AGENDA

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. Location: Dunn County Board Room Room 54 of the Dunn County Government Center, 3001 US Highway 12 East in Menomonie, Wisconsin

and via Virtual Access:

Join Zoom Meeting https://dunncountywi.zoom.us/j/92576666456?pwd=Nkk4K1JrVGxvSlVBamo0TlJPbUJ0dz09

Meeting ID: 925 7666 6456 Passcode: 481675

- 1. Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice
- 2. Roll Call
- 4. Public Comment
- 5. Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes **Discussion/Action**
 - July 13, 2022
 - August 17, 2022
 - August 30, 2022
- 6. Update/Comments from Members, Ex-Officio members, and Guests, as desired Information
- 7. Proposed Expressions of Interest to FRA Discussion/Action
- Discussion of Eau County and the Administrator as Fiscal Agent/Administrator for the Commission
 Discussion/Action
- 9. Update on \$3,000 Request from members and ex-officio members Information
- 10. Update on resolution with AIPRO for Market Sounding Contract Discussion/Action
- 11. Update on Proposed Station Site Selection by Members Information
- 12. Agenda items for future meetings **Discussion**
- 14. Adjourn

Next meeting date: October 26, 2022, at 8:30 AM.

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Dunn County Board Room Room 54 of the Dunn County Government Center, 3001 US Highway 12 East in Menomonie, Wisconsin

Members present: Gary Stene (Dunn County), Jim Dunning (Eau Claire County), Gretchen Yonko (City of Menomonie), Tiffany Weiss (City of Hudson), Taylor Greenwell (City of Altoona)

Ex-Officio members: Jacob Wrasse (UWEC), Eric Anderson (WCWRPC), Adam Wehling (CVTC), Erik Guenard (UW-Stout), Ethan Osten (Ramsey Co.)

Others: Sharon McIlquham, Ray Chambers, Mason Baxter, Kathryn Schauf, Dave Ostness, Scott Rogers, Ann Schell

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

Introductions

Members in attendance provided an introduction.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes from May 25, 2022

Motion by Gary Stene, second by Gretchen Yonko. Motion carried.

History of the Chippewa-St.Croix Passenger Rail Commission

Scott Rogers provided a history of the commission.

Bylaws Update

Motion by Yonko, second by Stene to approve by-laws as amended. Motion failed -2/3 of voting members are not present. Motion by Gary Stene, second by Gretchen Yonko to move to the next regular Rail Commission meeting. Motion carried.

Corridor Identification Plan resolution

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission Wednesday, July 13, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Motion by Gretchen Yonko, second by Gary Stene to approve the resolution conducting activities to submit an Expression of Interest to the Federal Rail Administration through an Ad hoc FRA Corridor Identification Committee. Motion carried.

Agenda items for future meetings

- Approval of the by-laws
- Updates and report from jurisdictions
 - Resolution of Rail Corridor Plan
- Meeting plan for the Rail Commission

Future Meeting dates

August 17, 2022; at 1:30 p.m.

<u>Adjourn</u>

Chair Dunning adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathryn Schauf - Eau Claire County Administrator

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Dunn County Board Room Room 54 of the Dunn County Government Center, 3001 US Highway 12 East in Menomonie, Wisconsin

Present: Jeremy Gragert, Jim Dunning, Gary Stene, Gretchen Yonko, Tiffany Weiss

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink, Sharon McIlquham, Ann Schell, Scott Rogers, Lowell Prange, Greg Baxter, Jim Hanson, Arun Rao, Ray Chambers, Mason Baxter, Derek James, Lisa Stern

Ex-Officio: Adam Wehling, Ann Schell, Eric Anderson, Ethan Osten, Greg Mathis, Jake Wrasse, John Will, Kristi Krimpelbein, Lindsey Douglas,

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. and confirmed meeting notice.

Introductions

Commission members and ex-officio members introduced themselves.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes for July 13, 2022

Motion by Gary Stene, seconded by Jeremy Gragert to postpone review and approval of minutes until the next meeting of the commission. All in favor, motion carried.

History of the Chippewa-St.Croix Passenger Rail Commission

Scott Rogers provided a background on the Commission from its conception.

Lindsey Douglas, Union Pacific

Lindsey Douglas provided a brief introduction of Union Pacific's role/goals with the commission and process.

Lisa Stern, WisDOT

Lisa Stern provided an introduction. WisDOT is working on developing an expression of interest with MnDot. Lisa Stern suggests that this commission submits their own expression of interest.

Arun Rao, Amtrak

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission Wednesday, August 17, 2022, at 1:30 p.m.

Arun Rao provided an introduction. Arun has changed roles from WisDOT to Amtrak. Arun provided information on funding/grant options available.

Bylaws Update

Motion to postpone by Gary Stene due to lack of 2/3 quorum needed. Seconded by Gretchen Yonko. All in favor. Samantha Kraegenbrink will send a meeting request to members to convene a special, virtual meeting to review the bylaws and act on them.

Corridor Identification Plan resolution update; expressions of interest

Jeremy Gragert, Scott Rogers, Jim Dunning, Ann Schell have volunteered for a sub-committee to complete the Corridor Identification Plan resolution. Resolution will be provided at next meeting.

