

## **Missouri to apply for \$200M in high-speed stimulus**

The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission on Wednesday approved 11 rail projects totaling \$201.3 million as part of its five-year transportation plan.

These projects will be included in the Missouri Department of Transportation's final application to the Federal Railroad Administration for a slice of the \$8 billion in stimulus money available nationwide for high-speed rail projects.

The application deadlines are Aug. 24 for four projects and Oct. 2 for the remaining seven.

Forty states have made pre-applications for projects totaling \$103 billion, nearly 12 times the amount available, according to Brian Weiler, MoDOT's multimodal operations director.

Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon and Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn are also pushing for stimulus to build a high-speed rail line to connect to St. Louis to Chicago.

### Missouri's high-speed stimulus wish list

- \* Double track, Lee's Summit to Pleasant Hill: \$56.6 million to complete double track and signal upgrades to increase Amtrak train speed from 79 to 90 mph at this segment. [UP]

- \* New locomotive and coach equipment: \$50 million to buy two new sets of locomotives and passenger equipment for use on the St. Louis to Kansas City route.

- \* Second Rail Bridge over Osage River: \$33.8 million to eliminate train delay caused by single-track bottleneck over bridge and reduce maintenance flexibility by adding crossovers. [UP]

- \* Strasburg grade separation: \$15 million to build an overpass and remove a current at-grade crossing at Route E. [UP]

- \* Kingsville Passing Siding: \$11.5 million to break up 25-mile segment with no passing siding. [UP]

- \* Third mainline track in Jefferson City yard: \$9.7 million to increase fluidity through the Jefferson City yard by maintaining bi-directional freight operations with Amtrak operations. [UP]

- \* Knob Noster Passing Siding Extension: \$8.5 million to extend existing siding to 9,000 feet and break up a 27-mile segment with no usable siding [UP]

\* Hermann Universal Crossover: \$5.2 million to close an 18.2-mile gap on double mainline track with no crossovers. [UP]

\* Webster Universal Crossover: \$4.4 million to increase ability to sort freight and passenger trains into and out of the St. Louis area. [UP]

\* Rail Crossing Safety Improvements: \$3.6 million to upgrade 13 crossings and close two, mostly west of Sedalia. [UP?]

\* Real-Time Passenger Information Displays: \$3 million to install displays at eight intermediate stations to provide general train status information.