

Davis Applauds Recovery Act Funding for Illinois Rail

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Davis Applauds \$80 Million in Recovery Act Funding to Illinois Rail to Improve

Servicing, Security and Accessibility

Amtrak Also Announces \$90.8 Million to Rehab Train Cars

Representative Danny K. Davis (D-IL07) applauded the decision by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) decision to commit \$80 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Illinois to modernize Amtrak's repair shops and improve accessibility and security at Amtrak stations and facilities in the state. Davis also praised Amtrak's announcement of \$90.8 million to rehabilitate train cars for return to service.

Davis stated, "I have been a long-time, consistent supporter of high speed rail as a safe, convenient, energy efficient, and environmentally friendly mode of transportation. I believe that public support is both necessary and appropriate if we are to achieve the quality system we need as a nation. These commitments by Amtrak are an important step toward that goal by putting more equipment back on the tracks. The commitment of these dollars are also consistent with the goals of the Recovery Act to put Americans back to work and to get our economy growing and moving again as rapidly as possible. Federal, state and local officials in Illinois all recognize that Chicago is a major hub of high speed rail and are united in facilitating that process."

The funding announcements today are part of the \$1.3 billion included in the Recovery Act for Amtrak. Congress provided that \$450 million be used for capital grants for security improvements, including life-safety improvements at Amtrak facilities. The Recovery Act also provided that no more than 60% of the funding could be used for capital improvements on the Northeast Corridor.