

AGENDA

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission
Monday, April 5, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

Dial In: 1-415-655-0001 Access Code: 145 901 3217

For those wishing to make public comment, you can submit your request to speak and/or written comment to Samantha Kraegenbrink at samantha.kraegenbrink@co.eau-claire.wi.us at least 60 minutes prior to the start of the meeting. You will be called on during the public session to make your comments. Public comments are limited to 3 minutes per person and 30 minutes maximum for the public comment period.

1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice
2. Roll Call
3. Public Comment
4. Election of pro-tem Chairperson – **Discussion/Action**
5. Introductions – **Information**
 - a. Introduction of self, municipality, and your interest in the commission
6. Overview of potential Passenger Rail project from West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition – **Information/Discussion**
7. Authority and Scope of the Commission – **Discussion**
8. What are we going to accomplish – **Information/Discussion**
9. Research and Set-up of Bylaws – **Discussion/Action**
10. Agenda items for next meeting and determine meeting schedule including frequency of meetings – **Discussion/Action**
11. Adjourn

TBD			City of Eau Claire
Lowell	Prange	City Administrator	City of Menomonie
Randy	Eide	Director of Public Works	City of Menomonie
Tracy	Carlson	Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer	Village of Baldwin
Tiffany	Weiss	City Planner	City of Hudson
Josh	Clements		City of Altoona
Erik	Evenson	Director of Public Works	City of New Richmand
Gary	Stene	Vice-Chair	County of Dunn
Robbie	Krejci	Highway Commissioner	County of St. Croix
Jim	Dunning	County Board Member	County of Eau Claire



West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Passenger Rail Service for West Central Wisconsin?

Critical economic, demographic, social and transportation issues are converging to make trains important to our future here in Wisconsin.





West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

The West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition provides leadership and coordination to develop passenger rail service through West Central Wisconsin as part of a regional strategy to ensure a balanced transportation system for long term sustainable economic growth.



West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition





West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Fast-growing Chippewa and St Croix Valley corridor

Among Wisconsin's highest-growth counties & cities

Quality of life and housing affordability – easier access to/from Twin Cities

Accessibility and attractiveness for regional educational institutions

(UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, UW-Stout, CVTC, WITC)

Alternative to driving I-94

- **High % of trips to/from the Twin Cities**
- **St. Croix River bridge and I-94/494/694 bottlenecks**
- **Connections in St. Paul to light rail, buses, ride-sharing services**
- **Highly-traveled corridor – over 100,000 vehicles cross St Croix River daily**



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Figure 2-7: Eau Claire Passenger Rail Route Possibilities

Source: WisDOT Bureau of Planning

"Eau Claire plus La Crosse" alternative
Every second train through WI Dells travels to Eau Claire first and returns via La Crosse



"Eau Claire West" alternative
Service is extended from Minneapolis to Eau Claire and back



