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Third Street train speeds increase beginning Oct. 23

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Transportation announced today that the speed limit for trains will increase along the Union Pacific Railroad's Third Street corridor beginning Tuesday, Oct. 23. The current speed of 25 miles per hour will increase five miles per hour each week until trains reach the new 40 mph limit.

The increase in the train speed limit is a result of safety improvements along the corridor, including the installation of fencing, new gates and signal upgrades. These safety improvements were completed as part of the upgrades along the Chicago-to-St. Louis route to provide safer, more reliable and faster passenger service.

The increased speed means trains will spend less time blocking crossings, which will enhance traffic flow. Safety could also improve, as research shows slower train speeds create higher risks for derailment and crossing collisions.

Visit idohsr.org for more information about the Chicago-to-St. Louis project.

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