



ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL

COMMISSION

IDOT Headquarters: Springfield & Chicago

February 10, 2025



Agenda



11:00am:



Welcome & Introduction
(Vice Chair Butler)
Roll Call (Morreale Communications)

11:30am:



Public Comment

11:05am:



Minutes Approval from January 15th
Commission Meeting (Vice Chair Butler)

11:40am:



Commission Meeting Adjourns

11:10am:



Technical Assistance and Support
Update (Quandel Consultants)



**ILLINOIS
HIGH-SPEED RAIL**
COMMISSION



Illinois Department
of Transportation

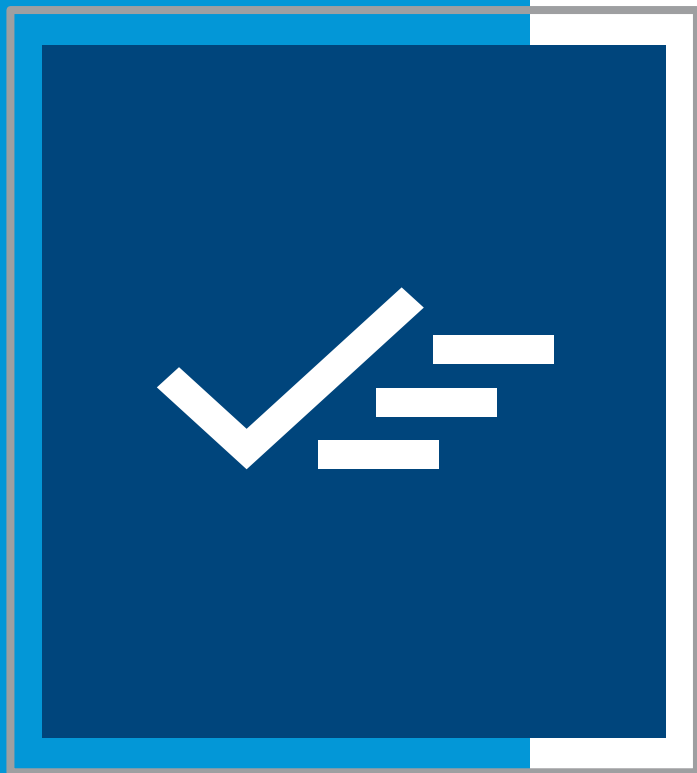
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Minutes Approval



- Meeting minutes from the **January 15th** 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, February 10, 2025

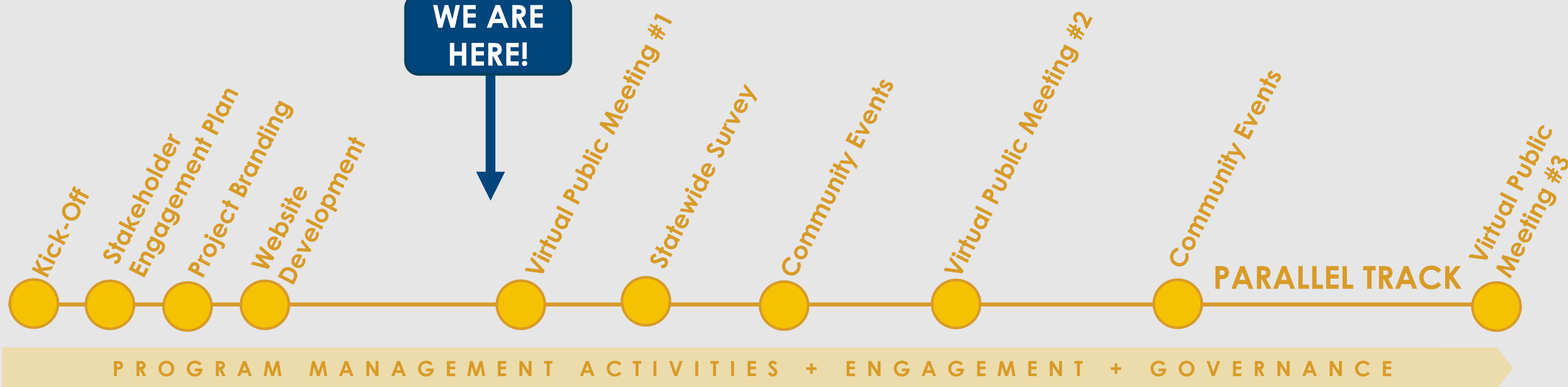


Agenda

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

Project Timeline

**WE ARE
HERE!**



Alternatives Analysis

Review of 01/15/24 Meeting

- Reviewed study and route development processes
- Summarized the preliminary city pair evaluation
- Discussed stakeholder engagement



