MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Involving

State of Illinois,

State of Indiana,

State of Iowa,

State of Michigan,

State of Minnesota,

State of Missouri,

State of Ohio,

State of Wisconsin, and

City of Chicago

For

The Implementation of High-Speed Rail Passenger Service and Connections

Involving Corridors Linking Cities in their Respective States

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is entered into this 27th day of July, 2009, by the Governors in eight Midwestern states, including Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin, and the Mayor of the City of Chicago (MOU Participants) for the purpose of coordinating and documenting individual applications to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) to develop the Chicago Hub High-Speed Rail Corridor (Midwest corridor). The Midwest corridor will connect cities throughout the Midwest with frequent and reliable high-speed and conventional intercity rail service, and will provide service connections to adjoining regional corridors.

This MOU establishes MOU Participants' respective roles and responsibilities in implementing actions relating to the establishment of high-speed and conventional intercity rail passenger service. This rail service is to be operated along corridors established as part of the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI), a collaborative effort by managers and directors of Midwestern State transportation agencies, established in 1996, to plan the rail priorities of the region. This MOU also recognizes Chicago as the hub of Midwestern rail operations, which is consistent with plans outlined in the FRA's "Vision for High-Speed Rail in America" and the regional vision for a Midwest corridor. This MOU further recognizes the importance of adjoining and complementary corridors not specifically recognized in the MWRRI plan, for purposes of connecting and providing service to all parts of the nation.

WHEREAS, the Chicago Hub is the center of our country's rail transportation network and includes regional intercity/interstate passenger rail corridors serving the multistate Midwestern region with corridor connections to the East Coast, to the West Coast, to the Gulf Coast and to Canada.

WHEREAS, the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative (MWRRI) and the Ohio and Lake Erie Regional Rail (Ohio Corridor), are collaborative efforts established to plan the rail priorities of the multistate Midwest region.

WHEREAS, all MOU Participants agree upon, support and understand the national and Midwest regional priority and importance of a nationwide network including a Chicago Hub that could host trains traveling up to 110 miles per hour serving major cities and mid-sized cities across the region, along with connections to adjoining regional corridors, as envisioned and outlined by President Obama and U.S. Transportation Secretary LaHood.

WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States has made available to the various states a total of $8 billion in funds through ARRA for the purpose of funding the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) to establish and improve high-speed passenger rail service throughout the nation.

WHEREAS, all participating states, in partnership with the FRA, agree to advocate for additional appropriations through Congress, in support of these collaborative efforts.

WHEREAS, all MOU Participants agree upon and support a regional and national vision for developing a high-speed and conventional rail network across the Midwest that will provide expanded and ongoing service opportunities throughout the region, with connections to corridors across the nation.

WHEREAS, all MOU Participants recognize a priority to establish high-speed rail service from the Chicago Hub to corridors consisting of Chicago-St. Louis, Chicago to Milwaukee-Madison, and Chicago to Detroit-Pontiac, that would form a high-speed hub in the heart of the nation with high-speed and conventional passenger train service connections radiating to seven other Midwestern states and beyond:

- Connecting to the East by way of Indiana with the Ohio network and service to Toledo and the 3C Corridor: Cleveland-Columbus-Dayton-Cincinnati;
- Connecting to the Southeast to Indianapolis, Indiana and Cincinnati, Ohio;
- Connecting to the Northeast to Grand Rapids/Holland and Port Huron, Michigan;
- Connecting to the North to Green Bay, Wisconsin;
- Connecting to the Northwest to the Twin Cities of Minnesota;
- Connecting to the Southwest and West through St. Louis to Kansas City, Missouri;
- Connecting to the South to Carbondale, Illinois;
- Connecting to the West to Quad Cities, Ill.-Iowa City, Iowa-Des Moines, Iowa-Omaha, Neb.; and to Quincy, Illinois.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Governors and the Mayor of Chicago agree they will:

- Establish a high-level, multi-state steering group with a representative from each signatory to this MOU. The purpose of the Midwest Rail Steering Group will be to coordinate the region's applications and work associated with all ARRA application to provide guidance, leadership and a single advocacy voice in support of the region's collective high-speed rail priorities. The Steering Group shall identify a point of contact between MOU Participants and the U.S. Department of Transportation.

- Coordinate and cooperate fully in support of each MOU Participant's individual state applications for high-speed and intercity rail funding.

- Coordinate and negotiate with the major railroads to sign agreements for the development of high-speed rail corridors, and the identified individual projects by stated priority.

- Be free to pursue individual memoranda of agreement or understanding among MOU Participants, related to specific projects involved in support of the overall application and vision for the Midwest corridor.

- Be separately responsible for any and all work taking place within their respective state boundaries.

- Allow other Midwestern or contiguous states the opportunity to join in this MOU at any time if they are willing to support all aspects of the agreement in place.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the parties may mutually agree in writing to amend this MOU and to develop such additional provisions and procedures as they determine to be necessary in order to pursue the development of high-speed and conventional intercity passenger rail service.

AND, FINALLY, BE IT RESOLVED THAT in signing this MOU, the undersigned understand and accept the roles and responsibilities assigned to each of the parties. Each of the parties agrees to cooperate to the maximum extent possible to ensure that the project is developed in full compliance with Federal and State requirements and to ensure that there is maximum communication and minimum duplication of effort.

State of Illinois

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Pat Quinn, Governor

Date_____

State of Indiana

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Mitch Daniels, Governor

Date_____

State of Iowa

_____

Chet Culver, Governor

Date_____

State of Michigan

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Jennifer Granholm, Governor

Date_____

State of Missouri

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Jay Nixon, Governor

Date_____

State of Minnesota

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Tim Pawlenty, Governor

Date_____

State of Ohio

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Ted Strickland, Governor

Date_____

State of Wisconsin

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Jim Doyle, Governor

Date_____

City of Chicago

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Richard M. Daley, Mayor

Date_____