2004 WisDOT Rail issues & Opportunities Report



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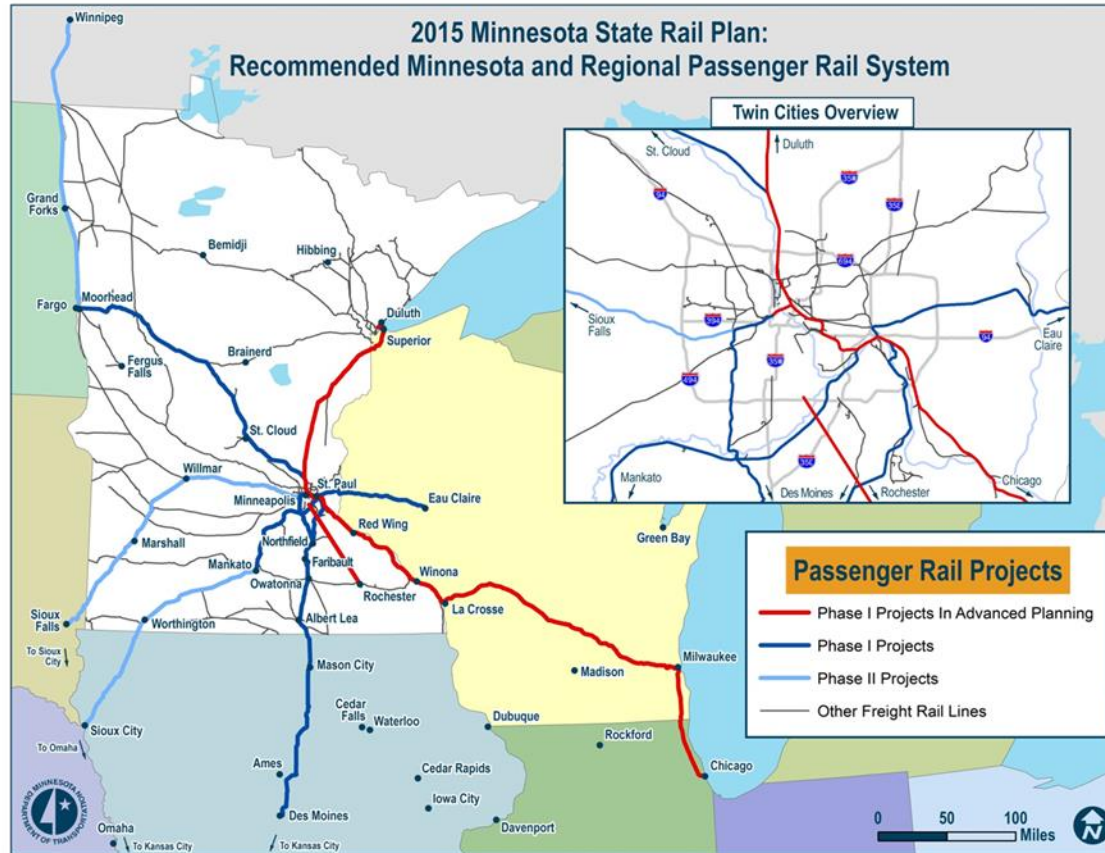
Gateway Corridor, Minnesota-Wisconsin



2013 Gateway Corridor Study



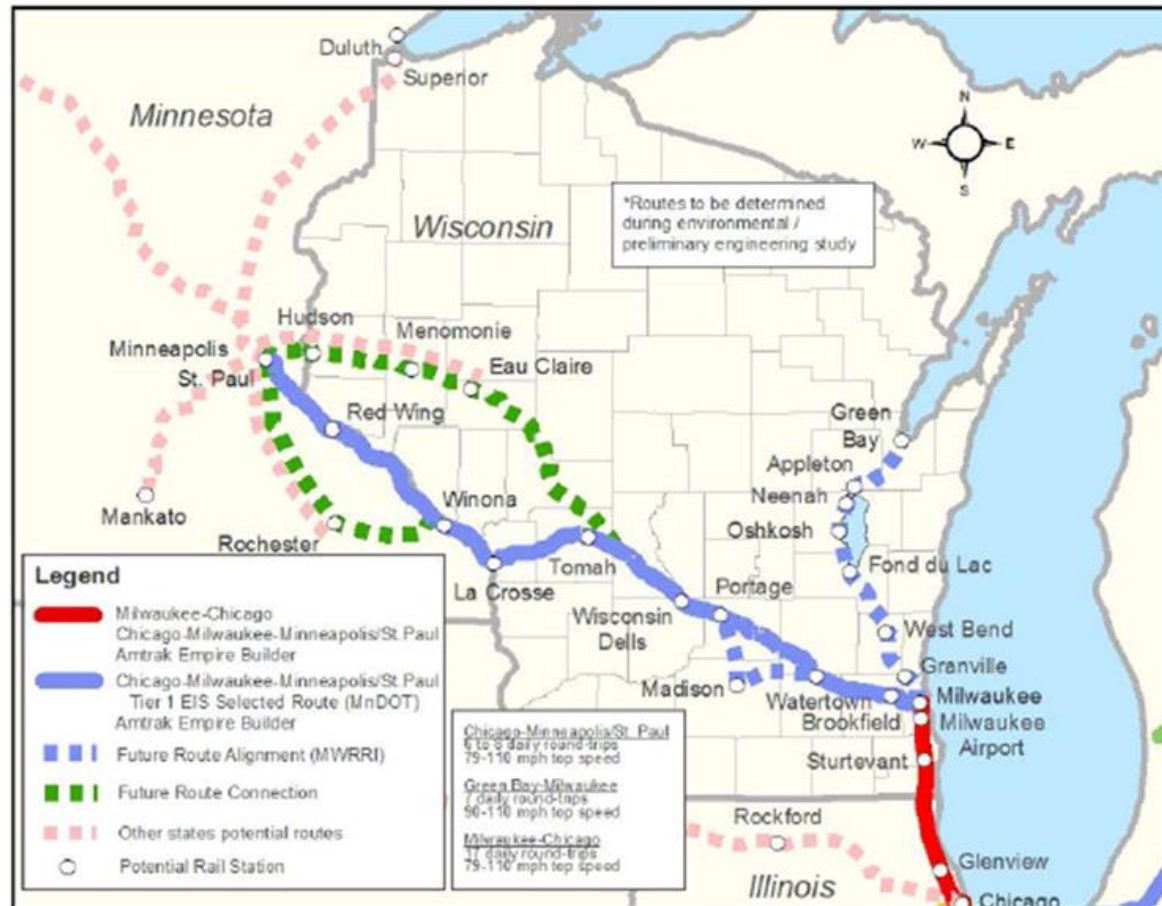
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Map 6-7: Long-range plan



