

In an environment of rising oil prices, MWRRS will offer an energy-efficient and cost-effective alternative to air and automobile travel that will connect businesses and individuals with cities and towns across the Midwest.



**For more information, please contact:**

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All economic figures sourced to: Transportation Economics and Management Systems, Inc.

# Benefiting Iowa's Economy



## The Midwest Regional Rail System is a transportation network for the 21st Century.

- 3,000-mile rail network connecting Iowa with 8 other Midwest states
- Significantly reduced travel times
- Increase in train frequencies
- Improved on-time performance

## Introduction

The Midwest Regional Rail System (MWRRS) will significantly improve the level and quality of passenger rail service in Iowa. The system will contribute to economic growth and strengthen the state's manufacturing, service, and tourism industries.

## User Benefits

MWRRS will generate a \$500-\$700 million user benefit for Iowa; this represents the overall savings to users of the state's transportation network derived from the system. Sources that produce this benefit are:

- The reduction in travel times that users of MWRRS receive
- The reduction in travel times and costs that users of other transportation modes receive as a result of lower congestion levels
- Reductions in emissions as a result of travelers being diverted from air, bus and auto to MWRRS

### EXAMPLE TRAIN TRAVEL TIMES FOR IOWA ROUTES

City Pairs	MWRRS (EXPRESS)	Auto Drive Time
Chicago-Des Moines	5hr 4 min	5hr 31min
Des Moines-Omaha	1hr 58min	2hr 20min
Rock Island-Des Moines	2hr 35min	2hr 53min

## Community Benefits

MWRRS will improve access between Iowa communities. This access supports existing industries, fosters the growth of new businesses and expands the job base.

**1,000 New Permanent Jobs in Iowa**  
**\$17 Million of Extra Household Income in Iowa**

## Station Development Benefits

Increased train operations from MWRRS will lead to rising property values and significant joint (public-private) development opportunities near stations. These multimodal stations will bring together many modes of travel at a single location.

**Increased Joint Development Potential in Iowa (in \$ millions):**

Station	Property Value Increase
Iowa City	\$14-\$21
Des Moines	\$8-\$12
Newton	\$3-\$5
Atlantic	\$0.2-\$0.3

## Environmental Benefits

MWRRS provides a good alternative to auto and air travel that promotes potential environmental benefits, including reduced air pollutant emissions, less land use, and fewer habitat and water resource impacts compared to expanding existing highways and airports.