

News Release



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ILLINOIS HIGH-SPEED RAIL CORRIDOR WORK CONTINUES *Amtrak Lincoln Service and Texas Eagle* trains affected by work north of Bloomington-Normal

CHICAGO – The Illinois Department of Transportation and Union Pacific Railroad are performing another phase of upgrades to Illinois' signature high-speed route, Chicago-St. Louis, for future 110 mph operation of [Amtrak Lincoln Service trains](#).

The construction work includes the installation of new premium rail with concrete ties and stone ballast; upgrades to bridges, culverts and drainage; signal and wayside equipment installations and upgrades; and roadway-rail grade crossing improvements.

For eight days starting August 16, bridge and culvert upgrades north of Bloomington-Normal will lead Amtrak to charter buses for *Lincoln Service* (Trains 300-307) passengers at St. Louis, Alton, Carlinville, Springfield, Lincoln, Normal, Pontiac, Dwight, Joliet and Summit, Ill. [Amtrak Texas Eagle](#) (Trains 21/321/421 & 22/322/422) will detour between Chicago and St. Louis for the same period, with alternate transportation in both directions between Joliet and St. Louis. Two more phases of planned 2013 construction will also require substitute transportation.

In order to expedite travel between Chicago and downstate, many of the buses will connect to and from [Amtrak Illini and Saluki](#) trains in Champaign-Urbana to avoid Chicago suburban highway congestion and downtown Chicago traffic. Schedules and a notice about this disruption are available at stations and displayed as part of the booking process on [Amtrak.com](#).

These infrastructure improvements will allow Union Pacific crews to enable Amtrak to operate service at speeds up to 110 mph, an increase from the current maximum of 79 mph in effect over most of the route. Starting last Thanksgiving, the Dwight to Pontiac segment became the first part of the corridor to regularly experience trains traveling [at speeds up to 110 mph](#).

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In the nine months since October 2012 (Amtrak Fiscal Year 2013), ridership on the Chicago-St. Louis corridor has increased by nearly 23,000 when compared with the same period a year ago, totaling more than 551,000 passengers – an increase of four percent that sets the stage for another record-breaking year.

Temporary road crossing closures due to construction are updated on a nightly basis on the Official Illinois High-Speed Rail Chicago to St. Louis Project Website, www.idothsr.org.

About Amtrak®:

Amtrak is America's Railroad®, the nation's intercity passenger rail service and its high-speed rail operator. A record 31.2 million passengers traveled on Amtrak in FY 2012 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 intercity trains in partnership with 15 states and contracts with 13 commuter rail agencies to provide a variety of services. Enjoy the journey® 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 www.dot.il.gov/.

For information regarding the Illinois High Speed Rail project, visit www.idothsr.org or join us on Facebook at facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail. Call 855-IDOT-HSR (855-436-8477) with questions or comments regarding this project.

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