01/15/2025 Alternatives Analysis

Today's Topics

- Study Development Process
- Network Spine Identification
- Network Spine Evaluation
- Feeder Network Development
- Stakeholder Engagement

Study Development Process

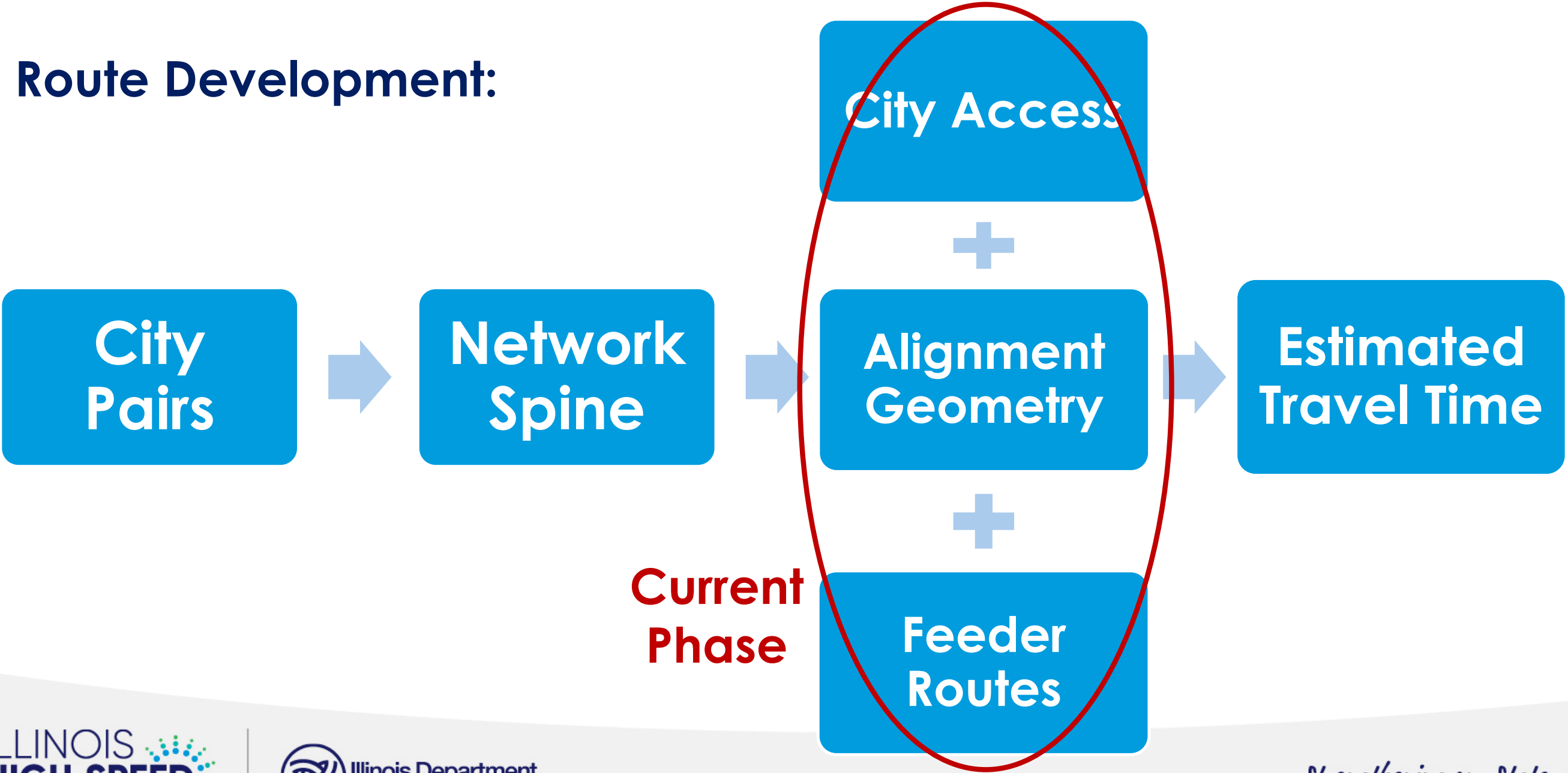
**Feasible Alternative
Development:**



Current Phase

Study Development Process

Route Development:



Network Spine Identification

- Advancing the preliminary city pair evaluation:
 - Identifying potential high-speed rail rights-of-way
 - Establishing horizontal railroad geometry
 - Evaluating route options



Network Spine Identification

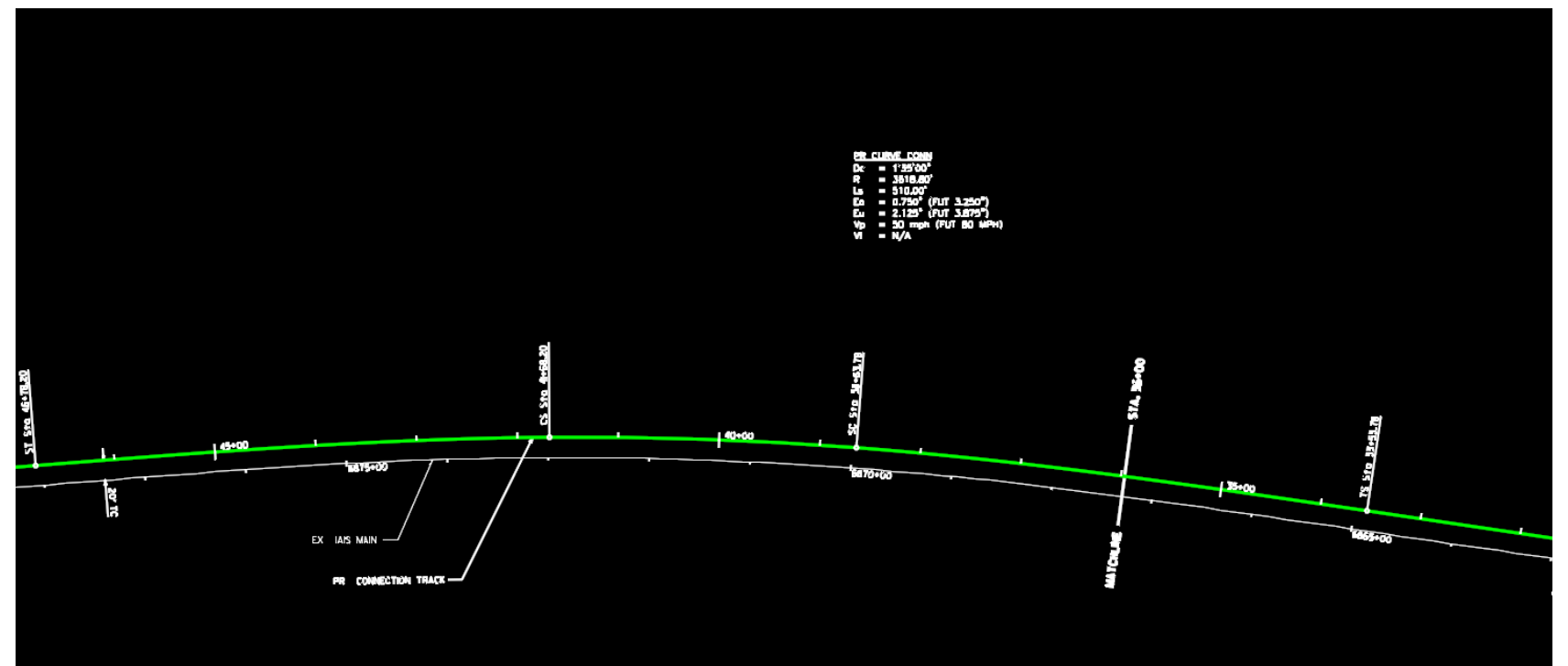
- Identify potential rights-of-way:
 - Integration with interstates
 - Least environmental cost paths
 - Reclaiming abandoned rail lines
 - Paralleling:
 - Frontage roads
 - Railroad corridors
 - Rural roads
 - Township divisions
 - Energy rights-of-way



