Road



Computer generated HSR Concept Image

## Greenfield



Computer generated image of railroad integrated into farmland



# Estimated Travel Time - I-55 Median

## Interstate Median      Travel Time

○ Chicago	↑ 2:38
○ Joliet	2:14
○ Bloomington/Normal	1:23
○ Springfield	0:45
○ East St Louis	0:00





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

## Median

### Interstate Median      Travel Time

○ Chicago	↑ 2:38
○ University Park	2:25
○ Champaign/Urbana	1:33
○ Decatur	1:09
○ Springfield	0:46
○ East St Louis	0:00





# Estimated Travel Time - Interstate Adjacent and County Road

## Interstate Adjacent      Travel Time

○	Chicago	↑	2:23
○	Joliet		1:59
○	Champaign/Urbana		1:18
○	Decatur		1:00
○	Springfield		0:41
○	East St Louis		0:00





# Estimated Travel Times

Chicago - St. Louis High-Speed Route Options						
Intermediate Station Stops	Right-of-Way Type	Station Location	Equipment Type	Chicago Access	Total Runtime*	Total Miles
Springfield - Bloomington/Normal - Joliet	Interstate Median	Interstate	Tilting	Rock Island	2:38	296
Springfield - Bloomington/Normal - Joliet	Interstate Median	Interstate	Conventional	Rock Island	2:53	296
Springfield - Bloomington/Normal - Joliet	Greenfield	Suburban	Conventional	Rock Island	TBD	TBD
Springfield - Peoria - Joliet	Greenfield	Suburban	Conventional	Rock Island	TBD	TBD
Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - University Park	Interstate Median	Interstate	Tilting	Electric Line	2:38	307
Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - University Park	Greenfield	Interstate	Conventional	Electric Line	TBD	TBD
Springfield - Decatur - Champaign/Urbana - Joliet	Interstate Adjacent + County Road	Suburban	Conventional	Rock Island	2:23	322
Springfield - Champaign/Urbana - Joliet	Interstate Adjacent + County Road	Suburban	Conventional	Rock Island	TBD	TBD

\*Total Runtime: Includes 3% schedule pad and 2-minute station dwell

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



# Freight Railroad Coordination



# Freight Railroad Coordination

- Met with Vice-chair Tim Butler on May 8<sup>th</sup>
- Discussed engagement approaches
- Scheduling meetings with select Class I railroads



# Project Delivery TAC



# Project Delivery TAC

- Meeting planning in progress
- Tentatively planned for June 2025
- Agenda
  - Route Review
  - Planning Assumptions
  - Benefit Tradeoffs





# Market Analysis



# Methodology to Forecast High Speed Rail Ridership (HSR)

1

Establish total demand between city pairs

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2

Estimate high speed rail's market share

-----

Preferences of current travelers (ILHSR survey)

3

Estimate high speed rail demand

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# Previous Meeting Summary

- Purpose of Survey
- Qualification and Segmentation
- Example Questionnaire
- Survey Administration
  - In-person Interview
  - Self-administered



# Progress

- Survey design
  - Draft questionnaire completed
  - Survey testing in progress
    - Internal testing WSP ~ 50 records
    - Review Quandel
    - E-panel ~100 records



# Progress

- Survey Administration
  - In-person airport survey
    - O'Hare and Midway – refused by airport lawyers
    - St. Louis – refused
    - AMTRAK – permit submitted on 04/21; waiting for approval
    - Highway rest stop – permission received
  - Self-administered
    - E-panel - set up completed; 1-2 weeks to start
    - Toll Authority – will be sent within 1-2 weeks
    - Universities – contact at University of Illinois



# Outreach & Engagement



# Public Event

**EXTENDED**

**VIRTUAL EVENT** ~~April 28 – May 11~~

**EDUCATION** on true HSR

## INCLUDES

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





# Advertising

**Illinois High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study Virtual Public Event**

The High-Speed Railway Commission, in assistance with the Illinois Department of Transportation, invites you to attend a Virtual Public Event to learn about and share your thoughts on the Illinois High-Speed Rail Feasibility Study for creating a statewide high-speed rail network linking Chicago to St. Louis, with a network that includes existing Amtrak, Metra and MetroLink services, and major cities such as Rockford, Moline, Peoria, and Decatur.