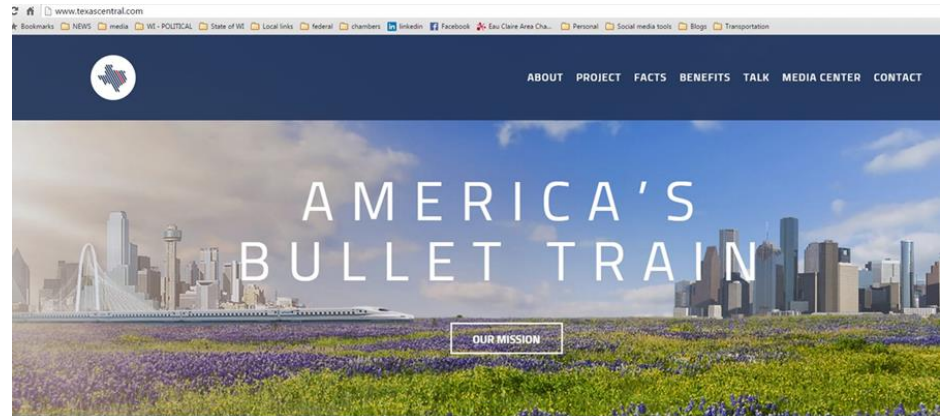
*The selected route alternative in the Minnesota DOT Milwaukee-Twin Cities Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement does not preclude Madison or Eau Claire route alignments in the future.



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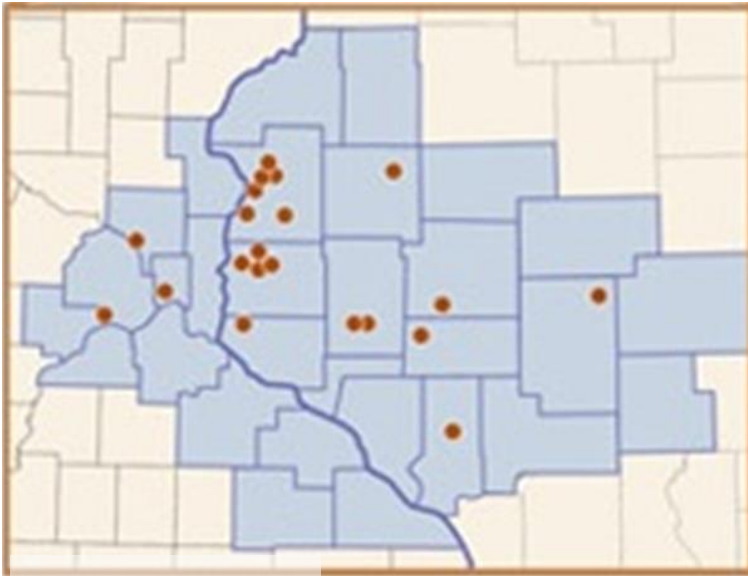
Brightline train stations boost new development in South Florida's downtowns





West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Vision: Attract/retain talent through enhanced connectivity



“A passenger rail system would help make the area a destination, and not just a drive-by, for attracting new businesses and the talent needed to sustain them.”

