



**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

**Illinois Department of Transportation - Rail Freight Program (RFP)**

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) administers the Rail Freight Program (RFP).

For more information, visit the IDOT web site; [Rail Freight Program \(RFP\)](#).

**Program Details**

<b>Program Description:</b>	The purpose of the RFP is to provide capital assistance to communities, railroads and shippers to preserve and improve rail freight service in Illinois. The program helps facilitate investments in rail service by serving as a link between interested parties and channeling government funds to projects that achieve statewide economic development.
<b>Eligibility:</b>	Any project with the potential to improve access to markets and maintain transportation cost savings, where state participation will leverage private investments to foster permanent solutions to rail service problems.
<b>Ineligible Projects:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Grant/ Loan Amount:</b>	IDOT will generally provide low interest loans to finance rail improvements and, in some cases, provide grants. The focus is on projects with the greatest potential for improving access to markets and maintaining transportation cost savings, and where state participation will leverage private investments to foster permanent solutions to rail service problems. A benefit/cost ratio is used to evaluate potential rail freight projects.
<b>Loan Term:</b>	Varies
<b>Loan Rate:</b>	Varies
<b>Fees:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Application Process:</b>	Requests for funds should be sent to the Bureau of Railroads. For assistance with the application process, contact Greater Freeport Partnership Executive Director at (815) 233-1356.
<b>Job Criteria:</b>	There are no statutory requirements for job creation or retention numbers. The Department handles each project utilizing a benefit/cost ratio to evaluate potential rail freight projects.