

HIGH SPEED RAIL STIMULUS MONEY

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FORT WAYNE, Ind (Indiana's NewsCenter)-As an important deadline approaches, the scramble for federal money is underway. State leaders have until Friday, to sign a "pre-application" requirement necessary for states that want stimulus money to pay for high speed rails. Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels has reportedly not signed the application yet. High Speed Rail coalition members say Governor Daniels is still taking a close look at the initiative and may not fully be on board with the idea, just yet.

Recently, an article written by Professor Richard Florida, an American Urban Studies Theorist, stated that cities and towns not closely connected to high speed rails may miss out on economic growth opportunities in the future. Many national studies and reports have found that the small towns of America that are not close to an interstate are economically struggling because businesses opportunities bypassed them and went to cities close to major transportation routes. High Speed Rail advocate, Geoff Paddock, says Fort Wayne "Needs this third leg of transportation here and in Northeast Indiana. We need this opportunity to create thousands of jobs and at a time when our economy is so weak we need every opportunity we can to create jobs."

In the future, if high speed rail does come to our area, a local business could get a much needed increase in demand for their product. Paddock says that if high speed rail comes to Fort Wayne, Steel Dynamics is on board to produce the rails needed for the trains meaning millions of dollars coming into our local economy.