Royal Credit Union





West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Vision: Attract/retain talent through enhanced connectivity

Develop Business Plan to establish self-sustaining Twin Cities-Eau Claire conventional passenger rail service 4x daily

- Public Private Partnership with private developer, operator and marketer
- Market rate access for host railroad
- Pursue Value Capture Transit Oriented Development concepts (economic activity and value growth)
- Determine governance structure
- Eligibility for grant federal programs



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CORRIDOR RAIL DEVELOPMENT

Passenger Rail Development, Finance and Management



Passenger Rail Development

All of the same things a Real Estate developer does, assembling all of the parts of a new deal into one finished project. The only difference is developing new passenger trains is more fun than developing Real Estate.



Passenger Train Finance

Need financing for new equipment or anything related to new passenger train development? Corridor Rail Development knows all the best places to provide a complete financial package for any type of passenger train development.



Passenger Train Management

Passenger train management is a specialty field. Fortunately, Corridor Rail Development has all types of specialists for passenger train management and operations. Corridor Rail Development is a full-service organization which meets all needs for new passenger train services.



West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

HERZOG
TRANSIT SERVICES INC.

Keolis
Thinking Like A Passenger

First  **America**

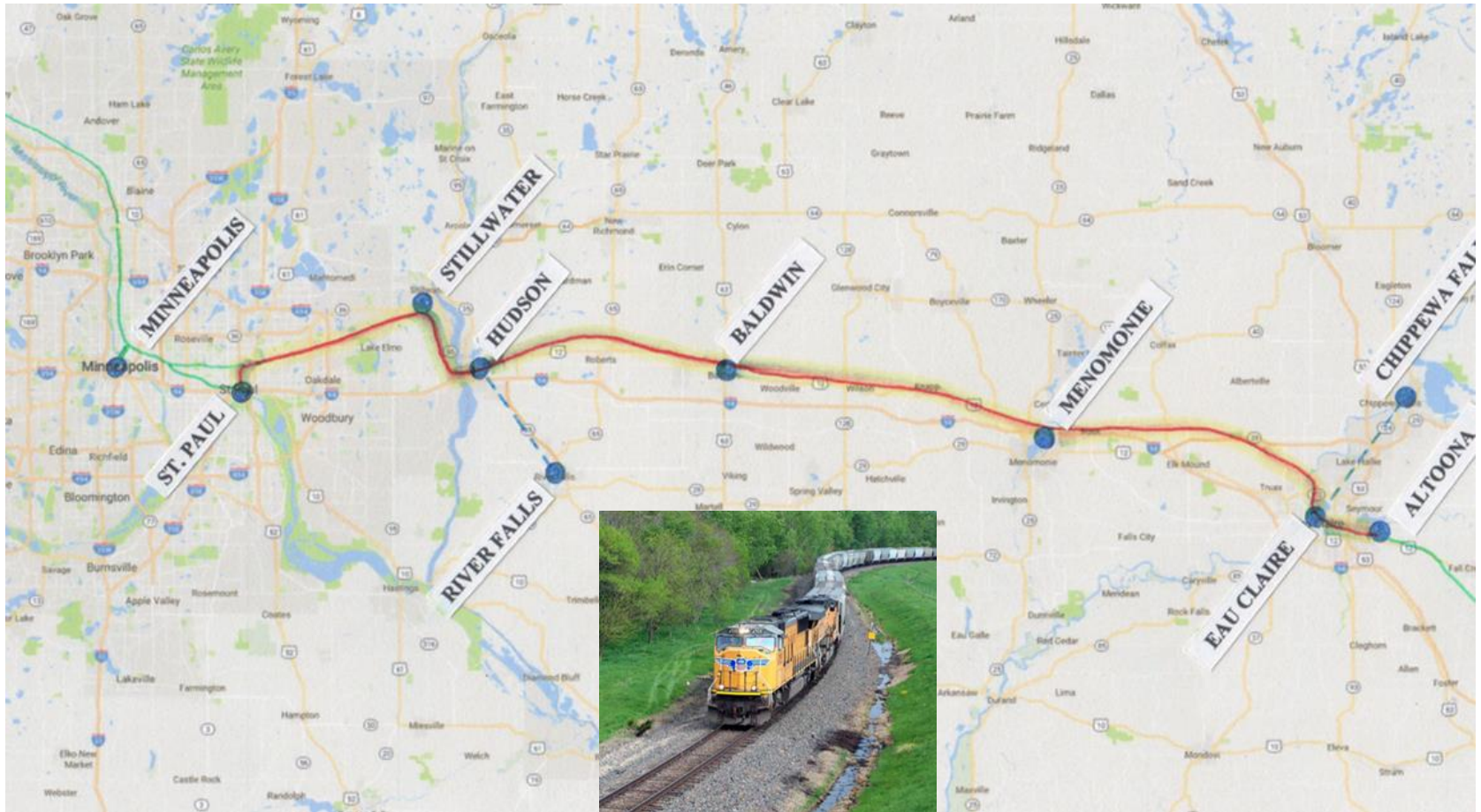
 **transdev**



CORRIDOR RAIL DEVELOPMENT
Passenger Rail Development, Finance and Management



West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition





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Service Outline

- Auto-competitive, reliable travel time, Eau Claire-St. Paul: 1 Hr, 20/30 Min.
- Four round trips/day to provide sufficient convenience
- Push-pull trainsets with rebuilt equipment (ADA compliant)
- Tentative stations: Eau Claire, Menomonie, Baldwin, Hudson/River Falls, Stillwater, St. Paul
- On-board amenities; food, drink, Wi-Fi, bicycle racks
- Transit connections and shared ticketing
- Fares: \$25-35 full route; group, commuters, student, business class



West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition



Value Capture for Transportation Investments

Purpose:

The West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition continues to explore the potential for a self-sustaining, passenger rail service to link Eau Claire and other west central Wisconsin cities with the Twin Cities (with the goal of eventually connecting to Chicago). The Coalition has requested that Chippewa-Eau Claire MPO staff provide information on value capture financing mechanisms for transportation infrastructure particularly rail station site development. This paper provides an overview of value capture, summarizing various value capture mechanisms, providing case studies, and identifying considerations for applying such tools to rail in west central Wisconsin.

