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Public Meeting July 29 in Normal on High-Speed Rail Construction

SPRINGFIELD – Progress to upgrade passenger rail service between Chicago and St. Louis is moving forward with more construction planned throughout the remainder of 2014 as part of the Illinois High-Speed Rail (HSR) Program.

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) will highlight the upcoming work between Chenoa and Atlanta at an open-house public meeting from 4 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, July 29, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, 201 Broadway Ave., in Normal.

The HSR Program is improving the existing Amtrak Lincoln service along the corridor so trains can travel up to 110 mph. Trains are already traveling at higher speeds between Dwight and Pontiac. Additional portions of the corridor will open to higher speeds by the end of 2015, with the entire section between Joliet and Alton scheduled to be completed by the end of 2017. Once the work is finished, the trip between Chicago and St. Louis will be reduced to 4 ½ hours.

Improvements between Chenoa and Atlanta include the reconstruction of three sidings, upgrades to track, crossings and signals, new turnouts, and other related activities. The work will be conducted within Livingston, McLean and Logan counties.

During the meeting, the public will have the opportunity to view exhibits, provide comments, and meet one-on-one with IDOT and study team representatives.

For specific information on the high-speed rail program and business opportunities, visit www.idothsr.org. Comments and questions also can be made by calling (855) IDOT-HSR (436-8477). You also can follow the HSR Program on Facebook at www.facebook.com/IllinoisHighSpeedRail.

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