



150 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet IL 60432

Media Release

Contact: Communications Office 815.724.4462 [rbarker@jolietcity.org](mailto:rbarker@jolietcity.org)

---

September 16, 2011

## Joliet Continues to Prepare as the First Stop for High Speed Rail As tracks open from Chicago to St. Louis

Joliet, IL – The City of Joliet The City of Joliet congratulates the State of Illinois, the Union Pacific Rail Company, and Amtrak in announcing the completion of the recent track improvement work and enhancements from Chicago to St. Louis. The completion of this season's upgrades to the Union Pacific's tracks means all five round-trips on the corridor will be by train – without scheduled detours or chartered motor coaches. Amtrak is currently offering a "Tracks are Back" discount ticket promotion as a thank you to passenger patience during this project phase.

The "Track is Back" promotion includes discounted fair with purchase. With a purchase by the end of this month and travel by Oct. 3, 15 percent savings are available by visiting [www.Amtrak.com](http://www.Amtrak.com) and choosing this promotion under the Deals tab to take advantage of discounted fares on the eight Lincoln Service trains. Restrictions apply, which include a three-day advance purchase requirement disclosed with the promotion.

Adult fares each way from Chicago are as low as \$11.05 to Bloomington-Normal, \$15.30 to Springfield and \$24 to St. Louis. From St. Louis, adult fares each way are as low as \$11.05 to Springfield, \$13.60 to Bloomington-Normal and \$20.40 to Chicago.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) selected Illinois to receive \$1.1 billion for corridor improvements to bring 110 mph (177 kph) passenger rail service to Illinois by 2014. The City of Joliet is a proud recipient of a \$42 million dollar funding grant from the Illinois Jobs initiative to create the Joliet Multi-Modal Regional Transportation Center. This project will position the City of Joliet as the major transportation hub for the southwest suburbs.

The State of Illinois showed its financial commitment by providing more than \$42 million in capital funding. Earlier this year, Illinois was selected by to receive \$186.3 million in additional FRA funds to further upgrade the route and provide high speed service between Dwight and Joliet.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 147,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit [www.visitjoliet.org](http://www.visitjoliet.org) or call 815.724.4000.

###