Resolution for cost share and proceeding with market sounding

Motion by Gary Stene, seconded by Jeremy Gragert. Greg Baxter (Herzog) provided further detail on market sounding. Ray Chambers provided further information. All in favor of the resolution. Each member shall provide a resolution to present to their respective governmental body.

Agenda items for future meetings

- July 13, 2022, minutes review and approval
- Bylaws
- Fiscal agent/administration for the commission
- Station sites

Future Meeting dates

- Samantha Kraegenbrink will send a doodle poll to convene a special meeting to review and act on the bylaws.
- September 21, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.
- October 26, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator, Eau Claire County

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission Tuesday, August 30, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.

Present: Jim Dunning, Gary Stene, Gretchen Yonko, Robbie Krejci, Tiffany Weiss, Jeremy Gragert, Taylor Greenwall

Ex-officio: Eric Anderson, Erik Guenard

Others: Samantha Kraegenbrink, Sharon McIlquham, Scott Rogers

Call to Order and confirmation of meeting notice

Chair Dunning called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

Roll call

Samantha Kraegenbrink called the roll, and it is listed above under present.

Public Comment

No members of the public wished to make comment.

Chippewa-St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission Bylaws

Motion by Gary Stene, seconded by Jeremy Gragert. No discussion. All in favor; bylaws approved.

On a motion by Gary Stene, the meeting was adjourned at 12:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Samantha Kraegenbrink - Assistant to the County Administrator, Eau Claire County

Prepared by: Samantha Kraegenbrink – Assistant to the County Administrator



memo

- To: Commissioners and ex-officio members Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission
- From: Jim Dunning, Chair Scott Rogers, West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition Kathryn Schauf, Eau Claire County Administrator

Date: September 12, 2022

Re: Next steps related to FRA corridor designation and federal funding eligibility

With the next meeting of the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission coming up on September 21, we're writing with some important information for you to consider in advance of that meeting. The agenda for the meeting will be provided within a few days.

Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission Wednesday, September 21, 8:30-10:30 a.m. County Board Room, Dunn County Government Center 3001 US-12, Menomonie, WI 54751 Zoom option: https://dunncountywi.zoom.us/j/92576666456?pwd=Nkk4K1JrVGxvSIVBamo0TIJPbUJ0d z09 Meeting ID: 925 7666 6456 Passcode: 481675

1. Draft Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the Commission to submit to FRA

The Commission voted at its July meeting to submit two Expressions of Interest (EOI) to the Federal Railroad Administration as part of FRA's Corridor Identification and Development Program: For the Eau Claire-Twin Cities regional corridor and for through services Chicago-Milwaukee-Madison-Eau Claire-Twin Cities. At the August meeting, an ad hoc committee was appointed to draft EOI submissions, which include Ann Schell, Jeremy Gragert, Scott Rogers, and Jim Dunning. The Committee has met twice and drafted the two proposed EOI statements, which are attached and will be considered at the September 21 meeting.



We also learned at our August meeting that WisDOT and MnDOT intend to submit EOIs for corridors currently included in their State Rail Plans, which does include our corridor. WisDOT's Lisa Stern encouraged us to submit our EOIs complementary to those submissions.

The EOI is an important first step towards getting our corridor accepted into the pipeline for future federal funding. The FRA is expected to provide additional guidance in the fourth quarter. More information: <u>FRA Corridor Identification and Development Program</u> (Federal Register, May 13, 2022)

2. Request for \$3,000 from Commission voting members

At our August meeting, the Commission approved a resolution to seek a contribution of \$3,000 from each voting member to fund costs associated with hosting a Market Sounding event with the Association for Innovated Passenger Rail Operations (AIPRO) and for other potential operating expenses related to planning and implementation of passenger rail service in our corridor. The primary initial expense is \$12,000 for the consultant, RBC Transportation Solutions, LLC, to manage the Market Sounding event.

This contribution is voluntary. Recognizing that Commission member governments are of varying budget sizes, any amount that a Commission member entity provides will be accepted and will be helpful in achieving the Commission's purposes. However, it is important that we have commitments of at least \$12,000 as soon as possible so that we can move forward with the Market Sounding in the fourth quarter as an important, timely action related to the FRA's process.

Each partner will need to ascertain the level of approval needed to commit to a share of the funding for the market sounding. It is requested that each entity confirm the process appropriate for their organization. A draft resolution and fact sheet have been created for those who will be taking this action to their governing body.



