

Create a Statewide Integrated Network Plan

Fast, frequent and reliable trains promote economic and social mobility

The Illinois Department of Transportation should create a Statewide Integrated Network Plan to coordinate high-speed rail, Amtrak, Metra and local transit. A big picture approach will deliver more benefits and a greater return on investment to the public.

Building Upon Existing Plans

Illinois already has several plans for public transit and passenger rail, including the State Rail Plan, the Statewide Public Transportation Plan and Metra's strategic plan. Together, they call for a robust web of trains and buses that could create new connectivity throughout the entire state.

But the projects are currently considered in isolation, with a focus on trips to Chicago. As a result, many travel markets and constituencies that would use a well-connected system are missing from the analysis. Additionally, several projects overlap and could share infrastructure if coordinated. A unified approach would:

- Expedite planning and construction
- Reduce capital expenses
- Create statewide benefits more quickly

The Leading Example

California is the first state to create an Integrated Network Plan. To oversimplify, it created a unified bus and train timetable for the year 2040. It includes hourly service on most routes, timed connections at major stations, and integrated fares. The plan shows that coordination of routes will boost rail ridership 10 times over the existing level. It makes it possible to identify high-impact segments for early construction. The results:

- Boosts ridership dramatically
- More service with the same resources
- Well-phased implementation plan

Creating the Plan

Creating the plan would involve IDOT taking the following steps:

- Identify desired service points and key transfer stations (in existing plans, with a few missing links)
- Establish frequency and speed targets for each segment
- Build theoretical schedule with timed transfers
- Create ridership and revenue model for desired network
- Estimate needed infrastructure investments
- Develop phased implementation plan

[Learn more at MidwestHSR.org/Illinois-Fast-Track-Initiative](https://MidwestHSR.org/Illinois-Fast-Track-Initiative)

Potential Long-Term Network Vision

MidwestHSR.org/Illinois-Fast-Track-Initiative