Computer generated image of railroad integrated into farmland

Network Spine Identification

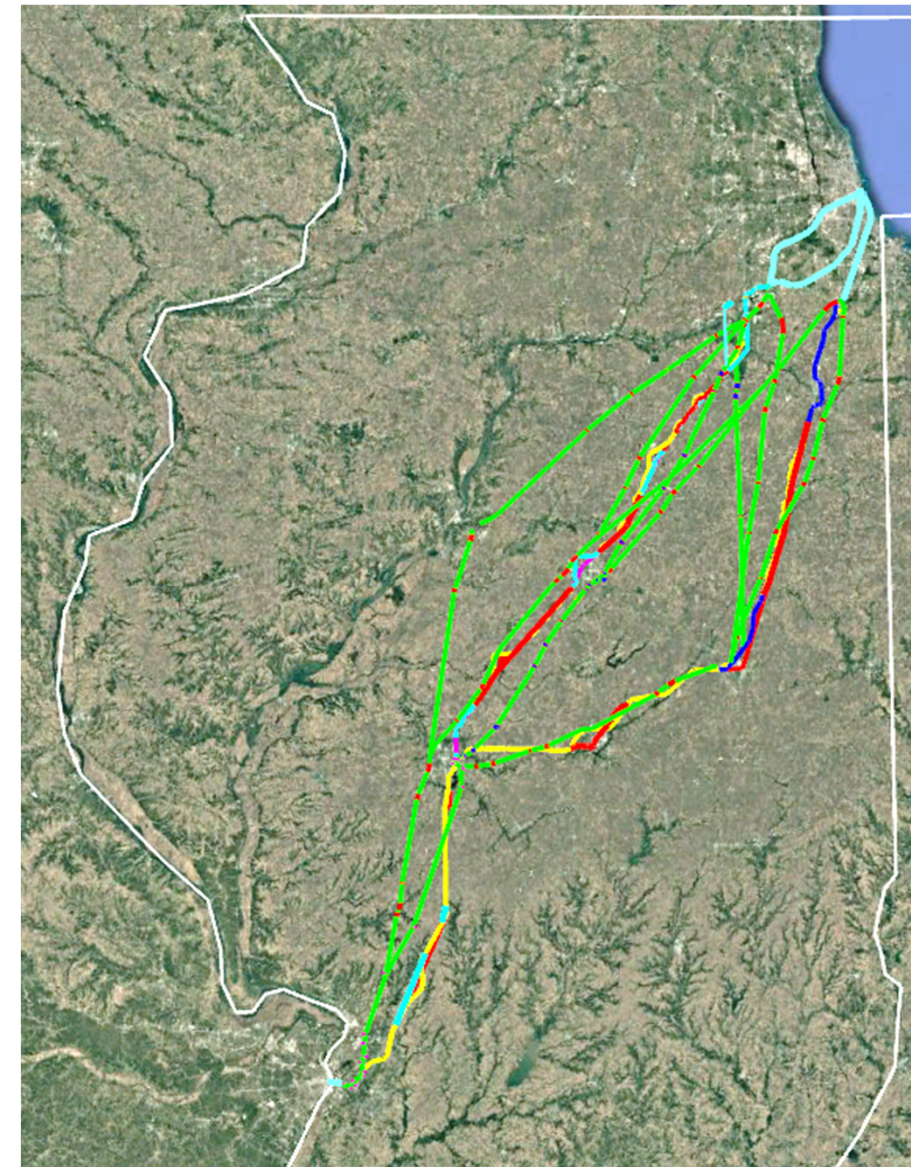
- Establish horizontal railroad alignment geometry:
 - Identify obstacles
 - Assess impacts
 - Calculate operating speeds



