



**MIDWEST  
HIGH SPEED RAIL  
ASSOCIATION**

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**Illinois Representatives Celebrate Creation of Intercity Passenger Rail Fund**

Illinois Representatives Julie Hamos, Jack McGuire, Donald Moffitt and a member of Representative Kenneth Dunkin's staff joined Midwest High Speed Rail Association members in Chicago this past Saturday to celebrate the creation of the Intercity Passenger Rail Fund.

On August 10, 2005, Governor Blagojevich signed Senate Bill 635 thereby creating the fund. SB635 was passed out of both houses unanimously.

The fund captures the savings that occur when state employees travel by train and reinvests those savings into improvements into the service. The fund is the first step towards the creation of a statewide rail system connecting all major metropolitan areas with both Chicago and Springfield.

In addition to Representatives Hamos, McGuire and Moffitt, the Association honored Representatives Elizabeth A. Coulson, Kenneth Dunkin, Gary L. Hannig, Richard P. Myers, Elaine Nekritz, Robert W. Pritchard and David Winters as well as Senators William E. Brady, Mattie Hunter and John M. Sullivan for their efforts to promote better passenger rail service in the state.

"The Midwest High Speed Rail Association is excited that the State Legislature and the Governor have taken this important step towards developing fast and dependable trains linking the entire state," said Rick Harnish, Executive Director. "We are looking forward to the implementation of a Chicago – Springfield express train as the next step."

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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.