



## Looking to the Future: Indiana's Passenger Rail System

After the overwhelmingly positive response to the recent news of the \$491 million expansion of the South Shore rail line, it's become clear Indiana could benefit from a passenger rail commission. That's why I authored [Senate Bill 9](#), a forward-thinking initiative that would create an efficient state entity to oversee rail expansion possibilities.

With many Hoosiers experiencing long commute times and roads needing routine costly maintenance, I view the creation of a passenger rail system as a potential solution to these problems. The commission would be an initial step to set the groundwork for the future of inter-city travel in Indiana and expand interstate travel throughout the Midwest.

Coordinating between local, state and federal levels, a rail commission would facilitate efforts of the [Indiana Department of Transportation](#) in collaboration with other states' departments of transportation.

In 2019, the train-car route from Indianapolis to Chicago was completely shut down due to a lack of funding and ridership. In order to avoid a situation like this in the future, the commission would look to boost advertising to jumpstart participation and garner funding for infrastructure.

As our state continues to lead the Midwest in economic development and job creation, it's important we also increase public transit to attract more businesses to our state and ensure effective travel for future Hoosier workers.

SB 9 has been assigned to the [Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Transportation](#).

For more information about this bill and other legislation moving through the General Assembly, click [here](#).