Drafted railroad horizontal alignment geometry

Network Spine Identification

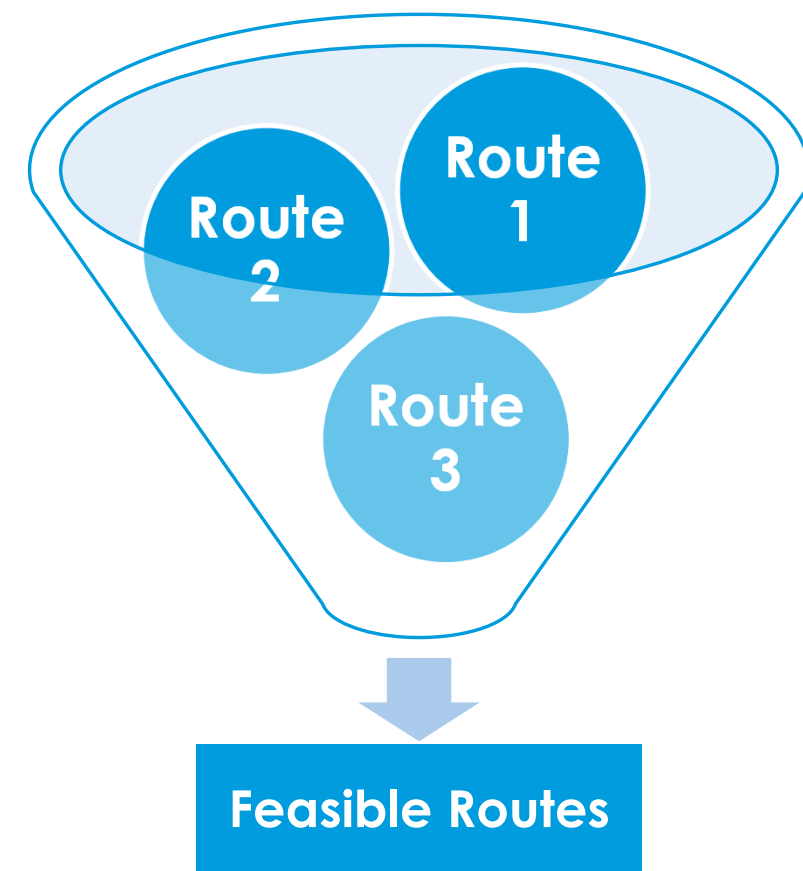
- Identification and development summary:
 - **33 potential right-of-way** segments
 - Over **22,000 track miles**
 - More than **550 horizontal curves**
- Makes up the range of route options
- Provides a wide variety of development opportunities



Universe of Potential Alignments

Network Spine Evaluation

- The Quandel team is evaluating each segment to identify feasible Chicago – St. Louis Routes
- Evaluation criteria reflects ideal high-speed corridor characteristics:
 - Minimal speed limiting curves
 - Low track miles
 - Minor impacts to surrounding properties
 - Cost effective construction opportunities



Representation of Evaluation Process

Feeder Network Development

- Rockford – Chicago:
 - Passenger rail service planned for 2027 into CUS
 - Construction planned to start 2025
- Peoria - Chicago/Bloomington :
 - Amtrak studied a Peoria – Bloomington Rail link in 2011
 - Corridor was accepted into Phase 1 of FRA's CID program
- Moline – Chicago:
 - Corridor was accepted into Phase 1 of FRA's CID program

Stakeholder Coordination

- Meeting with Amtrak held on January 16th
- St. Louis Metro (MetroLink) meeting upcoming



Market Analysis

Market Analysis

- Advancing stated preference survey plan
- Drafting requests to administer stated preference survey
- Assembling route characteristics for the ridership model



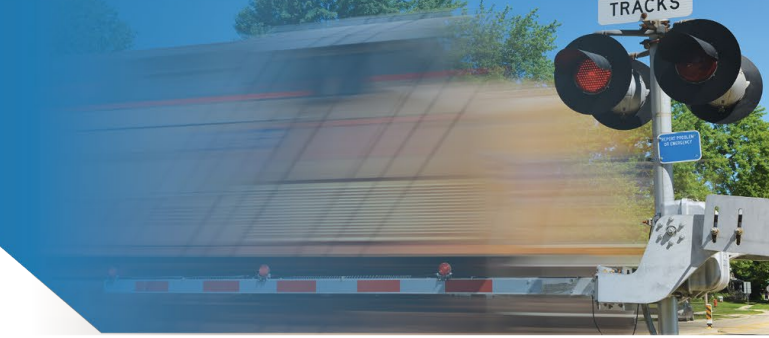
Outreach & Engagement

Progress & Next Steps

- PI TAC meeting held January 30th
- Public meeting & interest survey Release – March

Thank you!

Public Comment



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



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Adjournment



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