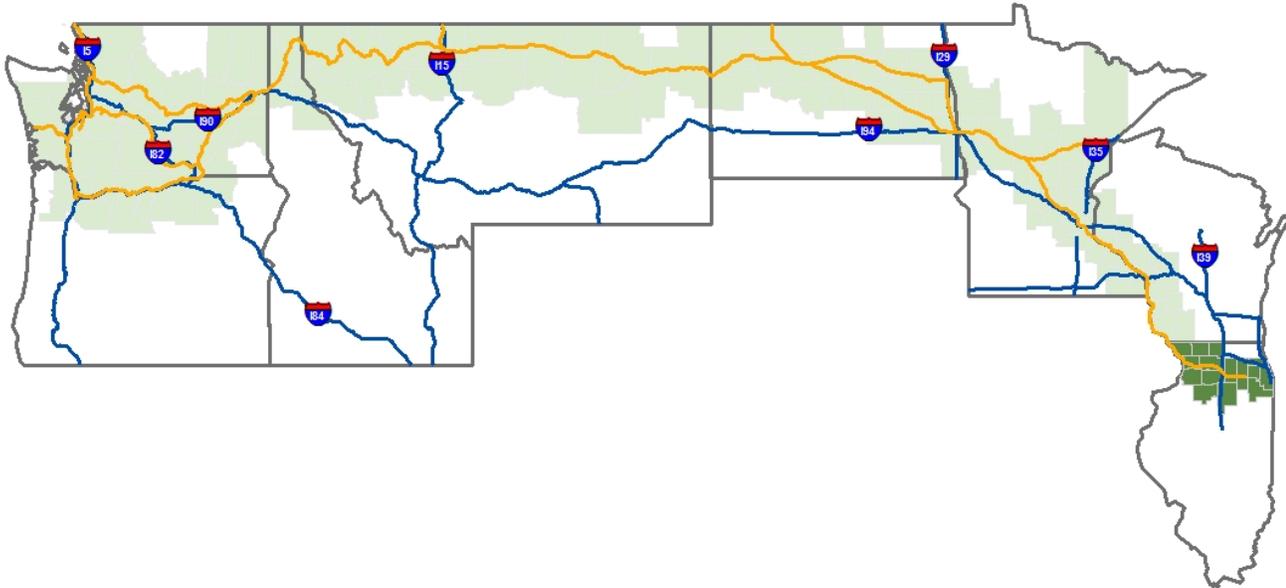


## Overview

Of Illinois's 102 counties, 15 are within 20 miles of the Great Northern Corridor's (GNC) rail backbone. The GNC's multimodal corridor consisting of highways, rail and ports. It represents an east-west artery of commerce that supports the movement of people and goods, bringing economic vitality to more than 38 million Americans across eight North Central and Pacific Northwestern states.



## Demographic Makeup

The Great Northern Corridor has a rich and diverse demographic makeup as it spans over half the United States, connecting the Pacific Northwest to the nation's industrial Midwest, spanning rural agriculture and energy fields in between. The following highlights Illinois's demographic and economic information to provide background on the areas through which the Corridor travels.

	Population (2015 Census)	U.S. Rank	GNC. Rank	Personal Income (Total, in Billions) (2015 USDC)	U.S. Rank	GNC. Rank	State's GDP (Total, in Billions) (2015 GDP USDC)	U.S. Rank	GNC Rank
<b>Illinois</b>	12,859,995	5 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	\$636.3	5 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	\$775.0	5 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>
<b>GNC Totals</b>	38,297,393	n/a	n/a	\$1,863.0	n/a	n/a	\$2,239.0	n/a	n/a
<b>US Totals</b>	321,467,160	n/a	n/a	\$15,324.1	n/a	n/a	\$17,830.3	n/a	n/a

Source: <http://www.bea.gov/>

Illinois with 34 percent of the GNC population base, ranks 1<sup>st</sup> out of the eight GNC states in Population, Personal Income and State GDP. Within the US, the state ranks 5<sup>th</sup> in Population, Personal Income and State GDP.

## Illinois Coalition Members

Currently, Illinois's stakeholders are represented by the Illinois Department of Transportation. It is anticipated that this membership will grow as the Coalition expands its membership to MPO's, RTPO's, and other interested stakeholders along the corridor.

## Canadian Relations with Illinois

In 2015, Canada was Illinois's largest trading partner with exports to Canada totaling \$17.5 billion and imports totaling \$29.6 billion.

