

Bi-State Regional Commission

October 3, 2008

Rail Planning Efforts

IL DOT Fall Conference

- Passenger Rail Service
- Freight Related Efforts

Passenger Rail Efforts

- Worked with IL DOT since early 90's on service to Chicago
- Included in the 2020, 2025 & 2035 long range transportation plans
- Followed Midwest Rail Initiative, Quad Cities, Iowa City, Omaha Route selected as best route in 1998
- Included in Quad City federal priorities since 1998 in DC trips
- Included in priorities for IL Chamber trips to Springfield
- Chamber re-established rail coalition with 5000 supporters
- Study rail station locations in IL Quad Cities studied

Quad City, Chicago Rail Service Benefits

- Travel option for businesses in the Quad Cities
- Link to higher education institutions
- Travel option for visitors - Convention Bureau Survey – 60% of visitors are from Chicago, 98% drive
- Access to national level events - Bix, Blues Fest, John Deere Classic

Passenger Rail Recent/Next Steps

- Quad City Study completed in early 2008, Iowa City Leg in June
- Funding requested in IL capital budget
- Work with IL DOT to begin project in 2009 construction season
- Work on rail station site and completion – cost estimates being completed
- Establish service by 2010 or 2011
- Work with IA DOT and legislators starting in 2008 and 2009 to establish rail program for the entire State so services can be extended in to Iowa

Rail Freight Related Efforts

- Iowa Interstate Switchyard Relocation
 - Open Land for Redevelopment
 - Reduce Traffic Interruptions
 - Improve Capacity and Efficiency of Switching
 - Improve Safety
 - Iowa Interstate Switchyard Relocation
 - Briefing Development/Grants/Meeting Coord.
- Rail Overpass Information
- Rail Spur Assistance
- Rail Safety Assistance