

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
Governor Chet Culver ★ Lt. Governor Patty Judge

October 26, 2010

## **Governor Culver to Celebrate \$230 Million Passenger Rail Route in Iowa City Thursday**

IOWA CITY – Please join Governor Chet Culver on Thursday to help celebrate the Chicago-to-Iowa City Passenger Rail. The Iowa and Illinois departments of transportation will be receiving \$230 million from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to initiate intercity passenger rail service on a route from Chicago to Iowa City via the Quad Cities.

The 219.5-mile route will provide twice-daily, round-trip service at maximum speeds of 79 mph, and have an expected trip time of less than five hours. The Amtrak trains will operate on a route that begins at Chicago's Union Station and travels on BNSF Railway's line to Wyanet, Ill., and then the Iowa Interstate Railroad's line from Wyanet to Iowa City, Iowa. Each train can accommodate 230 passengers and offers coach seating and food service. First-year ridership is projected to be 246,800 persons. New stations will be established at Geneseo and Moline, Ill., and Iowa City, Iowa.

Joining the Governor will be United States Secretary of Transportation Raymond LaHood, U.S. Senator Tom Harkin, U.S. Representative Dave Loebsack, and Iowa City Area Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Nancy Quellhorst. U.S. Representative Bruce Braley and U.S. Representative Leonard Boswell have also been invited to attend.

Details of the event are below:

### **Thursday, October 28, 2010**

**WHAT:** Gov. Culver and guests will celebrate the \$230 million Chicago-to-Iowa City Passenger Rail grant award.

**WHERE:** Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railroad Passenger Station  
115 Wright Street  
Iowa City, IA

**WHEN:** 1:30 p.m.