



ILLINOIS
HIGH-SPEED RAIL
COMMISSION



Commission Workshop #1

Thursday, January 25, 2024

Agenda

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Purpose of Workshop**
- 3. Mission Statement**
- 4. Identification of Needs - Survey Results & Discussion**
- 5. Review Available Data**
- 6. Define Project Constraints**
- 7. Explanation of Key Project Elements**
- 8. Discussion of Alternatives**
- 9. Next Steps**

Purpose of the Workshops

Participation in a collaborative planning approach that builds consensus among stakeholders and facilitates commission approval of the technical assistance and support needed from the Office of Planning and Programming and its Technical Consultant to meet the Mission of the High-Speed Rail Commission.



Project Team



Mission Statement

To create a statewide high-speed railway network for Illinois through actionable, achievable recommendations engaging governments on the local, state, and federal levels. Our efforts will support connecting the state with high-speed trains integrated with other modes of transportation linking additional communities into the passenger rail system. Our plan will benefit the people of Illinois through enhancements to both passenger and freight rail mobility, positive environmental benefits, potential economic development, and positioning Illinois for future funding opportunities.



Legislation

High-Speed Railway Commission

The High-Speed Railway Commission Act created the High-Speed Railway Commission to create a statewide plan for a high-speed rail line and feeder network **connecting St. Louis, Missouri and Chicago, Illinois that includes current existing Amtrak and Metra services, connects the cities of Rockford, Moline, Peoria, and Decatur, and uses inter-city bus service to coordinate with the rail line.** The Commission shall conduct a ridership study and shall make findings and recommendations concerning a governance structure, the frequency of service, and implementation of the plan.



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Needs Assessment Survey Results

Needs Rankings

<u>Need</u>	<u>Avg</u>
Provide Safe, Consistent, Reliable Service	4.79
Provide Efficient and Reliable Service	4.71
Provide a Safe, Comfortable Customer Experience	4.64
Ensure ADA Accessibility	4.43
Allow for Connection to Local Transit	4.36
Minimize Trip Travel Time	4.36
Maximize Frequency of Service Consistent with Population Served	4.29
Serve as Many People as Possible	4.21
Locate Stations to Optimize Ridership	4.21
Facilitate Public Input	4.21
Ensure that Coverage Area Includes Disadvantaged Populations	4.14
Allow for Connection to Intercity Bus	4.07
Maximize Economic Development	4.07
Allow for Connection to Airports	4.00

Needs Rankings

<u>Need</u>	<u>Avg</u>
Determine Capital Costs	3.93
Minimize Environmental Impacts	3.86
Maximize Transit-Oriented Development	3.86
Divert Automobile Trips to Rail	3.86
Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions	3.79
Align with State and Regional Plans	3.71
Provide Adequate Station Parking	3.64
Estimate Jobs Created by Region	3.64
Divert Airplane Trips to Rail	3.64
Connect to a Particular Community	3.57
Identify Innovative Rail Car and Locomotive Options	3.50
Maximize Return on Investment	3.29
Minimize Public Subsidies	3.07
Provide Connections to Health Care Services	3.07
Minimize Land Acquisition	3.07

Needs Rankings by Variance

<u>Need</u>	<u>Variance</u>
1. Align with State and Regional Plans	1.60
2. Identify Innovative Rail Car and Locomotive Options	1.50
3. Provide Adequate Station Parking	1.48
4. Maximize Return On Investment (Wider Economic Benefits)	1.45
5. Connect to a Particular Community	1.34
6. Maximize Transit-Oriented Development	1.21
7. Ensure that Coverage Area Includes Disadvantaged Populations	1.21
8. Minimize Public Subsidies	1.15
9. Allow for (Consider) Connections to Airports	1.08

Needs Rankings by Variance

<u>Need</u>	<u>Variance</u>
10. Divert Automobile Trips to Rail	1.05
11. Divert Airplane Trips to Rail	1.02
12. Allow for Connection to Intercity Bus	0.84
13. Determine Capital Cost	0.84
14. Maximize Economic Development	0.84
15. Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions	0.80
16. Minimize Environmental Impacts	0.75
17. Estimate Jobs Created by Region	0.71
18. Minimize Land Acquisition	0.69

Write-in Answers

RIDERSHIP

- Current population trends in the metro areas
- Stem population loss or slow growth

STRATEGIC

- Build off our state's advantages
- Phased approach to high-speed

OPERATIONAL & FINANCIAL

- Show how a network will boost all routes
- Fare policy connections
- Create a network of connected system
- Connections / Interstate travel
- Identify network critical segments
- Improve mobility of passengers

