



# ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL

COMMISSION


# IDOT Headquarters: Springfield & Chicago

January 15, 2025




# Agenda




**10:30am:**  Welcome & Introduction  
(Chair Derwinski)  
Roll Call (Morreale Communications)

**10:35am:**  Minutes Approval from December 16<sup>th</sup>  
Commission Meeting (Chair Derwinski)

**10:40am:**  Annual Report Update

**10:45am:**  Technical Assistance and Support  
Update (Quandel Consultants)

**11:15am:**  2025 Commission Trainings  
(Opened by Chair Derwinski)

**11:20am:**  Public Comment

**11:30am:**  Commission Meeting Adjourns

# Minutes Approval



- Meeting minutes from the **December 16<sup>th</sup>** Commission meeting were circulated with the agenda prior to today's meeting.
- Are there any requested changes?

# Annual Report



## Annual Report Update

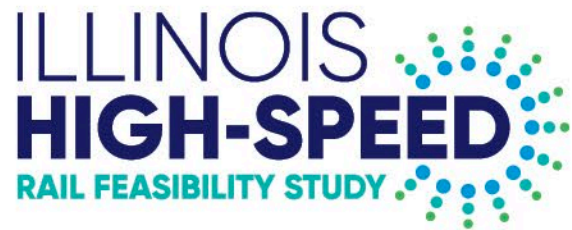
*Update by Chair Derwinski*

# 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

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

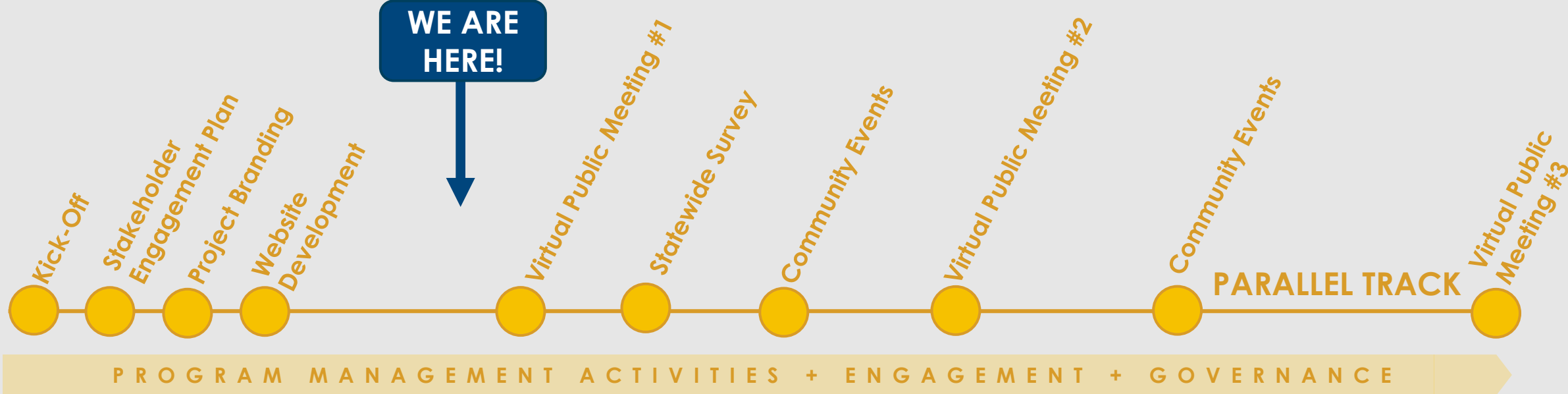
# Agenda

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

# Project Timeline



**WE ARE  
HERE!**



# Alternatives Analysis

# Review of 12/16/24 Meeting

- Discussed progress developing greenfield alignments along Least Cost Paths
- Reviewed interstate route feasibility assessment
- Summarized meeting held with Metra



# 01/15/2025 Alternatives Analysis

- **Today's Topics**

- Study development process review
- City pair evaluation summary
- Alignment geometry progress
- Stakeholder coordination update

