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## **Passenger train service study released**

**By the Press-Citizen**

A study analyzing the possibility of Amtrak offering passenger rail service between Iowa City and the Quad Cities was released by Amtrak and the Iowa Department of Transportation today.

The study is an addendum to an earlier study done into the possibility of a rail line between the Quad Cities and Illinois.

The study estimates that annual ridership on the full route is estimated at about 187,000 passengers, based on two daily round-trips and if improvements are made allowing maximum speeds of 79 mph. The states of Iowa and Illinois would share the capital investment costs and the estimated annual Amtrak operating contract expense of about \$6 million. The estimated cost to upgrade the railroad infrastructure in this example is \$54.9 million.

The study shows that with the upgrades, Iowa City travelers could get from here to the Quad Cities in one hour, 38 minutes, and to Chicago in just under five hours.

A press release on the study featured quotes of support from the Iowa DOT and Gov. Chet Culver, but any kind of commitment to making the rail happen is a ways away. Iowa and Illinois would have to share the cost of the line, rails would have to be improved and stations developed and personnel hired.

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