Transportation Access & Value

Federal funds have long been the primary financial source for major transportation projects. As infrastructure costs increase and federal funding decreases, communities are turning to other financing tools to help fill funding gaps.

Successful public transportation investments improve accessibility to jobs, schools and other destinations. The improved access creates added value, both near a public transportation station (e.g. rail transit station) and also in the general service area/region (e.g. rail corridor). Three general groups benefit from transportation improvements and increased accessibility – general public, system users (i.e. drivers, transit riders) and landowners/developers. The general public benefits through improved access to the region; they contribute to the system through general property taxes. System users, such as transit riders on a new rail line, benefit from enhanced service and accessibility; their contribution into the system comes through fare box/ticket collections. A tract of land with higher accessibility increases in value, bringing benefit to landowners/developers. Land value premiums in excess of thirty percent near commuter rail transit have been observed (HNTB citing report by Robert Cervero). "Capturing some of this land value would allow state and local governments to invest in the operations, maintenance, and in some cases expansion of their transportation networks" (Brookings 2011).

Value Capture:

Value Capture is the means by which the increment of increased land value, as a result of a transportation investment, is "captured" by some means for use by transit agency or



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FAST Act

- **Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Improvements program**
- **25%** of annual funding must go to rural areas
- Federal match is **80%**
- **Who:** states, interstate compacts, public authorities, local governments, Amtrak, and others
- **What:** rail safety technology, including PTC, capital projects, grade crossings, rail line relocation and improvement, short-line capital project, planning for regional and corridor plans, among others



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FAST Act

- **Restoration & Enhancement Grants**
- **What:** supports operation of new, restored, or enhanced intercity passenger rail service
- Can provide grants to **6 lines** to support operating costs for **3 years** on a tiered structure:
 - Up to 80% operating costs in year 1
 - Up to 60% in year 2
 - Up to 40% in year 3



“I’m probably the second biggest passenger rail enthusiast in this administration. I enjoy long train trips as well as short ones, and I think Americans ought to be able to enjoy the highest standard of passenger rail service.”

