

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Governor Chet Culver ★ Lt. Governor Patty Judge

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IOWA INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL: A NECESSITY FOR MOBILITY, OUR ENVIRONMENT AND JOBS

DES MOINES – Governor Chet Culver announced today that the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT) is seeking \$46 million from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to support three passenger rail applications submitted under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act).

Governor Culver said: “It’s time for Iowa to ‘Get on Board.’ The \$3 million in my I-JOBS legislation was the first spike in improving current and establishing additional intercity passenger rail service in Iowa; the Recovery Act funds will help us get the trains rolling.”

The first application seeks \$2 million for planning activities along the entire Chicago to Omaha corridor. This planning study will be a major step in the development of passenger rail service along this highly populated corridor through Iowa’s midsection.

The other two applications seek \$44 million to reduce congestion and delays along the BNSF line through southern Iowa, which carries Amtrak’s California Zephyr. The California Zephyr makes stops in Burlington, Mount Pleasant, Ottumwa, Osceola, and Creston. The projects involve installation of high-speed crossovers and improvements to the track.

Culver said Iowa has advantages in the application process, including the recently signed passenger rail memorandum of understanding (MOU) among

eight Midwest governors, a second MOU signed by him and Illinois Governor Quinn, support from Amtrak and the freight railroads, communities committed to serving passengers, and enthusiastic and supportive Iowans.

In July, the Iowa DOT submitted seven pre-applications to the FRA. Since that time, the department has received feedback from the FRA and participated in collaborative discussions with the agency and others. Based on those exchanges and the state's passenger rail goals, the Iowa DOT determined that the three projects being submitted closely align with the federal program's project selection criteria and have a high opportunity for success in the process.

Additional Recovery Act passenger applications are due Oct. 2 to the FRA. Iowa will then be submitting applications jointly with the Illinois DOT for engineering and construction funding to implement passenger rail service between Chicago and Iowa City and Chicago and Dubuque.

To view the applications and supporting documents, visit Iowa [DOT's Recovery Web site](#).

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