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Review Available Data

Available Data

- 2009 Chicago to St. Louis New Second Track EA
- 2012 Midwest Regional Rail Initiative - Update
- 2012 Chicago to St. Louis ROD
- 2013 220 MPH High Speed Rail Preliminary Feasibility Study
- 2017 Illinois State Rail Plan
- 2022 Illinois Rail Needs Assessment Study
- 2022 Peoria Passenger Rail Feasibility Study



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Key Project Elements

Project Constraints

- Freight Railroad Participation
- Schedule (Time to Plan and Build)
- Environmental Permitting
- Land Acquisition
- Design & Construction Cost

Key Project Elements

- Operations Analysis (Infrastructure Needs and Travel Times)
- Capital Costs
- Operating Costs
- Ridership and Revenue Projections
- Benefit Cost Analysis and Return-On-Investment Analysis
- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Secondary Project Elements

- Access into St. Louis and Chicago
- Build-out Schedule

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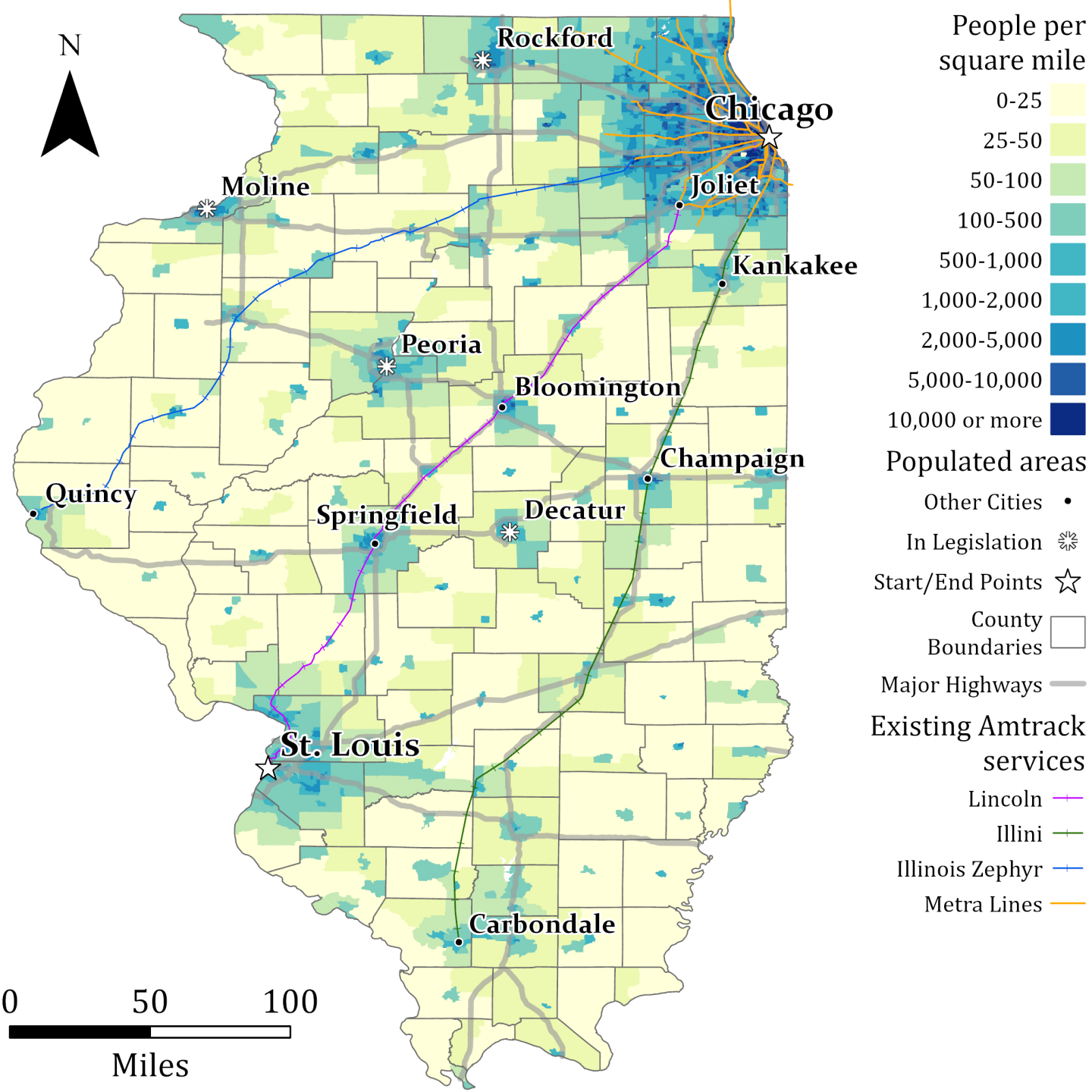