# Study Development Process

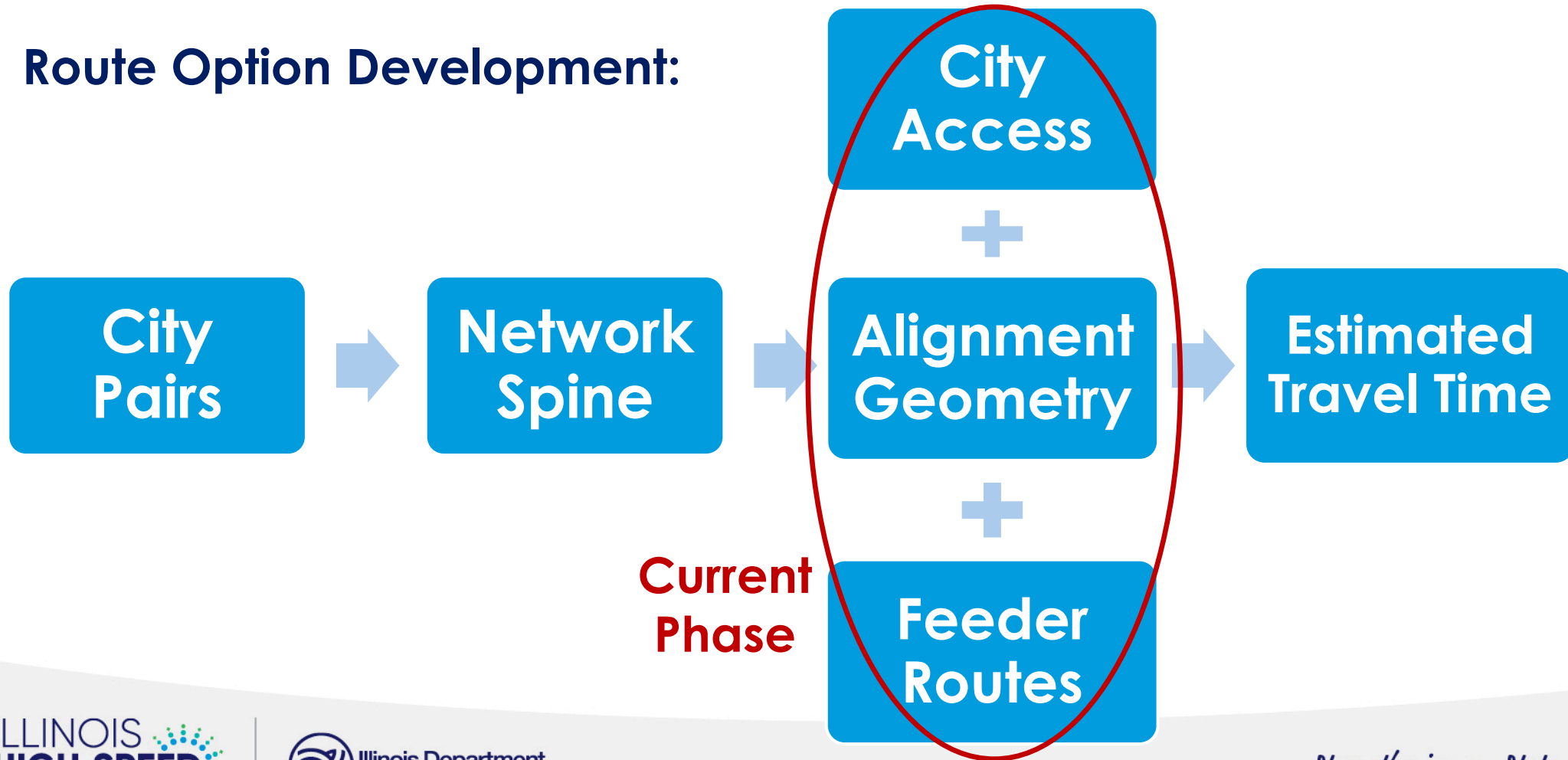
**Feasible Alternative  
Development:**



**Current Phase**

# Study Development Process

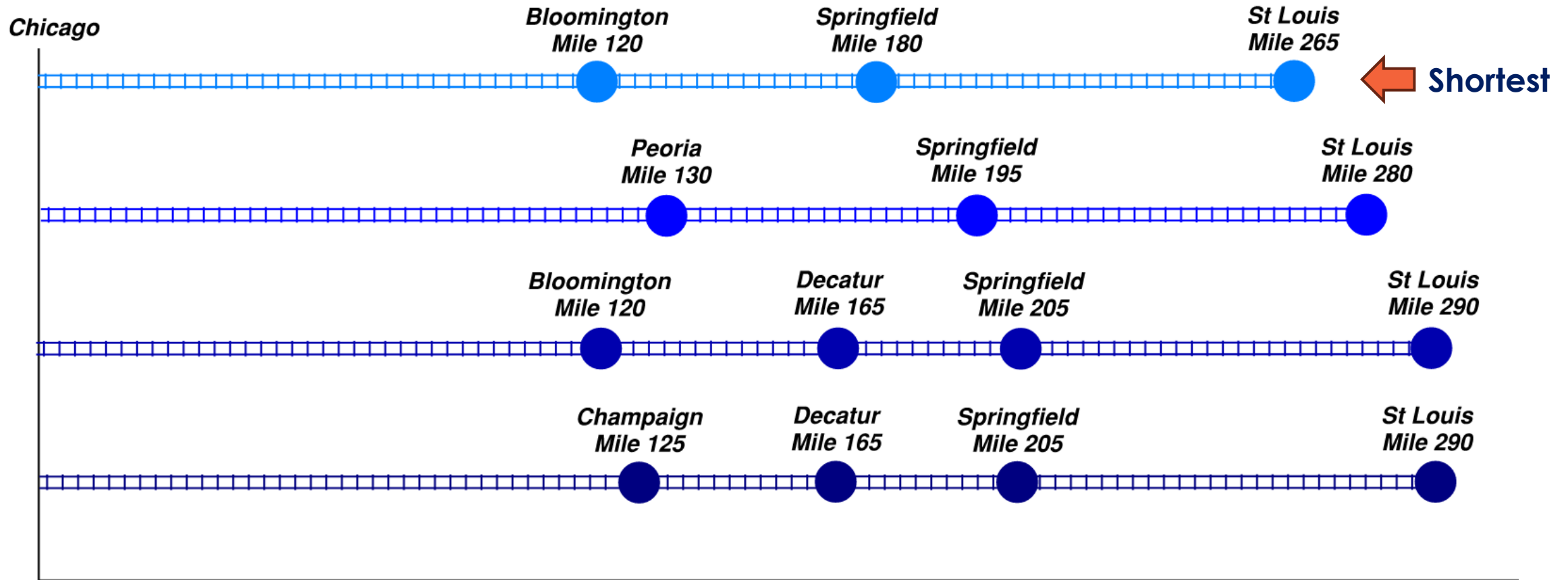
## Route Option Development:



# City Pair Evaluation

- **Goal:** Identify potentially feasible route spines between Chicago and St. Louis
- Potentially feasible high-speed rail routes:
  - Minimize route miles along the system's spine
  - Provide service to population centers
  - Integrate with the state's existing transportation network

