

### Illinois Transportation Questions

Here are some facts about Illinois transportation.

number of airports	192
number of highway miles	16,781
number of railroad miles	7,000

These parts of the transportation system cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build. Every year, the state has to pay to make sure that the transportation system in Illinois is efficient. For example, roads need to be re-paved. Railroad tracks need to be repaired. Railroad crossings need to have warning lights installed. Which choice would you make to improve Illinois transportation for the new century's travelers?

- build more airports
- build more highways
- replace the railroad tracks with high-speed railroad tracks
- build public transportation monorails linking cities
- fund a new kind of water transportation

Each of those choices will cost millions of dollars. Each of those choices may harm the natural environment. Before you decide, make a prediction. Which of those choices will benefit the most people for the longest time? In fact, you could take a survey and ask people which choice they think the government should make.

### Newspaper Connections

Look for hidden transportation news in the Chicago Tribune. You will infer the transportation connection. For example, if you read an article about a new shopping center being built, there is hidden transportation news there. How will people get to that shopping center? Will the government have to build more roadways? Or you may read about a new business being built. Should the government change the bus route to help workers get to that place?