

# SB 1901 & HB 3285 - Funding a growing and dynamic State Railway Program

## Great trains will change the way the world sees Illinois

With rolling prairies, world-class universities, and innovative companies dotting the state, there's so much to experience in Illinois. But decades of infrastructure planning centered on cars has left people with few ways of getting to it.

## An integrated network of fast trains and regional buses would build prosperity across the state.

Fast, frequent, and affordable trains will attract more visitors and businesses to local communities, boosting jobs, economic development, and opportunities for everyone.

The State needs an integrated railway program with consistent funding to expand existing routes and build new ones.

## Building blocks for Illinois' future railway network

- **Regional Rail and Regional Buses** – Frequent and affordable departures coordinated to connect cities, suburbs, and smaller towns across the state – not just the bigger cities.
- **High-Speed Rail** – Fast, efficient, express trains connecting larger metros quickly with minimal environmental impact.
- **Integrated Network** – Coordinated connections between trains, buses, and transit for smooth, efficient travel.
- **State Planning and Funding** – Large, impactful infrastructure projects need a long-range vision and financial commitment.

## Network Foundation: Regional Rail

- **Frequent Departures, All Day** – Trains should run often, all day, on “clock-face” schedules. At least one train every 15 minutes in Cook County, at least every two hours downstate.
- **Speed** – High acceleration and level boarding make trains faster, cut travel times, and draw more riders.
- **Affordable Fares** – Affordable fares, speed, and comfort make trains the easy choice. Frequent service boosts ridership and drives revenue growth.
- **Coordinated Schedules** – “Pulse” scheduling coordinates trains and buses so they converge at transfer hubs at the same time, minimizing transfer and wait times.

## Core Funding Components

- **Planning Capacity** – More staff needed in the Office of Intermodal Project Implementation for route and network planning, including electrified high-speed rail.
- **Capital Improvements and Maintenance** – New bridges, more track, safer grade-crossings.
- **Modern, High-Performance Trains** – Low-emissions trainsets to replace Metra’s out-of-date rolling stock and expand the fleet statewide.
- **Ongoing Operations** – Sustained funding to support growing ridership.

Learn more at [HSRail.org/Fast-Track-Illinois/](https://HSRail.org/Fast-Track-Illinois/)

