



**MIDWEST
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**Statement on Chicago – Quad Cities Passenger Rail Study
By Richard Harnish, Executive Director**

The Midwest High Speed Rail Association would like to applaud the Illinois Department of Transportation and Amtrak for expediting the Chicago – Quad Cities passenger rail study.

The Midwest High Speed Rail Association has long advocated the development of a statewide network of fast, frequent and dependable trains as part of a coordinated statewide transit network. A healthy and growing transit network is the foundation for any great economy.

The study released today describes a strategy for launching new service to the Quad Cities quickly and affordably. It is an excellent first step towards the State's long-term plan for the corridor.

Rapidly growing ridership on existing Amtrak and transit routes statewide demonstrates that Illinois residents are seeking new ways to beat highway congestion and the rising cost of driving.

We are looking forward to the General Assembly expediting the Quad Cities passenger rail service as a component of a comprehensive statewide transit plan.

The Midwest High Speed Rail Association is a member-supported non-profit educational organization promoting the development of fast, frequent and dependable train service connecting the entire Midwest. Our members include business leaders, mayors and individuals that want the option of traveling by train.