The virtual event will be accessible anytime from April 28 – May 11 at:  
[www.ilhighspeedrail.org](http://www.ilhighspeedrail.org)

The purpose of this event is to:

- Introduce the high-speed rail feasibility study and its goals
- Gather input

During the virtual event, the public can view a pre-recorded presentation, explore study materials, submit comments and take a survey.

*La encuesta está disponible en español.*

Written comments can be mailed to:  
**Illinois Department of Transportation**  
c/o Images, Inc.  
Attn: Lisa Mentzer  
1250 E. Diehl Road, Suite 110  
Naperville, IL 60563

Newspaper

**OUTFRONT/**

**ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

*Strengthening our State. Connecting the Region.*

**You're invited!**

How could a high-speed rail network impact Illinois? The High-Speed Railway Commission wants your insights! Participate in our Virtual Public Event and take a survey – you could help shape Illinois' future transportation landscape!

**Public Event Available April 28 – May 11**

To access the Virtual Public Event, scan the QR code or visit [www.ilhighspeedrail.org](http://www.ilhighspeedrail.org)

ES La encuesta

Train

Virtual Public Event April 28 – May 11

**Shape the future of high-speed rail in Illinois!**

[www.ilhighspeedrail.org](http://www.ilhighspeedrail.org)

Billboard

**ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL FEASIBILITY STUDY**

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Bus



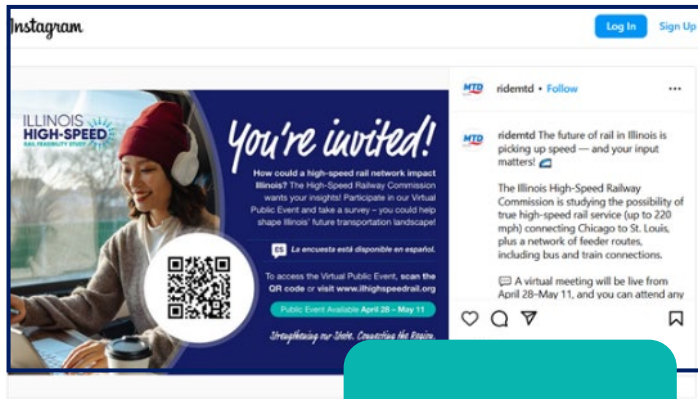
# Media Coverage

- Quad Cities Business Journal
- ABC 7 Chicago
- Chicago Construction News
- KWQC 6 Davenport, IA
- WQAD 8 Moline
- The News Gazette
- WAND 20 Decatur
- ABC 20 Springfield
- WSIL Carterville
- WICS 2 Springfield