- *Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg*



Administration

BRIEFING ROOM

FACT SHEET: The American Jobs Plan

MARCH 31, 2021 • STATEMENTS AND RELEASES

- **Invest in reliable passenger and freight rail service.** The nation’s rail networks have the potential to offer safe, reliable, efficient, and climate-friendly alternatives for moving people and freight. However, unlike highways and transit, rail lacks a multi-year funding stream to address deferred maintenance, enhance existing corridors, and build new lines in
- There are currently projects just waiting to be

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUILD BY the 4th

Join us in calling on Congress to pass
a comprehensive infrastructure deal
by the Fourth of July

Our organizations won't agree on every issue, but we are united in calling for enactment of comprehensive legislation before July 4, 2021 that will:



REPAIR AND UPDATE OUR CRUMBLING
INFRASTRUCTURE



STIMULATE OUR ECONOMY AND CREATE
MIDDLE-CLASS SUSTAINING JOBS



PROMOTE FISCALLY AND
ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE
POLICIES



ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE



IMPROVE FEDERAL PROJECT APPROVALS



ADDRESS THE DIGITAL DIVIDE



West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Vision: Attract/retain talent through enhanced connectivity

Next steps:

- Complete financial due diligence and confirm MOU with private operator (Corridor Rail Development)
- Complete engineering study
- Establish local governance body

Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission

- Counties: St. Croix, Dunn, Eau Claire
- Municipalities: Altoona, Eau Claire, Menomonie, Baldwin, New Richmond, Hudson



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CITY OF HUDSON RESOLUTION NO. 3-21

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE CREATION OF THE CHIPPEWA-ST. CROIX RAIL COMMISSION WITH COUNTIES AND MUNICIPALITIES

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson is interested in participating in efforts to expand passenger rail services into western Wisconsin and the Chippewa Valley along the

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson is interested in participating in efforts to expand passenger rail services into western Wisconsin and the Chippewa Valley along the I-94 corridor from St. Paul, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, every day there are thousands of individuals who travel between the Twin Cities and the St. Croix Valley and the Chippewa Valley for purposes of commuting to work; conducting business; pursuing higher education; engaging in tourism, shopping, and recreation activities; and connecting to travel hubs for national and international travel; and

WHEREAS, both the Wisconsin State Rail Plan and the Minnesota State Rail Plan, federally mandated official transportation plans created by the respective states, include the Twin Cities Eau Claire line as a planned future passenger rail route; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition has worked to create a public-private partnership to bring passenger rail service to the West Central Wisconsin and the St. Croix Valley. This coalition has seen



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WHEREAS, activities that the commission could participate in may include:

- *Identify the public benefits of passenger rail and other public transportation improvements to connect the Chippewa/St. Croix region to the Twin Cities, as well as Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago.*
- *Identify, support, and facilitate initiatives to implement passenger rail service, including public-private partnerships, sponsors, operators, federal and state funding opportunities, relationships among governments and stakeholders, feasibility studies, and the like.*
- *Pursue opportunities for transit orientated development, value capture financing, and other community-related benefits at station locations to ensure the fullest possible economic benefits from service implementation.*
- *Foster cooperation among Wisconsin and Minnesota governments, agencies, and other entities. Determine the long-term role of the commission, or other organization that might be created to coordinate public involvement in the service, including any legislative or other action that might be needed. Participate in determining the appropriate project roles for this commission, state DOTs, counties and municipalities, private partners and real estate developers, and advocacy or educational organizations like the West Central Rail Coalition.*
- *Determine and coordinate zoning, environmental, safety, and other regulatory related requirements.*
- *Participate in current and future planning processes, including the Wisconsin and Minnesota State Rail Plans, Federal Railroad Administration Midwest Corridor Study, and the local MPO; and*



