



Quad Cities Amtrak Service

Request

The Quad Cities seek funding to restore passenger rail service from Chicago to the Quad Cities with extended service to Iowa City as part of the Midwest Regional Rail - Chicago Hub Network. The Quad Cities also support future service to Des Moines and Omaha.

- Chicago to Quad Cities Track Improvement Cost: \$22.7 million
- Quad Cities to Iowa City Track Improvement Cost: \$32.5 million

Background

The Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition (QC Rail) is advocating on behalf of the greater Quad City region for restored passenger rail service. With a metropolitan population of 400,000 residents, the Quad City region is the next most logical addition to the Midwest Regional Rail - Chicago Hub Network.

The Quad Cities is the first major stop along the most highly populated corridor without Amtrak service to Chicago. Amtrak forecasts the Quad Cities to have annual ridership over 110,000 between the Quad Cities and Chicago. With 10.2 million people living in the corridor's major metropolitan areas, the total ridership is expected to skyrocket with each additional stop. For example, when service is extended from the Quad Cities to Iowa City, ridership to/from Chicago jumps to 187,000 annually.

- The proposed Chicago-Quad Cities-Iowa City Amtrak route is shovel ready.
- It is expected that infrastructure improvements can be completed and service initiated within 2 years of funding.
- In January 2008, Amtrak and the Illinois DOT completed a route feasibility study for Chicago to Quad Cities service that determined the preferred route, necessary infrastructure improvements, expected ridership, trip time, speed, and overall cost projections.
- In April 2008, Amtrak and the Iowa DOT completed a route feasibility study for extended service from the Quad Cities to Iowa City. Amtrak is completing a feasibility study to continue service from Iowa City to Des Moines.

Support for Quad Cities Passenger Rail

Over 6,500 area individuals have joined QC Rail since May 2007, including area residents, elected officials, community, labor, and business leaders, and college students. In addition, over 130 businesses, labor and community organizations, and governmental entities have become official supporters of the Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition.

The Quad City region looks forward to passenger rail benefiting:

- Economic and job growth
- Tourism, business, and commuter travel
- Cleaner air, environmentally friendly transportation
- Workforce attraction/retention efforts
- Residential growth and increased quality of life

[More information is available at www.qcrail.com](http://www.qcrail.com)

Economic Impact of Passenger Rail

According to a 2006 Midwest Regional Rail Initiative Report, the Quad Cities and Iowa City will experience economic growth resulting from Amtrak service:

Quad Cities Economic Impact

- 550-825 jobs
- \$11-16 million increase in household income
- \$52-\$77 million increase in property values

Iowa City Economic Impact

- 150-225 jobs
- \$3-4.5 million increase in household income
- \$14-21 million increase in property values

Quad Cities-Chicago Amtrak Route Details

The Amtrak feasibility report identified the shortest and most direct route for 2 daily roundtrip departures from the Quad Cities and Chicago.

Preferred Route: 79mph service on Quad Cities-Naperville-Chicago via IAIS-BNSF-Amtrak

Capital Cost: \$22.7 million	Annual Ridership: 110,800	Running Time: 3 hours, 20 minutes
Station Cost: \$1.5 million	State Operating Cost: \$6 million	Rolling Stock: \$4.2 million (2 train cars)

Quad Cities-Iowa City Amtrak Route Details

The Amtrak feasibility report identified the shortest and most direct route for 2 daily roundtrip departures from the Quad Cities and Iowa City via IAIS

Preferred Route: 79mph service on IAIS

Capital Cost: \$32.5 million	Annual Ridership: 76,100	Running Time: 1 hour, 38 minutes
Rolling Stock: \$1.4 million (a third train car will be added when service extends to Iowa City)		
State Operating Cost: \$6 million from Chicago to Iowa City (Cost will be shared between Illinois and Iowa)		