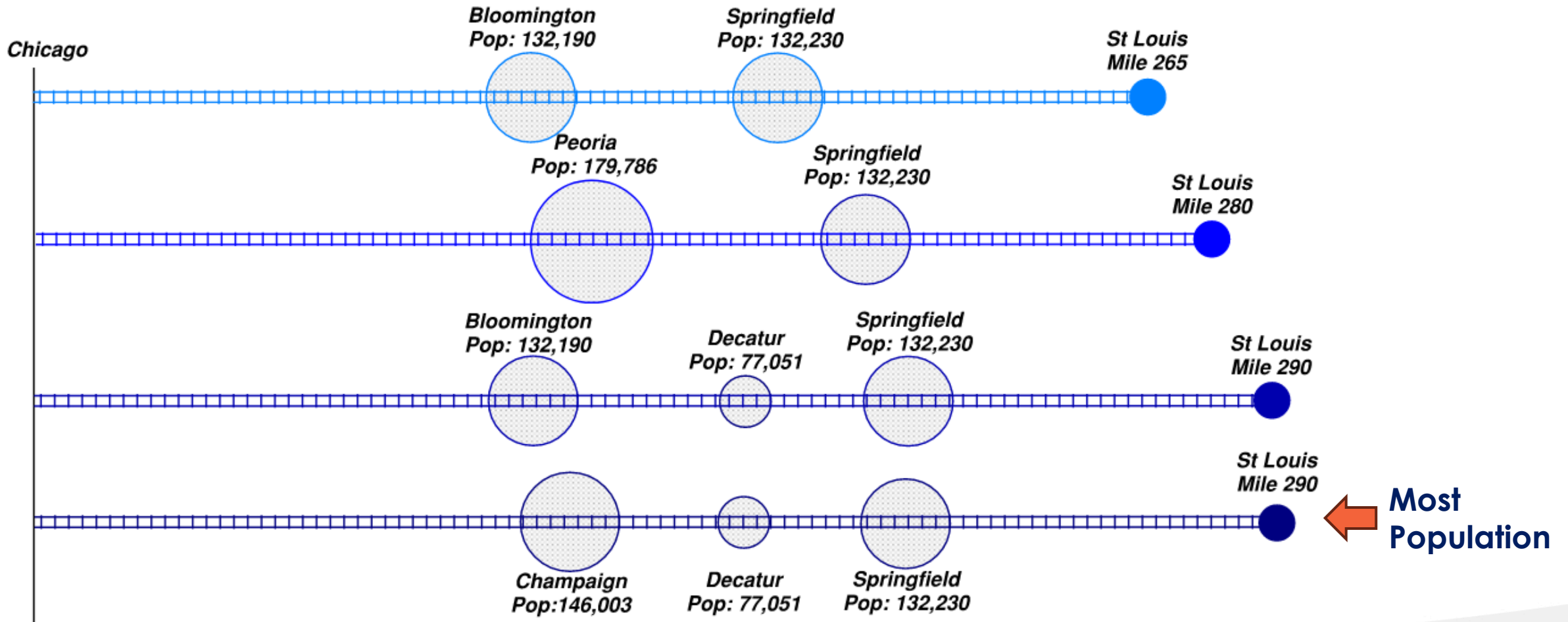
# City Pair Evaluation – Route Miles



Distances are as the crow flies



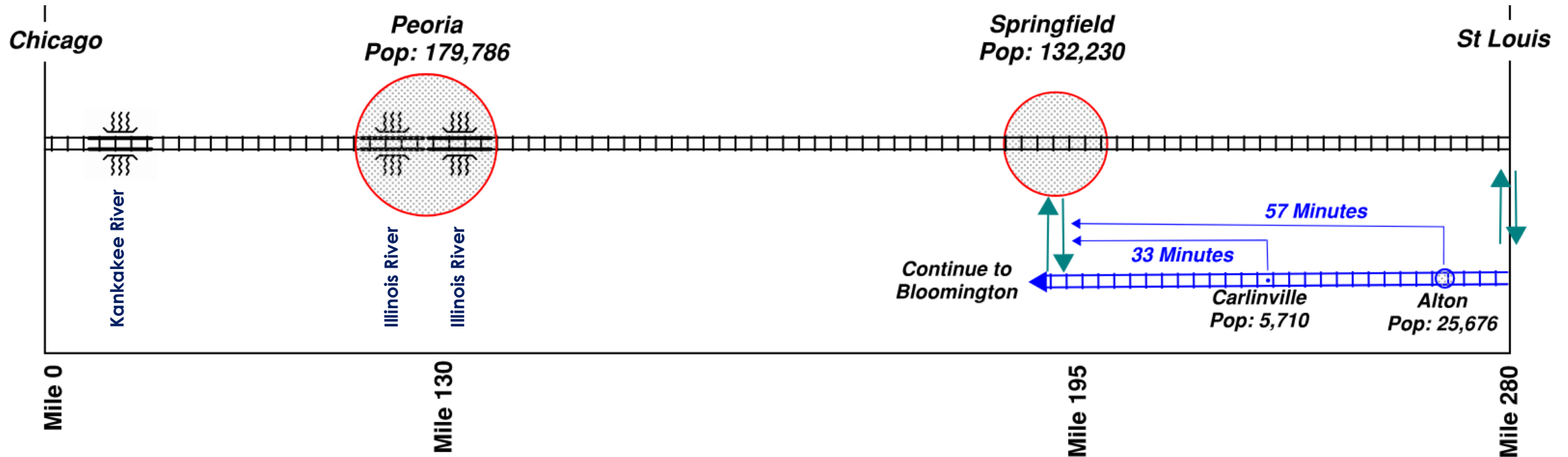
# City Pair Evaluation - Population



Population counted in 10-mile radius from 2020 US Census Data

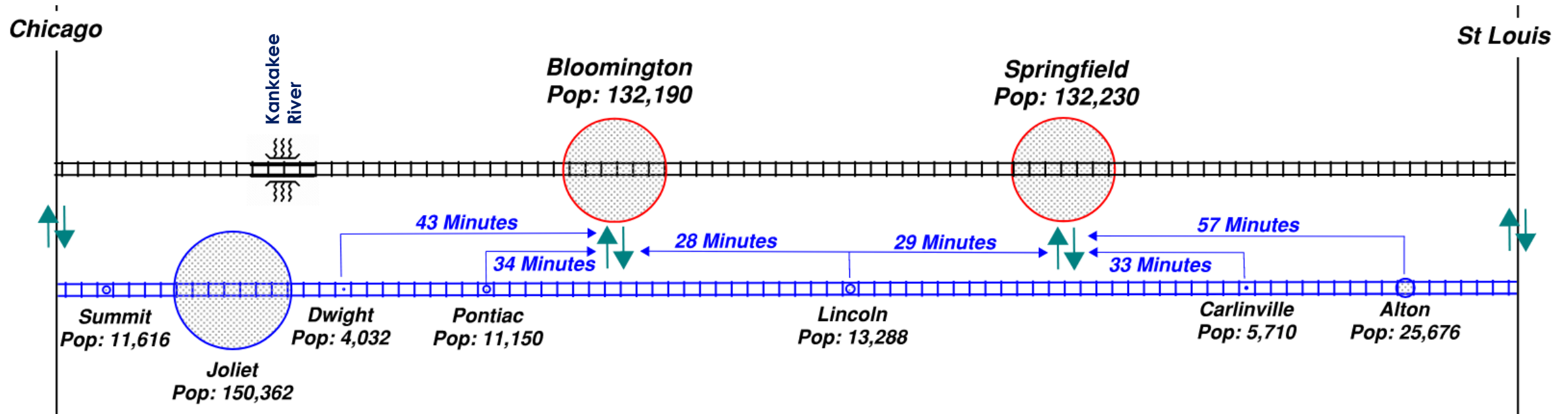
# City Pair Evaluation - Amtrak Connections and Infrastructure Needs

