

The Dispatch

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ON THE WEB: QConline.com 75¢

\$230M rail grant rolls in

Funds include money for stations in Moline, Geneseo

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A proposed Amtrak route between Chicago and Iowa City through the Quad-Cities got a \$230 million boost Monday, which includes money to help construct rail stations in Moline and Geneseo.

U.S. Sens. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., and Tom Harkin, D-Iowa, announced the money awarded through the High Speed Intercity Rail Program. The Illinois and Iowa Departments of Transportation had applied for a \$248.4 million grant.

Paul Rumler, executive director of the Quad City Passenger Rail Coalition,



Paul Rumler

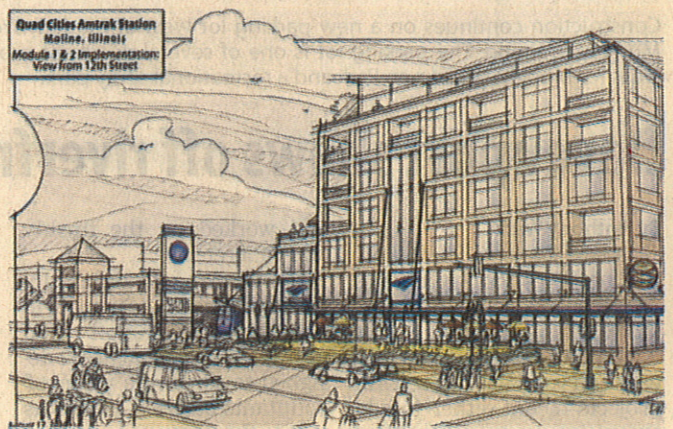
the grant was successful because everyone worked together on a local, state and federal level.

"This speaks volumes for the legitimacy of our project and its potential economic impact," Mr. Rumler said.

said there was \$2.5 billion available to grant, and the Chicago to Iowa City route received roughly 10 percent of the money.

He said

See ► Rail, A2



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The plan for an Amtrak route between Chicago and Iowa City got a boost Monday with the announcement of a \$230 million grant for the project, which includes funds for stations in Moline and Geneseo. This artist's rendering shows a plan for the Moline station.

"This will have a monumental impact on both states. A lot of communities probably wish they were in our position today."

The grant application asked for \$4.3 million for Moline and \$2.9 million for Geneseo for station parking, platforms, ticketing, shelters and lighting. The amounts include matching funds from the two cities.

Ray Forsythe, Moline's planning and development director, said it was unknown Monday how much Moline will receive since what was awarded was reduced from what was requested. However, he said any funding will help greatly.

The Chicago to Iowa City route is proposed to be a "GreenLine," designed to reduce dependency on foreign oil and key emissions, use renewable energy and green building and manufacturing methods and buy environmentally-sensitive, fuel-

efficient and cost-effective passenger rail equipment, according to the grant application.

Moline's downtown station will have to meet energy efficiency standards as part of the GreenLine, and the grant will help achieve that end, Mr. Forsythe said. It also may be used for more land acquisition and parking.

Because the proposed route is a GreenLine, it likely won't be up and running until 2014 or 2015, Mr. Rumler said. In the past, state and federal officials had said Amtrak service between Chicago and Moline would start in 2012.

Geneseo Mayor Linda VanDerLeest said work now starts on acquiring land and planning.

"This enthusiasm has sparked a great amount of hope in the revitalization of Geneseo by having a train station here," she said. "We have a lot of work to do yet. This is not a drop in the bucket. We need to get engineers out here and begin site planning and all of the things we need to do to get the station in line."

Mr. Rumler said the grant also will pay to construct six miles of a second track in Moline to create seamless freight and passenger train travel in downtown.

The HSPIR funding for Moline is in addition to \$10 million awarded last week by the U.S. Department of Transportation and \$5 million from the state to construct an Amtrak station.

The new Chicago to Quad-Cities to Iowa City route would provide two daily round-trips.

The project is expected to create 588 jobs per year for the four years of design and construction. The completed line is expected to increase business activity by \$25 million per year, according to information from Sen. Durbin's office.

LOTTERY

Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010
Illinois

Monday Pick 3 midday: 4-7-6
Monday Pick 3 evening: 0-6-5
Monday Pick 4 midday: 2-2-8-5
Monday Pick 4 evening: 7-9-1-6