

News from Genoa Main Street



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Genoa Main Street Aboard:

Board Urges IDOT to Choose Amtrak Recommended Route Through DeKalb County

Genoa Main Street, Inc. recommends the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) utilize the Canadian National routing through northern DeKalb County for AMTRAK service. At their board of directors meeting yesterday, they supported the position of the independent study by AMTRAK professionals that determined the best route for service from Chicago to Galena is using the CN rail line. The study found the CN rail line to be comprehensively better, including that it is \$11,500,000 (37%) cheaper on capital cost compared to the second to worst capital cost alternate route which is through Belvidere. The final decision rests with IDOT.

Genoa Main Street, Inc. Board President Pattie Marx said she is unaware of any regional consensus to change from the most cost-effective and recommended CN Route. She was not aware of any open meetings or hearings opposing the study by Amtrak. Communities along the CN-recommended route were only made aware possible changes to from the superior CN route by news media reports.

She said Genoa Main Street, Inc. supports the recommended CN routing since

- 1) The CN routing is the best way to quickly provide Galena to Chicago service with the best and least use of tax dollars
- 2) It will provide the greatest ridership
- 3) It will service DeKalb County

(more)

The study found the CN route operating cost \$100,000 annually less expensive compared to the route through Belvidere, an essential savings at a time when the State of Illinois must maintain the greatest efficiency for State expenses, since the cost would be made up by State of Illinois subsidies.

In addition, the CN route offers faster service, with ridership estimated as 39 percent higher than the Belvidere routing. Plus, the study found the CN route will be much easier to implement since negotiating and managing an operating agreement would be with only 1 railroad instead of multiple entities.

The CN route is essential for DeKalb County since only the CN Route would effectively serve DeKalb County which has nearly double the population of Boone County and only the CN Route can service the needs of 25,000 students at Northern Illinois University. Rockford will receive the same or better service from the CN route, and the Belvidere City limits are only about 6 miles from the Rockford east side station at Alpine planned on the CN routing.

For further additional information regarding this press release, please contact Joe Misurelli, City of Genoa Administrator, at 815-784-2327.