The Future (and Current) State of Rail in Illinois

Northwestern University

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Topics

• Updates
  – 110 MPH program
  – 220 MPH program
• Economic impact of HSR improvements
• New Amtrak routes in Illinois
• CREATE freight project – and its relationship to High Speed Rail
• Q&A
Midwest Regional Rail Initiative
The First Corridor: Chicago-St. Louis

- $1.1 billion federal grant
- Key portion of federal high speed corridor
- Adds capacity
  - At least 40-minute travel time reduction
  - New equipment
  - Reliability of at least 80%-85%
- Missouri received federal grant to improve STL-KC corridor
- Missouri submitted 13 more applications for money returned by Florida
Chicago-St. Louis Work Update

- Class VI rail and concrete ties for first 76 miles from Alton to near Lincoln completed in Fall 2010
- Lincoln-Dwight underway; to be complete this year
- New signaling to be installed in 2012-13
- Dwight-Pontiac segment expected to go to 110 in 2012
- RFP for new equipment to go out in summer 2011
- 110 mph service between Dwight and St. Louis complete, with new equipment, in 2014
- Finishing Chicago-Dwight will take longer
Joliet Station Project

• $42 million project funded by Illinois, City of Joliet, and BNSF
• RFP for design now out; bids due May 2
• Parking lot/bus turnaround construction to start Fall 2011
• All other construction to begin in Spring 2012; completion in late 2013
HSR & Economic Activity

- New Normal, IL Multimodal Center
- Funded by federal Tiger I grant
- $200 million invested in downtown Normal since announcement of project, including new hotel & conference center
- Station alone expected to generate 375 jobs
HSR and Job Creation

• Construction of new Nippon-Sharyo factory in Rochelle to begin within weeks
• 250 jobs to be created to assemble 160-car Metra Electric District order
• Likely bidder for new equipment for Amtrak service

AAR/APTA formulas: 9-13 new jobs for every $1 million invested in rail and transit respectively
Amtrak New Service – Linking More of Illinois

- Chicago-Rockford-Dubuque
  - Southern route to Rockford selected in Fall 2010
  - Infrastructure study by host CN Railroad to begin shortly
  - New grade crossing signals to be installed along corridor in 2011
  - Remainder of construction to begin in 2012, and be complete in 2014
  - Funded by state

- Chicago-Quad Cities
  - Joint $230 million application with Iowa approved by USDOT
  - Tiger II federal application for new Moline station approved
  - Required environmental work for both the corridor and the station are underway
  - Goal is for service to begin in 2014, with new equipment
220 MPH Program

- Part of Governor Quinn’s vision for Illinois
- Stay tuned for a major announcement soon on this program
What about Florida’s funds?

- $2.4 billion returned; $2.0 billion to be available for redistribution
- 24 states submitted applications totaling more than $10 billion
- Illinois applications
  - Dwight-Joliet portion of Chicago-St. Louis
  - Multi-state application for new equipment; in Illinois, would mean new locomotives and cars for Chicago-Carbondale, Chicago-Milwaukee, and Chicago-Quincy
  - Environmental study for possible new station in East St. Louis
If we build it…

• Will they come?
• Consider this:
  – In 2007, the state funded an expansion of Amtrak’s schedule—the same old equipment and the same spotty reliability, but ridership soared from SFY2006 to SFY2010:
    • Chicago-St. Louis: Up 207%
    • Chicago-Carbondale: Up 94%
    • Chicago-Quincy: Up 75%
    • And Chicago-Milwaukee, with NO CHANGE in schedule, up 37%
  – Total IL ridership: Up from 964,000 to 1.7 million
  – And so far in SFY11, up more than 9% compared to SFY10
  – And all of this in a recession
• Now imagine ridership gains with much faster travel times, reliable service, and new equipment
The CREATE Program

• “Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency”
• 70 rail and highway/rail grade separation projects
• Main goals:
  – Reduce rail and road congestion
  – Improve quality of life and motorist safety
  – Improve economic competitiveness
• $2.8B infrastructure program – 1/3 funded
Map of CREATE Projects

- Corridor-based
- Starred projects are complete
- Map and project status available at CREATE website: www.createprogram.org
CREATE and 110 MPH Program

- Modeling efforts did not include 110 program, but...
  - CREATE “preserves the footprint” for 110
  - Some projects improve existing AMTRAK service on 110 corridors
  - Some projects improve crossing routes
  - Example: CREATE will permit 30 Metra Southwest Service trains/day to move to LaSalle St Station, freeing up Union Station slots for HSIPR usage
CREATE Projects Will Support 110 MPH Program

• Chicago - Detroit
  – P1 – “Englewood Flyover” at right
  – Also helps Amtrak’s other Eastern routes
  – Negotiations now underway with FRA, Amtrak, and Norfolk-Southern Railroad for construction agreement

• Chicago – St. Louis*
  – P5 - Brighton Park Flyover – CN and CSX/NS
  – P6 - Flyover at existing CP Canal – CN and Indiana Harbor Belt junction
    • State to fund phase I engineering study of this project
  – *Assumes current CN Chicago-Joliet route is chosen as HSR alignment
CREATE Grade Separations

25 Grade Separations in the CREATE Program

In Phase I (Planning/Environmental):
GS 3a – Morgan St./Pershing Rd. and the NS, Chicago
GS 6 – 25th Ave. and the UP, Melrose Park and Bellwood
GS 19 – 71st St./Bell Ave. and the CSX, Chicago

In Phase II (Design):
GS 25 – Roosevelt Rd./Kautz Rd. and the UP, West Chicago

Approaching Phase III (Construction):
GS 14 – 71st St. and the CSX, Bridgeview – ARRA TIGER AWARD RECIPIENT; groundbreaking in 2011
GS 15a – 130th St./Torrence Ave. and the NS, Chicago – IL CAPITAL PROGRAM
GS 16 – Irving Park Rd. and the CP, Bensenville – IL CAPITAL PROGRAM; groundbreaking in late 2011 or early 2012

And 16 more planned for the future!
Questions?

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