



Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

John Wesley Powell Student Research
Conference

1993, 4th Annual JWP Conference

May 8th, 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM

High Speed Rail: Transportation Solution for the Future

Douglas M. Macomber
Illinois Wesleyan University

Margaret Chapman, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Macomber, Douglas M. and Chapman, Faculty Advisor, Margaret, "High Speed Rail: Transportation Solution for the Future" (1993). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 24.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/1993/posters/24>

This Event is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

HIGH SPEED RAIL: TRANSPORTATION SOLUTION FOR THE FUTURE

Douglas M. Macomber, Dept of Economics, IWU, Margaret Chapman*

High speed rail was first introduced by the Japanese in 1964. Since that time many countries including France, Germany, Spain, Italy, and Sweden have developed their own high speed rail systems. The United States has lagged behind in high speed train technology, but now it is faced with serious transportation problems. Road and interstate construction and repair can not keep pace with traffic demand. Airports have become synonymous with congestion. America has reached a crossroads in the decision of how to break the gridlock that grips our country.

This study will examine the possibility of high speed rail transportation within a 300 mile radius of Chicago. Chicago has long been the hub of railroad transportation. The city could also serve as a center for profitable high speed rail. It has all the characteristics that make high speed rail attractive such as large population, large population of cities within said radius, congestion of other transportation modes, and good condition of existing rail lines.

This study emphasizes the routes that have the greatest potential for high speed rail implementation. Specifically, the corridors are Chicago to Milwaukee to Minneapolis-St. Paul, Chicago to St. Louis, and Chicago to Detroit. Finally, this study culminates in a comparison of high speed rail to air and highway travel.