



Work To Start On High-Speed Rail Line To St. Louis *Construction Will Start In September*

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Construction will begin in early September on Chicago-to-St. Louis high-speed rail route, Gov. Quinn announced Tuesday.

An agreement between the Illinois Department of [Transportation](#) and Union Pacific Railroad will allow upgrades on an initial 90-mile segment of Union Pacific track to prepare it for high-speed rail, according to a release from the governor's office.



The \$98 million dollar project is funded through the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and will support an estimated 900 jobs, the release said.

Construction will begin in early September on a 90-mile segment from just north of Alton to south of Springfield. It resumes just north of Springfield to south of [Lincoln](#). A study is currently being conducted to determine the best route through Springfield. Track upgrades will include installation of new, high-speed rail and concrete ties. Work could be completed as early as December, according to the release.

In January, the Obama administration announced that Illinois was awarded \$1.2 billion in ARRA funds for high-speed passenger rail -- one of only three states to receive an award of more than \$1 billion.

Illinois' high-speed rail signature route, Chicago to St. Louis, received \$1.1 billion for corridor improvements. The improvements will allow passenger rail service from Chicago to St. Louis to operate at speeds up to 110 mph and include new locomotives and [passenger cars](#), rebuilding of track, additional signaling devices at grade crossings, and implementation of signal technology.

In addition, \$1.25 million in federal funding will be used to complete an environmental impact study for a second track along the same route to increase daily frequencies and \$133 million to build the Englewood Flyover on Chicago's South Side to clear rail bottlenecks and eliminate significant delays for commuter, inter-city and freight trains.