

Media Advisory



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR WORK SCHEDULE *Amtrak Lincoln Service and Texas Eagle trains affected in July;* Alternate transportation plan includes new train connections

CHICAGO – The attached Passenger Service Notice covers a phase of the 2011 work from July 1 to 8 and from July 16 to 23. This is the continuation of a project that began June 16 on Union Pacific Railroad tracks for 54 miles between Normal and Dwight and for about 26 miles south of Joliet.

During this phase of the construction, Amtrak will charter motorcoaches to and from Bloomington-Normal, Springfield, Alton and St. Louis to connect with Amtrak *Illini* and *Saluki* trains in Champaign in order to expedite travel between Chicago and downstate. By avoiding Chicago suburban highway congestion and downtown Chicago traffic, this connection through Champaign will result in more rail travel during this project. Amtrak will also continue to charter other motorcoaches to cover all intermediate stops on the Chicago-St. Louis corridor.

Passenger Service Notices are posted at stations and will be displayed as part of the booking process on Amtrak.com, with updates on the Official Illinois High-Speed Rail Chicago to St. Louis project website, www.idothsr.org.

About Amtrak®

Celebrating 40 years of dedicated service as America's Railroadsm, Amtrak is the nation's intercity passenger rail provider and its only high-speed rail operator. A record 28.7 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2010 on more than 300 daily trains – at speeds up to 150 mph (241 kph) – that connect 46 states, the District of Columbia and three Canadian Provinces. Amtrak operates trains in partnership with 15 states and four commuter rail agencies. Amtrak also is a strong financial performer achieving an 85 percent cost-recovery ratio in FY 2010. Enjoy the journeysm at Amtrak.com or call 800-USA-RAIL for schedules, fares and more information. Join us on facebook.com/Amtrak and follow us at twitter.com/Amtrak.

About Illinois DOT

The Illinois Department of Transportation provides safe, cost-effective transportation for Illinois in ways that enhance quality of life, promote economic prosperity, and demonstrate respect for our environment. Illinois DOT provides leadership throughout Illinois for the improvement and coordination of the state's multi-faceted transportation system and serves as an advocate and trusted adviser to local governments and other community agencies involved in providing transportation access and services for all of Illinois. For more information, visit <http://www.dot.il.gov/>. For project specific information, visit www.idothsr.org or call 855-IDOT-HSR (855-436-8477). Join us on Facebook at facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail.

(attachment)

Lincoln Service and Texas Eagle



Union Pacific Railroad is continuing construction on a four-year high-speed rail project between Chicago and St. Louis, affecting the *Lincoln Service* and *Texas Eagle*, as described below:

Lincoln Service Trains 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306 and 307

July 1 - July 8 and July 16 - July 23

On July 1 through July 8 and July 16 through July 23, *Lincoln Service* trains will be cancelled and motorcoach service will be provided at all stations on the route, connecting with other Amtrak trains in some cases. *Please be advised that the motorcoaches will not operate according to the same schedules as the Lincoln Service trains they are temporarily replacing.*

July 9 and July 24: Train 302

On July 9 and July 24, Train 302 will be canceled. Motorcoach service will be provided at all stations on the route.

Motorcoach Schedule Information

For motorcoach schedules, visit Amtrak.com, call 1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245) or speak with a station agent. Schedules will also be posted at stations along the route. *Please be advised that the motorcoaches are subject to delays due to road construction.*

Southbound Texas Eagle Train 21/321/421

July 1- July 8 and July 16 - July 23: Train 321

- On July 1 through July 4, Train 321 will operate between Bloomington-Normal, St. Louis and intermediate stations only. Passengers traveling between Chicago and Bloomington may contact Amtrak for alternate train/motorcoach schedules.
- On July 5 through July 8 and July 16 through July 23, Train 321 will be cancelled.

July 1 - July 8 and July 16 - July 23: Train 21/421

On July 1 through July 8, and July 16 through July 23, Train 21/421 will operate non-stop on an alternate route between Chicago and St. Louis. Passengers traveling to intermediate stations may contact Amtrak for alternate motorcoach transportation.

Train 21/421 will depart the following stations approximately 30 minutes later than the times shown in Amtrak printed timetables: The train will depart St. Louis at 8:30 p.m., Poplar Bluff at 11:59 p.m. and will depart Walnut Ridge the following morning at 1:07 a.m. The train will operate according to the published schedule at all remaining stations on the route.

Northbound Texas Eagle Train 22/322/422

July 1 - July 8 and July 16 - July 23: Texas Eagle Schedule Change

On July 1 through July 8 and July 16 through July 23, the northbound *Texas Eagle* will depart the following stations **earlier** than the times shown in Amtrak printed timetables. The train will depart Malvern at 10:23 p.m., Little Rock at 11:15 p.m., and the following morning the train will depart Walnut Ridge at 1:13 a.m., Poplar Bluff at 2:07 a.m. and St. Louis at 7:00 a.m. At St. Louis, the *Texas Eagle* will operate non-stop on an alternate route to Chicago, arriving at 12:57 p.m. Please be advised that due to the detour the train may be delayed arriving at Chicago.

July 1- July 8 and July 16 – July 23: Train 322

- On July 1 through July 4, Train 322, which normally serves all local stations between St. Louis and Chicago, will serve St. Louis, Bloomington-Normal and intermediate stations only.
- On July 5 through July 8 and July 16 through July 23, Train 322 will be cancelled.

July 1 - July 8 and July 16 - July 23: Train 22/422

Texas Eagle passengers traveling on Train 22/422 will be provided motorcoach service from St. Louis to Joliet and all intermediate stations. *Please note: The motorcoach will stop only to discharge passengers.*

Confirm Departure and Arrival Times

Tickets issued prior to the schedule change date may not reflect the correct departure times. While Amtrak makes every effort to notify passengers about schedule changes, passengers are encouraged to confirm their departure and arrival times prior to travel. For the most up-to-date train and motorcoach schedules, visit Amtrak.com or call 1-800-USA-RAIL (1-800-872-7245).

Project Information

The Chicago to St. Louis high-speed rail corridor is among the first high-speed rail projects in the country to begin construction, breaking ground in Brighton (between Alton and Carlinville) last September. Track renewal for this year's construction season began on April 2, 2011, from Elkhart (between Springfield and Lincoln) and is currently proceeding north. It is scheduled for completion by late summer. For project specific information, visit www.idothsr.org or call 1-855-IDOT-HSR (1-855-436-8477). Join us on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail> . Thank you for traveling with Amtrak. We appreciate your patronage and apologize for any inconvenience you may experience.