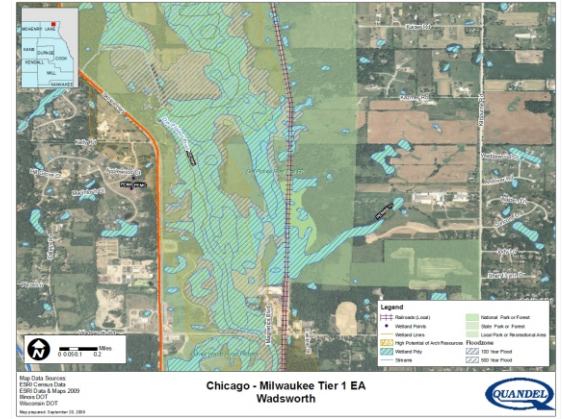


CHICAGO-MILWAUKEE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND SERVICE DEVELOPMENT PLAN



Owner: Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Location: Chicago, IL to Milwaukee, WI

Quandel Consultants is under contract with the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) to develop an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Service Development Plan for a proposed increase in passenger rail service on Amtrak's Hiawatha Service between Chicago and Milwaukee. The EA will analyze the environmental impacts that result from increasing the number of intercity daily round trips from 7 to 10. The EA will also analyze the impacts that result from increasing speeds from a maximum of 79 MPH to a maximum of 90 MPH. The planned service upgrade is a multi-agency effort between WisDOT, the Illinois Department of Transportation, and Amtrak with input from Canadian Pacific Railway, Metra, and Union Pacific Railroad.

Quandel is responsible for stakeholder engagement including railroad coordination, agency coordination, and public involvement. Using an RTC model of the corridor and with input from the railroad stakeholders, Quandel will identify the infrastructure improvements necessary to support the increase in daily round trips. These improvements will be analyzed to determine the probable impacts to the environment and findings will be documented in the EA. Projects include new signal installation, the addition of a second platform at the Milwaukee Airport Amtrak station, the addition of crossovers, and the extensions of passing sidings. The Service Development Plan will demonstrate the operational and financial feasibility of the preferred alternative and present an overall plan for implementing the improved service.

