

## **Transportation Department Grants \$2.4 Billion to 23 States for High Speed Rail**

On October 28, 2010, Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced that \$2.4 billion would be given to 54 high speed rail projects across the country. The money was made possible through congressional appropriations. These grants reflect President Obama's commitment to bring high speed rail to the United States. The government's High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program (HSIPR) grants allocated the most money to California and Florida, who received \$900 million and \$800 million, respectively. These two projects had received big chunks of money from the \$8 billion high speed rail allocation in the economic stimulus package: \$2.25 billion for California and \$1.25 billion for Florida. The announcement of these new grants will help California develop California's Central Valley corridor, and Florida's project is now just \$300 million short of all the funding it needs for the Tampa-Orlando route.

Other states that received large sums of money:

- Iowa, \$230 million. The money will go towards developing intercity passenger rail service between Iowa City and Chicago, going through the Quad Cities. Creating passenger rail service between these cities will put the line closer to being upgraded to high speed rail service at a later date
- Michigan, \$160 million. The money will help towards the development of a high speed rail line between Detroit and Chicago. These are the two most populated cities in the Midwest
- North Carolina/Virginia/D.C., \$70 million. The money will help towards development of a line connecting Charlotte and Raleigh, North Carolina to Washington, D.C. with a stop in Richmond, Virginia
- Illinois/Wisconsin/Minnesota, \$45 million. The money will go towards development of a line connecting Chicago to the "Twin Cities" (Minneapolis-St. Paul), with stops in Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin

14 other states received money to advance long-term goals to develop high speed rail in their states. Most of this money will go towards track improvements for passenger rail service or to conduct studies about the viability of building future high speed trains. This second major investment in high speed rail in the United States will tip the scale to construction for some projects, while making others closer to reality in the near future.