## Potential Lincoln Service Amtrak Connections



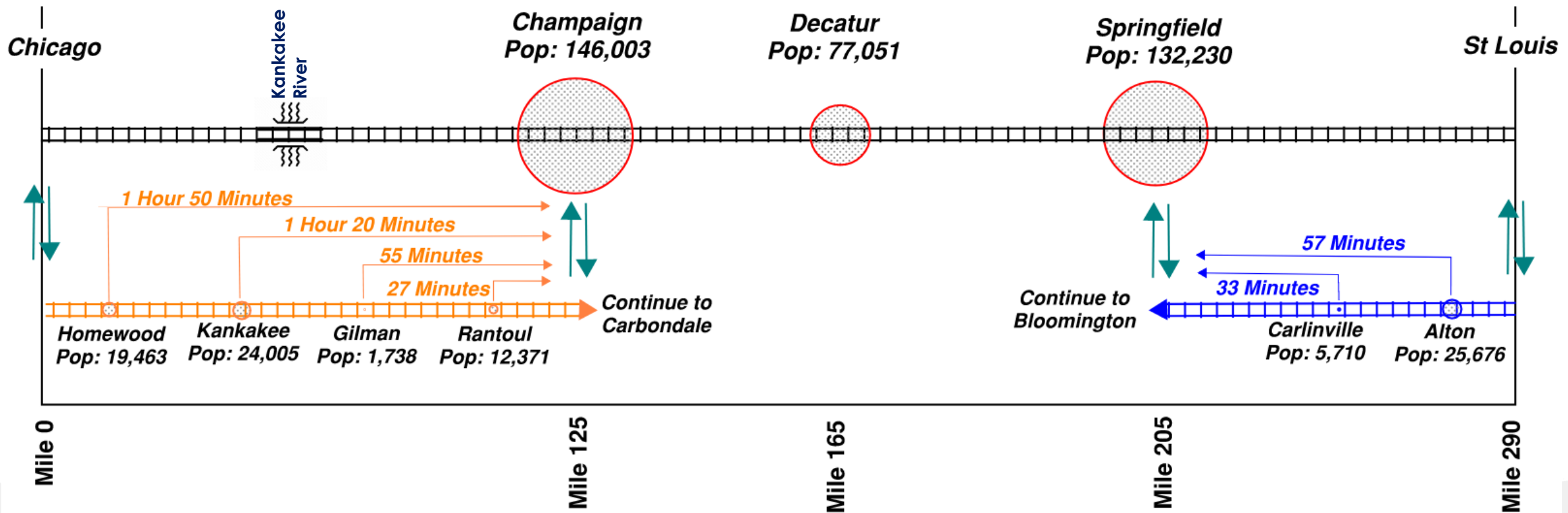
# City Pair Evaluation - Amtrak Connections and Infrastructure Needs

## Potential Lincoln Service Amtrak Connections



# City Pair Evaluation - Amtrak Connections and Infrastructure Needs

## Potential Lincoln Service and Illini/Saluki Amtrak Connections



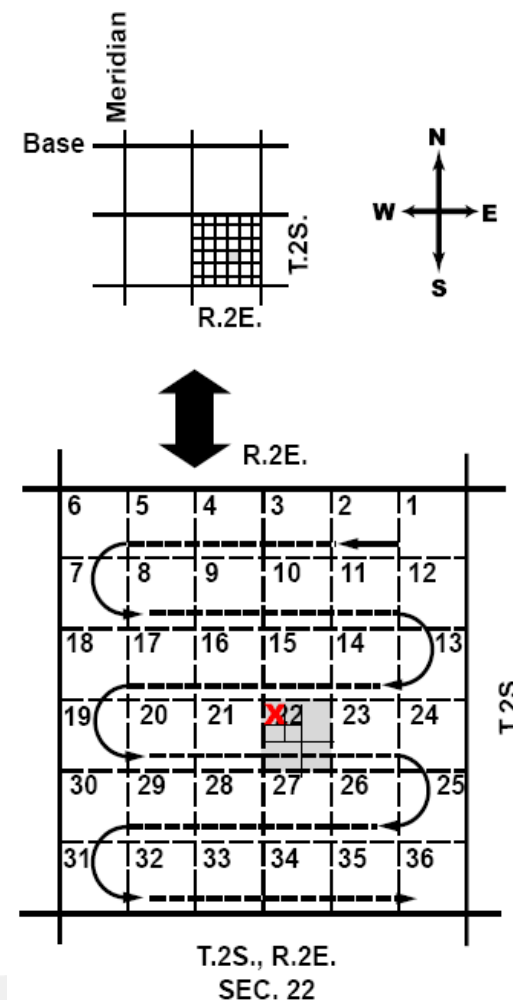
# City Pair Evaluation - Summary

- **Summary**

- Peoria has the largest 10-mile population catchment; but requires two bridges spanning the Illinois River
- Bloomington-Normal routes are the shortest; but parallel the Lincoln service
- Champaign-Urbana routes offer new rail connections to riders of the Illini/Saluki and Lincoln Services
- All routes are potentially feasible. Additional information on travel time, feeder network options and right-of-way availability will inform a recommendation

# Alignment Geometry Development

- The Least Cost Paths helped avoid environmentally sensitive areas
- Minimizing property will reduce public opposition
- Options to minimize land division:
  - County Roads
  - Township lines
  - Energy ROW
  - Abandoned Rail Routes