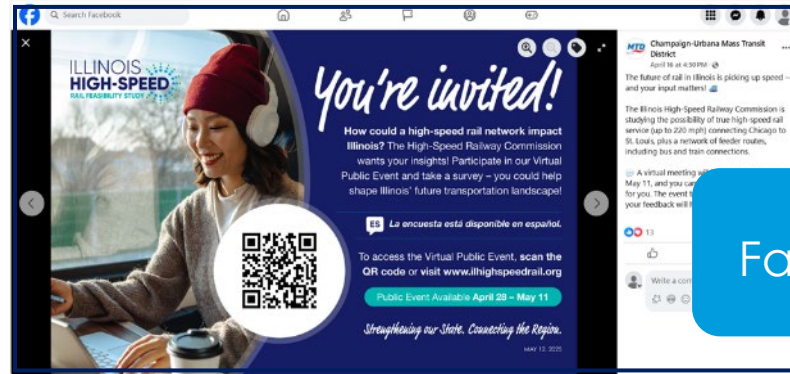




# Third Party Outreach



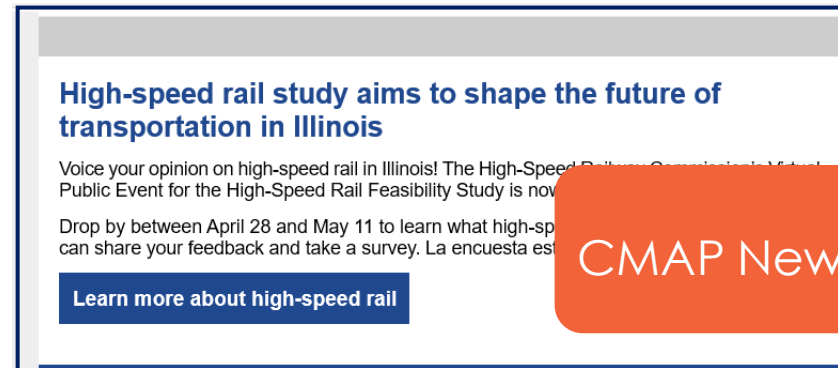
Instagram



Facebook



IRTBA Friday Facts



CMAP Newsletter



# Event Progress

## TRAFFIC SOURCE

Direct  
Facebook  
Reddit  
Survey Planet  
WAND TV  
Google  
IDOT

## SITE SESSIONS

**7,510**

mobile 5,444  
desktop 1,984  
tablet 84

## PAGE VIEWS

**12,134**

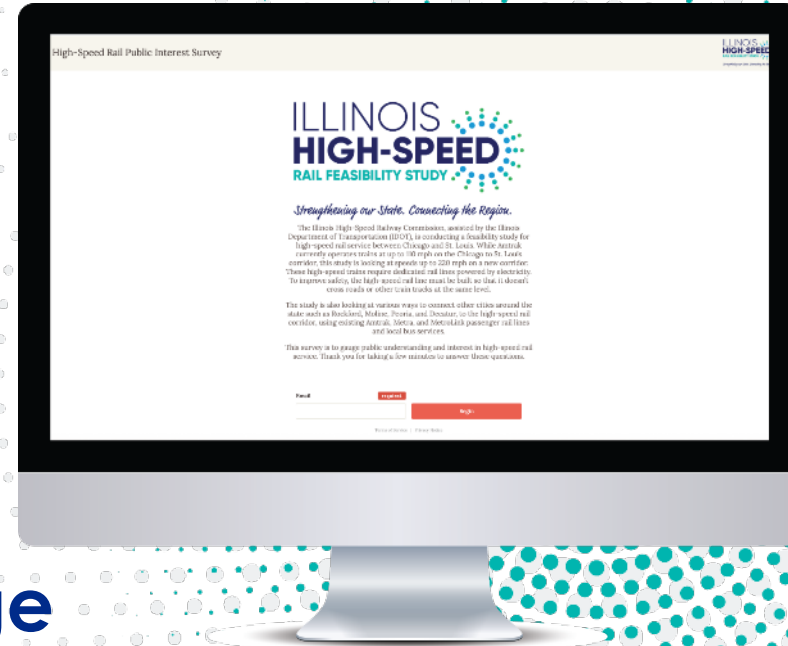
## AVERAGE TIME SPENT

**5:13**



# Public Interest Survey

- 6065 surveys in English
- 8 surveys in Spanish
- Mostly supportive
- Range of age, location, heritage



[www.ilhighspeedrail.org](http://www.ilhighspeedrail.org)



# Comments

66 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



# Next Steps

- Event & Survey will close May 31
- Respond to all comments
- Draft Public Meeting Summary
- Prepare Report - Survey Results
- 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](mailto:JDerwinski@metrarr.com)

**Tim Butler**, Vice Chair, HSR Commission

 [Tim@ilrail.org](mailto:Tim@ilrail.org)

**High-Speed Rail Commission Email**

 [DOT.HighSpeedRailwayCommission@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.HighSpeedRailwayCommission@illinois.gov)