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Discussion of Alternatives

Illinois Population Centers



Chicago	9,618,502
St. Louis	2,820,253
Rockford	348,360
Champaign/Urbana	308,851
Springfield	208,431
Bloomington/Normal	167,699
Joliet	150,374
Peoria	113,176
Decatur	70,901
Moline	42,993
Quincy	39,473
Kankakee	24,076
Carbondale	21,869



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Next Steps

Between Workshops #1 and #2 – Next Steps

- Prepare Draft Outline of Scope of Services
- Discuss Outline with IDOT
- Review Input from the Commission on Alternatives
- Prepare Recommendations for Reasonable Alternatives between Chicago and St. Louis
- Prepare Recommendations for Rail Network

At Workshop #2 – Next Steps

- Present the Agreed Upon Outline of Scope of Services
- Present Viable Alternatives between Chicago and St. Louis
- Further Discussion of Rail Network and Feeder System Elements

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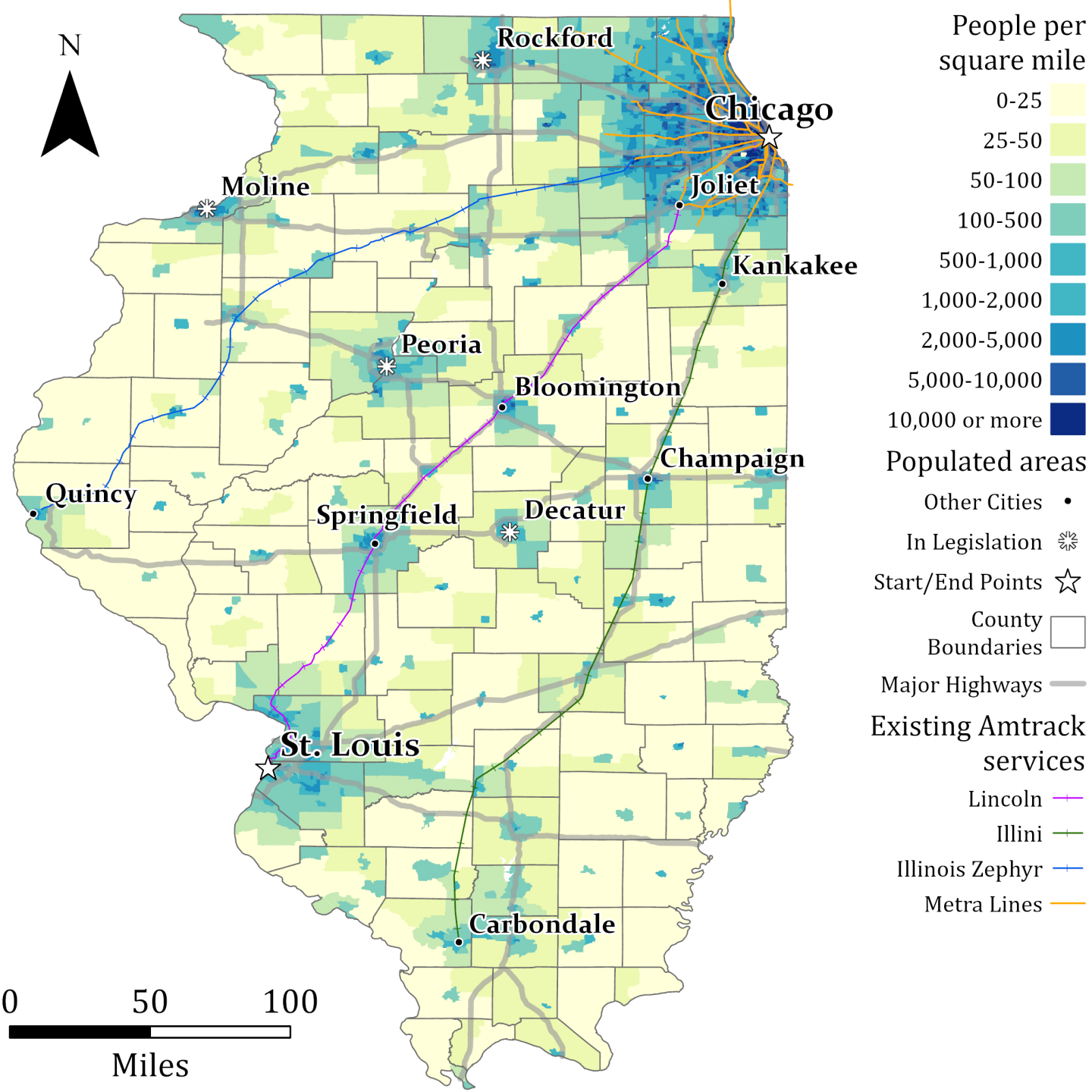


