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Study: riders ready for rail service to Des Moines

Friday, April 18, 2008 | 7:30 PM

AP Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa -- A study by Amtrak estimates that railroad service between Iowa City and Chicago would require about \$55 million in set up costs to be shared by Iowa and Illinois.

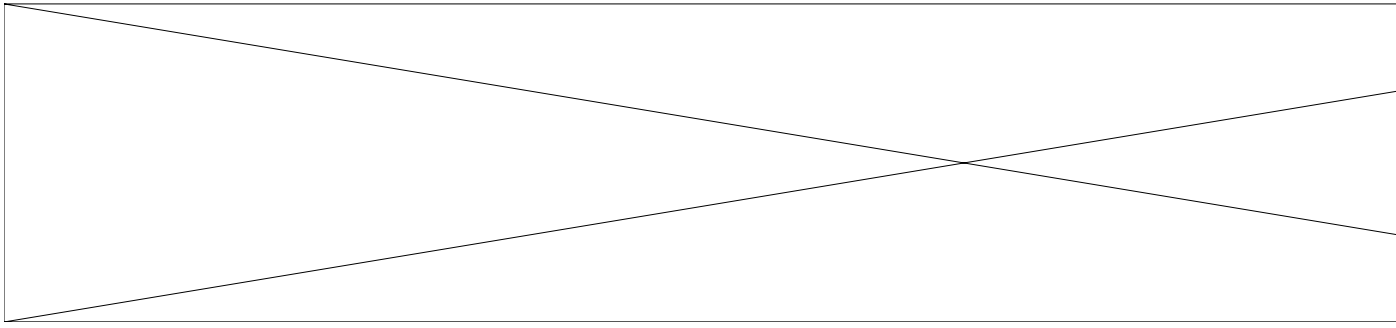
The study released today found that the two daily round trips would draw about 187,000 passengers a year.

Amtrak conducted the study at the request of transportation officials from the two states. Iowa authorities say they're encouraged by the results of the report and the high readership numbers.

Still, it would be years before such service could begin.

And lawmakers in both states would need to dedicate money to the effort. Then Amtrak officials say it would take about two years to complete track upgrades and other work along the line.

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