

AGENDA

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission
Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 8:30 A.M.
Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams

Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 227 948 210 357

Passcode: TDgTfg

Or call in (audio only)

[+1 929-352-2178,,621273706#](#)

Phone conference ID: 621 273 706#

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Roll Call
 - Voting Members
 - Ex-officio Members (by organization)
 - All others
3. Public Comment
4. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes – **Discussion/Action**
 - October 23, 2024
5. FRA Scoping Study Update – HDR - **Information/Discussion**
6. Next steps – Service Development Plan and matching funding requirements - **Discussion/Action**
 - Proposed letter to the Governor, WisDOT – Scott Rogers
7. Report: Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission, November 18-20, Scott Rogers - **Information/Discussion**
8. Announcements – **Information**
9. Future meeting agenda items
 - Status of Scoping Study
 - Discussion of sources for 10% match for Service Development Plan
10. Next meeting date – **Discussion**
11. Adjourn

MINUTES

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission
Wednesday, October 23, 2024, at 8:30 A.M.

Virtual Meeting by Microsoft Teams

or

in person at the Dunn County Administration Building
3001 US Highway 12 E, Conference Room 054, Menomonie, WI

Present (voting members): Gretchen Yonko, Tiffany Weiss, Taylor Greenwell, Erik Evenson, Gary Stene, Robbie Krejci, Jim Dunning, Scott Rogers, Ann Schell

Present (ex-officio members): Eric Anderson (WCWRPC), Erik Guenard (UWStout), Kevin Roggenbuck (Ramsey Co.), Bambi Pattermann (Northwood Tech), Vic Stone (Union Pacific), Jake Wrasse (UWEC), Beth Schommer (UWRF), Adam Wehling (CVTC), Lisa Stern (WisDot), Greg Mathis (MnDot)

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink - Committee Clerk, Krista Vind (technology resource), Aaron Bowe, Matt Bailey, Dan Schillinger, Anna Davey, Emily Shively, Gordan Glass, Ian Weisser, Jason Szymanski, Sharon McIlquham, Richard Kedzior, Kristin Korpela, Mason Baxter, Ray Chambers, Terry Brown, Jeff Abbott, Heather Graves, Andy Olson, Ryan Bauman

Public: Present

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 8:31 a.m. and confirmed meeting notice.

Roll Call

Listed above for:

- Voting Members
- Ex-officio Members (by organization)
- All others

Public Comment

Christian Noyce, Town of Washington, made a public comment.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from August 28, 2024

Motion by Gary Stene to approve the minutes as presented. No deletions, corrections or additions. All in favor, minutes approved.

Other updates as available:

The following provided updates:

- WisDOT (Rich Kedzior)
- MnDOT (Greg Mathis)
- Ramsey County (Kevin Roggenbuck)

Status Report: Corridor Identification & Development study – HDR/HNTB

Andy Olson and Ryan Bowman provided a status report for the corridor identification and development program.

Host Railroad Presentation – Union Pacific

Vic Stone, Union Pacific, provided a presentation.

Future meeting agenda items

- Local Match (state budget, members of the commission, others)
- FRA Grant Update

Next meeting date

Virtual meeting on December 4, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.

Hybrid meeting on January 29, 2025, at 8:30 a.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Committee Clerk
Executive Office Administrator

ATTEST:

Gretchen Yonko, Commission Secretary

December 5, 2024

To: Tony Evers, Governor
State of Wisconsin

cc: Kristina Boardman, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation

From: Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission

Dear Governor Evers:

We appreciate the commitment that the State of Wisconsin has made to the future mobility needs of our citizens and economic health of our communities through its participation and support of Phase I Scoping studies underway for Wisconsin corridors in the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development Program (CID). The Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission is the sponsor of one of those studies, Eau Claire-Twin Cities, which was supported by WisDOT. Our Commission supported WisDOT's CID applications.

Strong ridership on the newly-implemented Borealis train demonstrates the pent-up demand for passenger rail service in our state and its neighbors. Continued participation in the CID program provides the path needed to bring the benefits of passenger trains to more cities across Wisconsin, including those in West Central Wisconsin along the Eau Claire-Menomonie-Baldwin-Hudson-Twin Cities corridor.

With the Phase I Scoping studies moving towards completion in 2025, it will be critical for all of these corridors to move into the next phase, Service Development Plans (SDPs). These plans are the heart of the program to provide the information necessary to identify the costs, benefits, value, and return on investment to determine the feasibility of these corridors and timeline for their implementation. Furthermore, the Chippewa-St. Croix Commission's proposed corridor contemplates key innovations including a competitive process for selecting an operator, applying a direct access model for use of track capacity on the host railroad, and inclusion of transportation oriented economic development as an integral part of its implementation. These innovations could provide significant benefits in terms of cost effectiveness, reduced upfront capital requirements, and local economic development impact. As these concepts are piloted on this corridor, value from lessons learned would also accrue to WisDOT and other corridor sponsors as they chart future passenger rail development.

SDPs benefit from 90% federal funding under the CID program, requiring a 10% state/local match to continue in the pipeline. Therefore, it will be important in the state's 2025-27 biennial budget to include the resources to ensure that all of these studies move forward with the needed matching funding. We respectfully request that WisDOT be given the funding to move forward with its four corridor applications (including the Milwaukee-Madison-Eau Claire-Twin Cities route), provide significant participation in match requirements for continuation of the Eau Claire-Twin Cities corridor, and work with sponsors of the Twin Cities-Superior-Duluth and North Coast Hiawatha corridor CID studies to ensure that they are able to continue.

Sincerely,

James Dunning, Chair

Scott Rogers, FRA Project Chair