



Posted Online: Posted online: October 2, 2007 2:47 PM
Print publication date: 10/03/2007

Editorial: Climb aboard Q-C Rail

- "It will assist the growth of our community and our company."
- "This project can only help the Quad City area economy and is vital to the future growth of our metropolitan area overall."
- "It is an important tool for economic development."
- "A commuter rail to Chicago could open up a world of possibilities for this market, both in term of Quad Citians' awareness of the global marketplace, and also in getting broader regional exposure for the Quad Cities."
- "I think it is important to increase the availability of public transportation options. It will increase business and tourist dollars in each metro. It will provide an alternative to driving, which could help limit congestion in the Chicago area. The Quad Cities needs to position itself as a viable destination for Chicago residents and providing rail service is one way to accomplish that."
- "Our company does a lot of travel between Rock Island and Chicago and flights are limited and expensive."
- "A frequent traveler to Chicago on business, I would be able to work all the way to Chicago, conduct business, and work all the way back."
- "I think passenger rail between the QC and Chicago would be a major economic boost for our community, aid efforts to improve retention of young professionals in our area, and bring increased visitors to the QC."
- "This would be an excellent addition to help the Quad Cities connect to a major city with ease of commute for business and families. Our younger staff would be able to travel to major sporting and cultural events -- providing more prospects for young professionals entering the area."
- "The QC is one of the largest metropolitan areas and we should have rail transportation from here to Chicago. I think it might attract more folks to the QC."
- "With the gas prices hitting record highs it would be nice to have an alternative to driving to Chicago."

-- "I am a student in Chicago and live in Moline. A direct line would make my trips home easier and I would be able to visit family and friends more often."

-- "I would like to have passenger rail between the Quad Cities and Chicago so that I can visit home without having to use fuel (saving money and doing my part to contribute to saving the environment and reducing the dependence on foreign oil). I know other (college students) would do the same.

-- "There is a potential for growth to the Quad Cities -- people can move here from the sprawl and higher cost of living in the Chicago area."

-- "It would save our family time and money."

-- "I would use it to go shopping, visit museums, and see shows. I think it would be a great alternative to fighting traffic and paying for parking."

-- "This will help bring more tourists to the Quad Cities, and it will be a great service to get local residents to Chicago."

-- "As a senior citizen I could benefit greatly from passenger rail service to Chicago. I no longer feel comfortable driving there. There are so many cultural events and things to do in Chicago. Not only that, it would be just plain fun to ride the train again!"

-- "I live in Chicago but I'm from the QC and would love another option of transportation when I come home to visit, which is often. Plus, I'm sure more people in Chicago would come to the QC for short getaway trips since it wouldn't be a far or expensive trip."

-- "It's a win/win situation -- it will bring more visitors to our community as well as provide easier access to Chicago without having to move from the community. Fantastic idea!"

Those stories are among the nearly 1,500 offered by people who have signed on to the Quad Cities Passenger Rail Coalition since it was formed in May to promote passenger rail service from the Quad-Cities to Chicago rail service. The bulk of them are Quad-Citians, but residents of Pennsylvania, Virginia, Oregon, Colorado, Missouri, Minnesota, Florida, and Wisconsin also have endorsed the effort. Local governments and businesses are among those propelling the effort.

When members join they are asked to submit testimonials like the ones above detailing what QC Rail would mean to them. Their stories are compelling and worth sharing. If you've got one, we urge you to share it. The Illinois Quad City Chamber of Commerce believes so strongly in bringing passenger rail back to the Quad-Cities after a 30-year absence, it has made it one of its top priorities. So should the rest of us.

The new bridge over the Rock River is testament to the power the Quad-Cities can wield when we work together. Of course, it was 40 years in the making. We cannot afford to wait that long

for rail. If we work together starting now, we're convinced we won't have to. Climb aboard and join the 1,500 Quad-Citians who have joined the coalition.

Sign up at www.qcrail.com.