

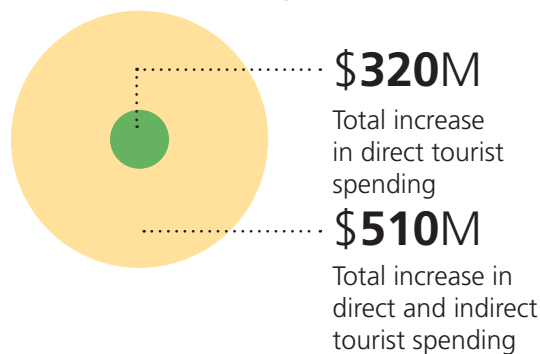
Tourism Benefits of Higher Speed Rail

Increased tourism alone substantiates the \$1.2 billion federal investment in faster train service from Chicago to St. Louis. Tourism-related spending plus higher state and local tax revenues would yield billions over the first 10 years of implementation — ‘whipped cream’ on top of job creation regionwide and new development in downtown Chicago.

Retail boon from new tourists

Better rail service is expected to bring more than 800,000 new tourists to Chicago over the next 10 years, providing a major boost to our economy.

Tourist spending



Environmental benefits

Better rail service means travelers will avoid taking trips by air, bus or car, reducing harmful emissions and gas consumption.

Reduced pollution

-.12 million
metric tons of CO₂

Over 10 years

That's the equivalent of half a million fewer cars travelling from Chicago to St. Louis.

New revenue

Tourism-related and construction spending will generate new jobs and tax revenue.

New jobs

+5,300 jobs

Tourism and construction jobs over 10 years

New income

\$2.6B in wages

From job creation over 10 years

More state and local tax revenue

\$120M

Total increase in state and local tax revenue from job creation and tourist spending over 10 years

Environmental savings calculated from airplane and automobile diversion and induced train ridership data from the Illinois Dwight to St. Louis R.O.D federal application compared with per-passenger mile carbon emission and British thermal unit figures for each mode of travel.

Direct tourist spending calculated using average daily tourist spending data from Anderson Economic Group and 2008 average nightly hotel rate data from the Chicago Dept. of Tourism.

Indirect tourist spending calculated using the U.S. Travel Association's 2008 State of Illinois 1.6 economic multiplier. The multiplier effect is the escalation of economic activity, e.g., if new jobs are created from tourists, people who fill them have money to spend, creating wealth in the local economy.

\$133 million of the \$1.2 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) investment is for the

construction of the Englewood flyover at 63rd and State streets on the south side of Chicago.

Job creation was calculated using travel industry data from the U.S. Travel Association. Wage generation was calculated using Bureau of Labor Statistics data for industry sectors.

All figures are inflation adjusted from 2014-2023 using 10-year CPI-U average.