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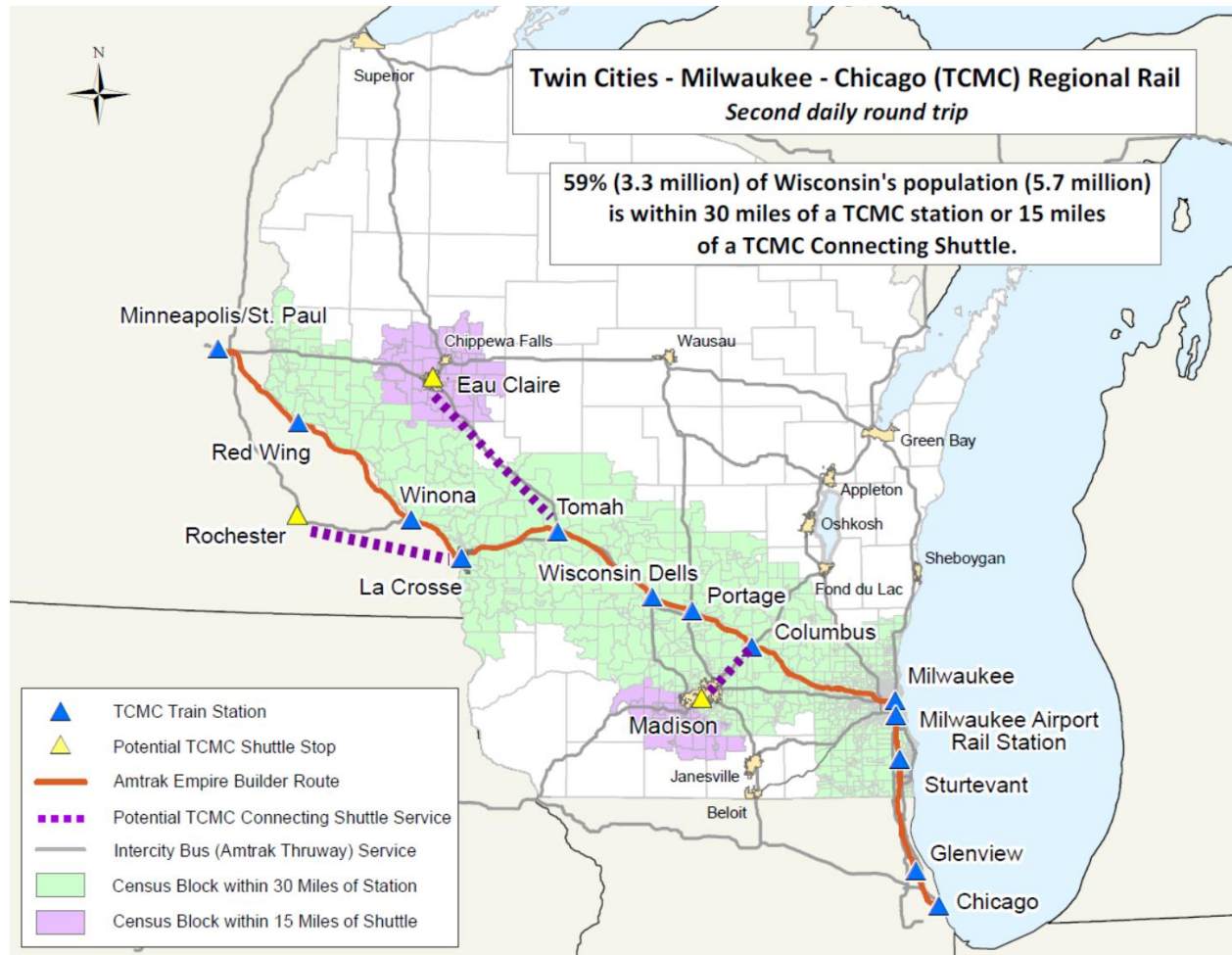


