



**MIDWEST
HIGH SPEED RAIL
ASSOCIATION**

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Midwest High Speed Rail Association Applauds QC Rail Coalition

The Midwest High Speed Rail Association would like to applaud Rock Island County Chairman Jim Bohnsack and the Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce for creating the Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition.

The coalition will help build a stronger connection to Chicago and the entire Midwest economy by advocating for fast and dependable trains.

The Illinois General Assembly is currently reviewing proposals for new service to the Quad Cities, Decatur, Rockford and Peoria, as well as, continued expansion of existing routes.

“Local residents and business leaders need to tell the General Assembly that modern trains are a high-priority,” said Richard Harnish, Executive Director of the Midwest High Speed Rail Association. “The Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition will get that message across.”

“Rapidly rising gas prices are straining personal and business travel budgets,” said Harnish. “Only fast trains can simultaneously reduce travel expenses while reducing the trip times to Chicago.”

“In addition to reducing travel expenses, fast trains will strengthen the downtown business districts making the Quad Cities a more attractive place to live and do business,” added Harnish.

Rising energy costs are also straining the state and federal highway funds. Highway construction costs have increased more than 30% over the last three years, while revenues have remained flat. A substantial “revenue enhancement” will be necessary just to maintain our existing highways.

“A statewide network of fast trains, well integrated with local transit, will stretch the state’s transportation dollar,” said Harnish. “Residents of the Quad Cities should tell Springfield to include modern trains in any upcoming capital program.”

Go to http://www.midwesthsr.org/il_fastTrack.htm for more information on passenger train proposals in Illinois.

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.