

Iowa Rails Receive Two Federal Grants

Iowa received close to \$18 million from the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for rail projects.

One of the grants totals \$1 million and is to be used for a planning study for service between Omaha and Chicago. Results from this planning study will put Iowa in a better position to receive federal grants in the future.

The second grant, which is close to \$17 million, is to be used for infrastructure improvements on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe line. This line currently runs across southern Iowa and is used by Amtrak. Infrastructure improvement will improve track conditions, which will improve Amtrak's on-time performance.

The Iowa Department of Transportation continues to work to bring more passenger rail to Iowa, and they said they will be just as aggressive the next time that federal grants become available.