



State of Illinois
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation
Randall S. Blankenhorn, Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
October 27, 2016

CONTACT:
Guy Tridgell 312.343.1731
Brian Williamsen 309.671.4854

Dwight Passenger Rail Station Complete

First new station as part of high-speed rail project opens to riders Friday

DWIGHT – Illinois Transportation Secretary Randy Blankenhorn was joined today by Amtrak and village officials to announce the completion of the new passenger rail station in downtown Dwight, the first of several station improvements overseen by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) as part of the high-speed rail project. The new station will open with Amtrak service beginning on Friday, Oct. 28.

“The new Dwight station is a prime example of how we can work together to invest in communities, provide people with options on how they wish to travel and improve the quality of life for themselves and their families,” Secretary Blankenhorn said. “We appreciate your patience while we worked with the village to deliver these improvements in one of our state’s great communities.”

The 1,500-square-foot building features a peaked roof, glass façade and modern facilities and amenities for passengers on Amtrak’s Lincoln Service. Features include connections to bicycle and pedestrian paths, free Wi-Fi and parking for both vehicles and bikes.

The new station is one block south of the old station, which was built by the Chicago and Alton Railroad in 1891. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the old station will continue to house the Dwight Historical Society and the Dwight Economic Alliance.

“The completion of this bright, new, all-weather station in Dwight is another major milestone in the work by all the partners to further improve Amtrak service on this corridor,” said Mike Franke, Amtrak Senior Director of State Government Contracts. “As we put more of these improvements in place in the months ahead, we are confident customer counts will continue to increase and we will see these investments pay off in higher ridership.”

Funding for the \$3.26 million station is part of federal grant administered by IDOT to introduce passenger rail service at speeds up to 110 mph on the Union Pacific Railroad corridor between Chicago and St. Louis. New stations also are being built in Pontiac, Normal, Carlinville and Alton. The stations in Lincoln and Springfield will be upgraded.

For more information, please visit idothsr.org.