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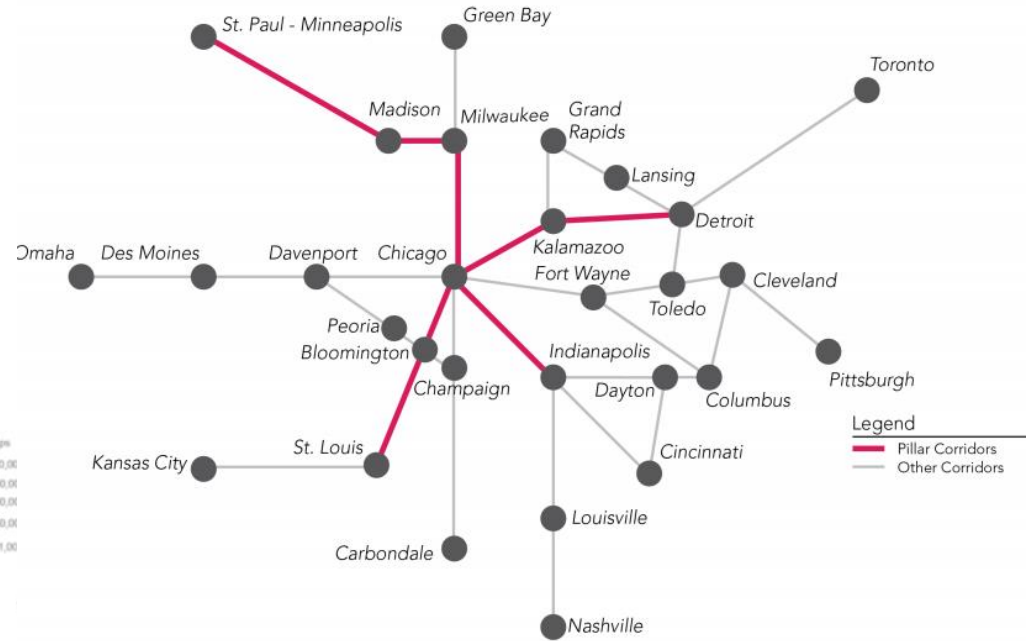




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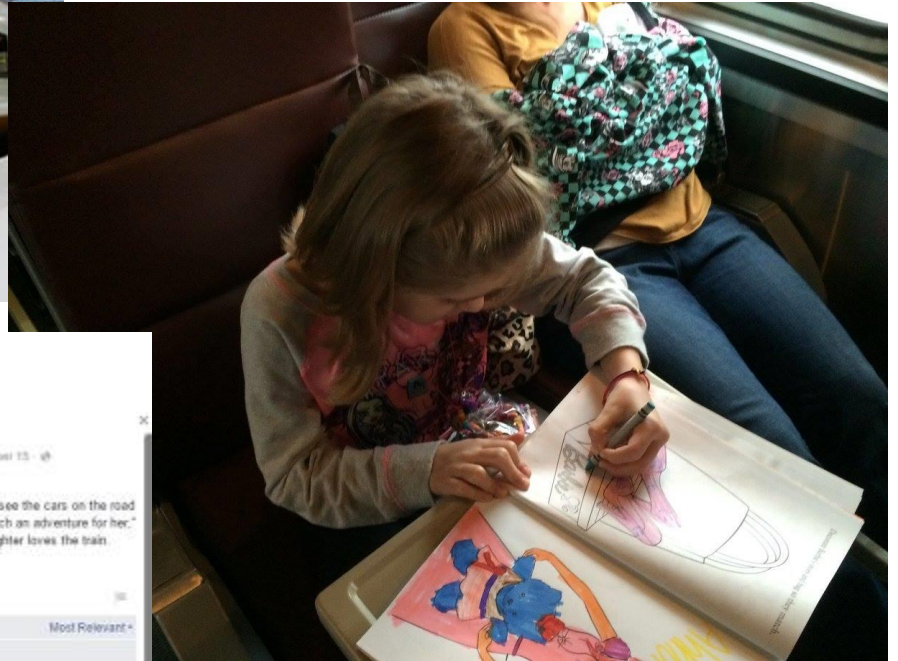
Midwest Regional Rail Planning Study

Top Travel Markets Air









Amtrak
Page Liked · September 15 · 48

"She thinks it's really funny to see the cars on the road when we're on the train. It's such an adventure for her," one Mom tells us why her daughter loves the train.
<http://bit.ly/1OnERcP>

Like · Comment · Share

739 people like this. Most Relevant · 40 shares

Bev Smith I love to see children enjoying trains! Here is a photo to share with her. I took it from my bedroom window on No. 6, the eastbound ZEPHYR, in western Colorado.



Like · Reply · 24 · September 15 at 7:48pm

3 Replies







West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition



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Monthly Meeting: 3rd Thursday, 8 a.m. *Via Zoom*