

SB 1863 & HB 2938 - Initial design and engineering for high-speed and regional rail

A network of great trains will build prosperity across the state.

Connecting our cities and towns with fast, frequent, and affordable trains will give residents greater freedom to travel for work, school, and leisure. With smart planning and consistent funding, Illinois can build a rail system that drives economic growth, reduces travel times, and makes travel convenient.

Preparing for potential federal, state, and/or private funding.

Substantial planning and engineering work is needed to prepare a project for funding and to quickly move into construction. This initial planning work happens as a matter of course for highways, but has not existed for railways.

As a result, railway projects have seen substantial delays after winning federal funds and Illinois has missed out on recent grant opportunities.

Several Illinois corridors are in the US DOT's new Corridor ID Program which moves railway projects into a federal funding pipeline. The state needs to:

- Fund the local match
- Be prepared to continue the work without federal funding
- Begin design work on several other corridors
- Coordinate shared infrastructure, especially in Chicago.

Nine corridors need engineering funding

A portion of funds for each corridor should be dedicated to engineering shared facilities.

Chicago – Milwaukee: In Corridor ID. Hourly service needed.

Chicago – Madison: No planning done. Hourly service needed.

Chicago – Rockford – Dubuque: Basic Chicago - Rockford service set to start in 2027. Hourly service needed to Rockford and several trains extended to Galena and Dubuque.

Chicago – Quad Cities: In Corridor ID. Basic Chicago - Moline construction partially funded. Needs departures every two hours or better.

Chicago – Galesburg – Quincy: No previous planning done. Needs mid-day departures.

Chicago – Peoria: In Corridor ID. Needs departures every two hours or better.

Chicago – St. Louis: In Corridor ID. Needs departures every two hours or better.

Chicago – Champaign – Carbondale: In Corridor ID. Needs departures every two hours or better.

Electrified High-Speed Rail: IL HSR Commission conducting initial feasibility study. Additional funds needed to further develop Commission’s recommendations.

Learn more at HSRail.org/Fast-Track-Illinois/