# Alignment Geometry Development

## County Roads/Township Lines:

- Benefits:
  - Reduces parcel division
  - Minimizes property acquisition
  - Provides a straight alignment
- Challenges:
  - Interferes with rural houses and buildings near the road
  - At-grade construction divides rural land



Computer generated image of HSR Concept

# Alignment Geometry Development

## Energy & Abandoned Railroad ROW:

- Benefits:
  - Disturbed areas
  - Land divisions
  - Possible existing rights of access
- Challenges:
  - May have clearance issues
  - Impacts from power transmission



Energy Corridor



# Alignment Geometry Development

## Construction Examples

- Passenger rail over freight



Miami Metrorail over freight railroad



Rendering of Fort Lauderdale Brightline

# Alignment Geometry Development

## Construction Examples

- Passenger rail over roadway



Miami Metrorail over 5-Lane Roadway



Miami Metrorail over 5-Lane Roadway

# Alignment Geometry Development

## Construction Examples

- Green space under structures



Miami Metro bike path integration



Miami Metro green space integration

# Stakeholder Coordination - Amtrak Meeting

- Scheduled for this week
- Agenda Items Include:
  - Station Connectivity
  - Network Integration
  - Status of Current and Future Projects
  - Long-Distance Route Information



# Route Analysis Next Steps

- Engage Technical Advisory Committee
- Continue assessing station locations
- Establish feeder network options
- Estimate travel times to feeder network cities
- Examine feasible service headways
- Draft schedules using train performance calculations
- Inform ridership model

# Market Analysis

# Market Analysis

- Creating a plan to administer the stated preference survey
- Desired participants are travelers along the Chicago – St Louis corridor:
  - Motorists
  - Amtrak Riders
  - College Students
  - Fliers



# Outreach & Engagement

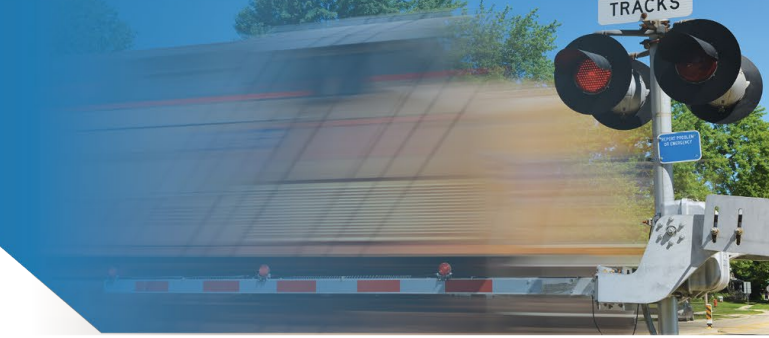


# Progress & Next Steps

- PI TAC - January
- Public Meeting & Interest Survey Release - February

# Thank you!

# 2025 Commission Trainings



## 2025 Commission Trainings

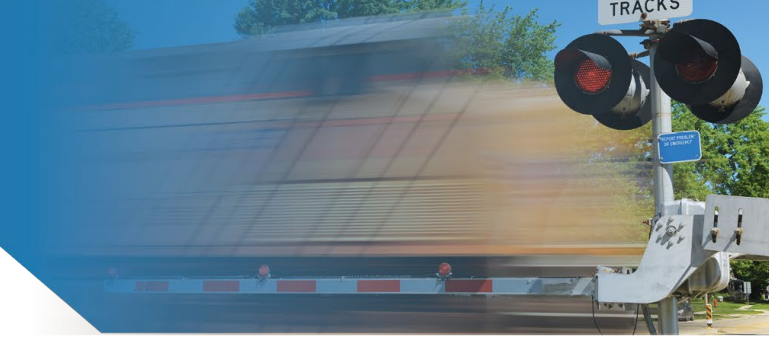
*Update by Chair Derwinski*

*Trainings include:*

- Ethics
- Harassment and Discrimination Prevention
- Security Awareness
- DEIA
- LGBTQIA+

An email with further instructions will be sent following the meeting

# Public Comment



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



**ILLINOIS  
HIGH-SPEED RAIL**  
COMMISSION



Illinois Department  
of Transportation

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

# Adjournment

**Jim Derwinski, Chair, HSR Commission**

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

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