## Domestic Cargo Movement (2014)

*Of the 900 Million Tons of Illinois Products moving domestically in the United States,*

**64%**

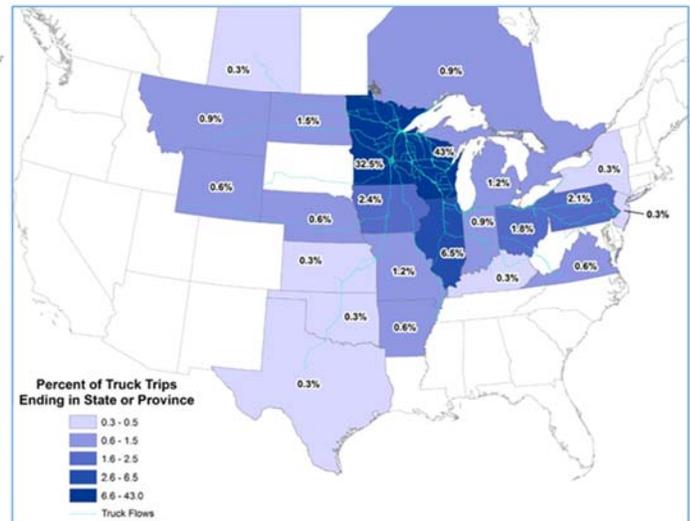
*is destined for GNC states, valuing \$552 Billion*

## Truck flows

### Port of Superior Truck Routes and Departure Destinations



Superior, Minnesota, Percent of Truck Trips on Route			
Roadway	From	To	Percent of Truck Trips
I-35	I-35 W	US Hwy 2	35.3%
I-35	US Hwy 2	US hwy 2	34.4%
I-35	US Hwy 2	Duluth, MN	31.0%
I-94	US Hwy 10	I-90	26.6%
I-90	I-94	I-94	22.0%
I-90	I-94	I-43	16.1%
US Hwy 2	US Hwy 169	I-35	10.2%
US Hwy 2	I-35 W	MN/WI Border	9.3%
I-35 W	US Hwy 10	I-35 E	8.4%



The Truck routes displayed above, demonstrate the significance contribution Illinois roadways have to the mobility of freight through the Corridor.

## Freight Projects Supported by the GNCC in 2016

Illinois did not request GNCC support for a federal funding application in recent rounds of FASTLANE or TIGER.

### FY2015 STEP Awards

In February 2016, The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) awarded nearly \$10 million in grants for nine projects in eight states to upgrade and increase the safety of railroad crossings along energy routes. The funding is provided under the Railroad Safety Grants for the Safe Transportation of Energy Products (STEP) by Rail Program. FRA received 34 eligible applications requesting five times the \$10 million available for the program, or \$50.8 million. Five of the eight awards were given to GNC States. Illinois received \$1.25 million for 95<sup>th</sup> Street at Eggleston Avenue in Chicago.

Project Name	Sponsor	STEP Award	
95 <sup>th</sup> Street at Eggleston Avenue in Chicago	ILDOT	\$1.25 M	This project was awarded \$1.25 million to fund the preliminary design and engineering costs for an overpass to separate Union Pacific's double-track main line, from motor vehicle traffic at the intersection of 95 <sup>th</sup> street and Eggleston Avenue in Chicago. The tracks cross a major Chicago intersection serving 24,000 vehicles and 700 transit buses with 18,000 passengers daily. There are more than 26,000 people who live within one square mile of the project location. Additionally, an estimated 46 percent of all containerized freight in the U.S. passes through Chicago with 24 freight and two Amtrak trains daily passing through the project area.

## Current GNCC Initiatives

The following are three Phase II initiatives that have relevance to activities within Illinois.

### ***Unified Corridor Investment Program***

This initiative identified state and federal funding programs that should be evaluated for future project funding. The program included the development of a GNC project list and ranking methodology.

### ***Grade Crossing Safety and Mobility Initiative***

There is much public interest in Rail grade crossings safety. This initiative identifies an initial grade crossings evaluation criteria and methodology that is more expansive than the traditional FRA evaluation criteria. It is intended that this research be a first step in the evaluation process that a project sponsor uses in their review during an investment decision process. States within the Corridor may want to use the enhanced criteria to compliment traditional FRA prioritization methodology to leverage funding opportunities under the new federal programs relating to safety and mobility.

### ***Sustainability Assessment Tools***

Through the use of sustainability tools, resource savings can be quantified and attributed to specific actions within a project and tracked to measure effectiveness. The assessment tools listed provide opportunities to evaluate project resource savings.