



# Illinois High-Speed Rail 2017 updates



## Safety is our PRIORITY

**A major portion of the investment in the Chicago to St. Louis corridor is to improve safety systems.**

The track and infrastructure has been upgraded with new **premium rail**, new stone ballast and the replacement of wooden ties with concrete ties. All of the rail-highway at-grade crossings have undergone an extensive field review to determine necessary improvements. **Warning devices** at the crossings are being upgraded, and **four-quadrant gates** are being installed at most public crossings. This gate system will prevent vehicles from driving around the gates when a train is approaching.

Right-of-way **fencing** will also be installed along the corridor within urban areas and select rural areas. The fencing will be placed within Union Pacific Railroad's right-of-way.

Finally, an **enhanced signal system** will be implemented on the corridor. This system will detect vehicles in the crossing and communicate issues to the conductor.



## Environmental Considerations

Tree and habitat conservation is an important part of the High-Speed Rail Program. As construction continues, the Program team has been active in tree mitigation – planting new trees in designated areas in response to the removal of trees for corridor improvements. IDOT is following federal and state mitigation guidelines for impacts to high-quality prairies and the loss of potential roosting trees for the Northern long-eared bat and the Indiana bat. The Program is mitigating approximately two acres of high-quality prairies in coordination with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

To mitigate for tree clearing in the corridor, the Program is in the process of preserving 9 acres of trees at the north end of the corridor. Currently, 13 acres of trees have been planted at the Funks Grove Nature Preserve and 10 acres of trees at the south end of the corridor.

## Temporary Crossing Closures

Over 144 crossing improvements have been completed with the remaining 73 to be completed this year. Most at-grade crossings along the corridor are receiving four-quadrant gates as well as improvements to roadways and signage. In some cases, crossings and approaches are restructured to reduce sightline problems and other safety issues. Temporary grade crossing closures may be needed to complete this work and will be coordinated with local communities. **A listing of these closures can be found on the Program website at [www.idothsr.org](http://www.idothsr.org).**

## We've got the 411

Residents along the HSR corridor may notice work being done along the railroad tracks including **surveying, tree clearing** and **fencing installation** as well as **drainage improvements** and **utility relocations**. Safety is a key initiative of the HSR Program and fencing is being installed within right-of-way in most urban areas and select rural areas. Surveyors first determine the location of the right-of-way to determine where the fencing will need to be placed. You may notice surveyors marking the right-of-way. Once surveying is complete, the trees and brush within the right-of-way is cleared to allow the fence to be installed. In select locations, culverts are being relocated and/or replaced to improve drainage and specific utilities are being relocated to accommodate track and crossing improvements. **If you have questions, please contact the Project Hotline at 1-855-IDOT HSR (436-8477).**



## What work is being done in my area?

Most of the improvements in the northern part of the HSR corridor are complete. The remaining construction will primarily take place between Springfield and East St. Louis. New/upgraded stations are anticipated to be complete this summer.



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You can also reach us on the Project Hotline at **1-855-IDOT HSR (436-8477)**.