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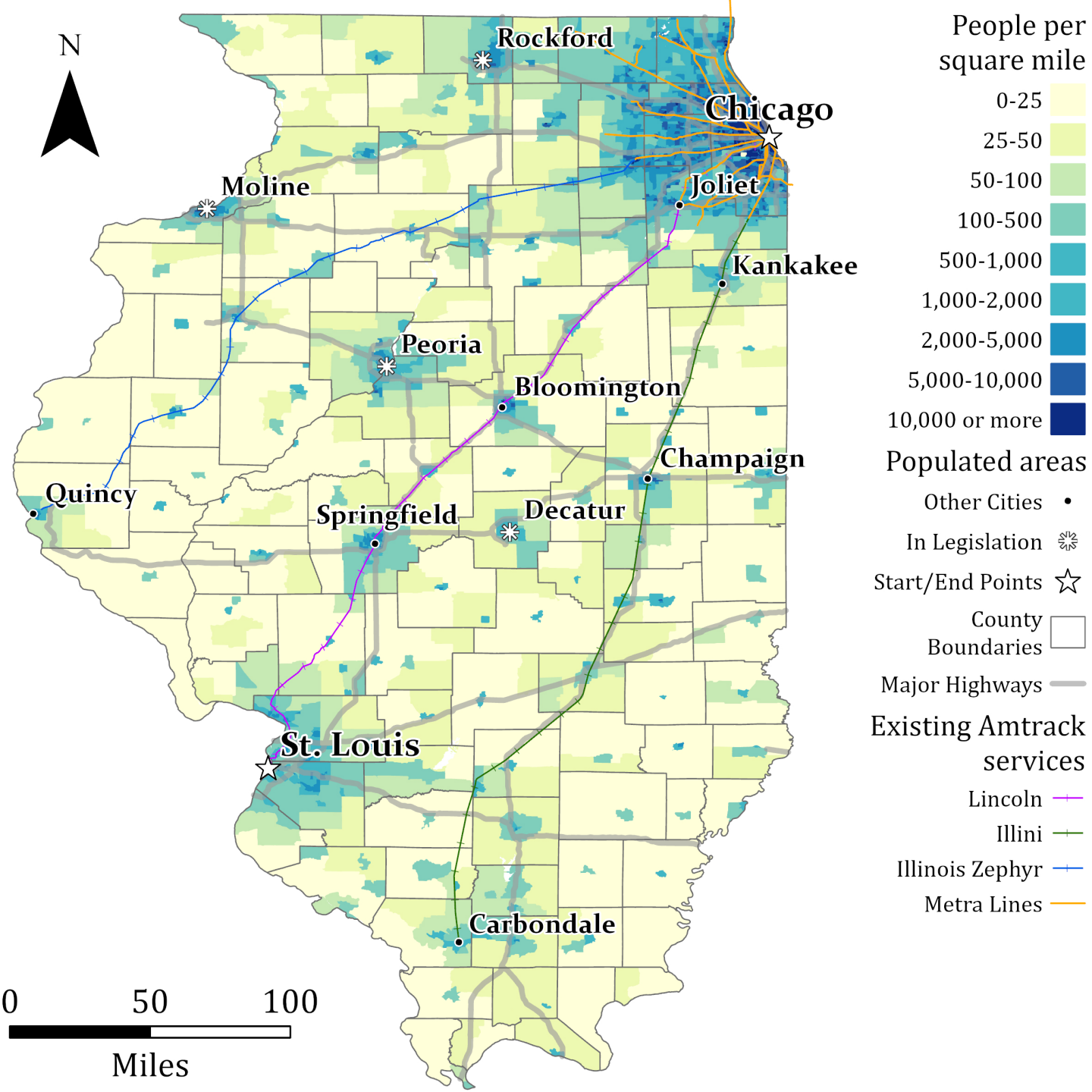
Thank You!

Illinois Population Centers



Chicago	2,746,352
St. Louis	301,574
Joliet	150,374
Rockford	148,662
Bloomington/Normal	131,445
Champaign/Urbana	126,634
Springfield	114,414
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