



December 29, 2023

The Honorable J.B. Pritzker  
Governor of Illinois  
401 S. Spring St.  
Springfield, IL 62704

The Honorable Emanuel C. Welch  
Speaker of the House  
House of Representatives  
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Tony McCombie  
Minority Leader  
House of Representatives  
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable Don Harmon  
President of the Senate  
State Senate  
Springfield, IL 62706

The Honorable John Curran  
Minority Leader  
State Senate  
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker and Legislative Leaders:

We are pleased to provide the Annual Report of the activities for the 2023 Illinois High-Speed Rail Commission as required by the High-Speed Railway Commission Act, which was signed by Governor Pritzker on August 6, 2021.

Under that legislation, the Commission is charged with creating a statewide plan for a high-speed rail line and feeder network connecting St. Louis, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois that includes current existing Amtrak and Metra services, connects the cities of Rockford, Moline, Peoria, and Decatur, and uses inter-city bus service to coordinate with the rail line. Further, the Commission is required to conduct a ridership study and make findings and recommendations concerning a governance structure, the frequency of service, and implementation of the plan. The Commission is to report to the General Assembly and the Governor on its progress no later than December 31 of each year.

In the following report, please find information detailing advancements in the last year, including:

- Governors Appointments to the Commission
- 2023 Meeting Information
- Election of Commission Chair and Vice-Chair
- Approved Mission Statement
- Adoption of By-laws
- Procurement of Technical Support
- 2024 Meeting Schedule
- Anticipated Next Steps



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The Commission's work will continue to be guided by the requirements of the legislation. In the next year, we look forward to creating a proposed roadmap to identify objectives and goals for a statewide plan, approve technical support scope of work and begin technical analysis of the feasibility of high-speed rail in Illinois.

We very much appreciate your support of this endeavor and the opportunity to work to advance high-speed rail to improve mobility opportunities for residents throughout our state. We look forward to reporting on our continued progress in the coming year.

Respectfully,

James Derwinski  
Chairman  
Illinois High-Speed Rail Commission

Tim Butler  
Vice-Chairman  
Illinois High-Speed Rail Commission