721 Oxford Ave #3520, Eau Claire, WI 54703 • O: 715-xxx-xxxx • F: 715-xxx-xxxx Xxxxx.Xxxx@co.eau-claire.wi.us • www.co.eau-claire.wi.us

Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission

A joint Transportation Commission formed under Wisconsin Statutes 66.0301 to advance the public interest by pursuing passenger rail service for the St. Croix and Chippewa Valley regions of Wisconsin

Members

- Dunn County
- Eau Claire County
- St. Croix County
- City of Altoona
- Village of Baldwin
- City of Eau Claire
- City of Hudson
- City of Menomonie
- City of New Richmond
- West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Ex Officio Members

- West Central Wis Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin DOT
- Minnesota DOT
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Ramsey County (MN) Regional Railroad Authority
- Washington County (MN) Regional Railroad Authority
- Chippewa Valley Technical College
- Northwood Technical College
- University of Wisconsin
 Eau Claire
- University of Wisconsin
 River Falls
- University of Wisconsin
 - Stout

Chair

Jim Dunning, Eau Claire County Vice Chair Gary Stene, Dunn County Secretary Jeremy Gragert, City of Eau Claire

Administrative/Fiscal Agent Eau Claire County, WI c/o County Administrator 721 Oxford Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54703 715-839-5106 admin@eauclairecounty.gov September 21, 2022

Expression of Interest: Docket No. FRA-2022-0031 Corridor: Eau Claire, WI, to St. Paul/Minneapolis, MN

The Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission submits the rail corridor between Eau Claire, Wisconsin, and the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota, primarily along the tracks owned by the Union Pacific Railroad, for entry into the FRA Corridor Identification and Development Program. (The Commission is also separately submitting an Expression of Interest for service between Chicago and the Twin Cities, through Milwaukee, Madison, and Eau Claire.)

The Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission is an eligible entity formed in 2021, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 66.0301, made up of governmental bodies of western Wisconsin, located along the corridor, and the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition (an organization with 20+ year history of actively advocating for passenger rail service in this corridor), as listed along the left margin of this correspondence, along with ex officio members including key stakeholders.

Multi-frequency regional service along the corridor would provide a valuable transportation benefit with significant commerce and travel among communities, businesses, and educational institutions along the route. Establishment of passenger rail service in the corridor is recommended in these plans:

- MnDOT's Minnesota State Rail Plan (2015) recommends service between the Twin Cities and Eau Claire as a Phase 1 priority.
- WisDOT's Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 (2014) includes the corridor on its map of future passenger rail routes.
- Amtrak ConnectsUS (June 2021) recommends the routing of trains via Eau Claire when additional service is implemented between Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities.
- FRA's Midwest Regional Plan (October 2021) cites Chicago-Milwaukee-Madison-Twin Cities as one of the region's most important corridors, including future Core Express service. Eau Claire-Twin Cities lies along one of the prime prospective routings.

We have designated this member of the Commission as the contact for this EOI: Scott Rogers, Chair

West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce 101 N Farwell St., Suite 101, Eau Claire, WI 54703

Phone: (715) 858-0616 · Email: rogers@eauclairechamber.org

The Chippewa-Eau Claire Rail Commission is confident that this corridor satisfies the Selection Criteria outlined in the Federal Register Notice. We look forward to working with the FRA through the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

James Dunning, Chair Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission

Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission

A joint Transportation Commission formed under Wisconsin Statutes 66.0301 to advance the public interest by pursuing passenger rail service for the St. Croix and Chippewa Valley regions of Wisconsin

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- Eau Claire County
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- City of New Richmond
- West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition

Ex Officio Members

- West Central Wis Regional Planning Commission
- Wisconsin DOT
- Minnesota DOT
- Union Pacific Railroad
- Ramsey County (MN) Regional Railroad Authority
- Washington County (MN) Regional Railroad Authority
- Chippewa Valley Technical College
- Northwood Technical College
- University of Wisconsin
 Eau Claire
- University of Wisconsin
 River Falls
- University of Wisconsin
 Stout

Chair

Jim Dunning, Eau Claire County Vice Chair Gary Stene, Dunn County Secretary Jeremy Gragert, City of Eau Claire

Administrative/Fiscal Agent Eau Claire County, WI c/o County Administrator 721 Oxford Ave. Eau Claire, WI 54703 715-839-5106 admin@eauclairecounty.gov September 21, 2022

Expression of Interest: Docket No. FRA-2022-0031 Corridor: Chicago-Milwaukee-Madison-Eau Claire -St. Paul/Minneapolis

The Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission submits the rail corridor between Chicago and the Twin Cities via Milwaukee, Madison, and Eau Claire for entry into the FRA Corridor Identification and Development Program. This route utilizes the current Amtrak route, and/or a route via Madison, to Camp Douglas, then the Union Pacific Railroad to the Twin Cities via Eau Claire. (The Commission is also separately submitting an Expression of Interest for regional service between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities.)

The Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission is an eligible entity formed in 2021, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 66.0301, made up of governmental bodies of western Wisconsin, located along the corridor, and the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition (an organization with 20+ year history of actively advocating for passenger rail service in this corridor), as listed along the left margin of this correspondence, along with ex officio members including key stakeholders.

Rail passenger rail service in the corridor is recommended in these plans:

- WisDOT's Wisconsin Rail Plan 2030 (2014) includes the corridor on its map of future passenger rail routes.
- Amtrak ConnectsUS (June 2021) recommends the routing of trains via Eau Claire when additional service is implemented between Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities.
- FRA's Midwest Regional Plan (October 2021) cites Chicago-Milwaukee-Madison-Twin Cities as one of the region's most important corridors, including future Core Express service.
- The portion of the route between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities is identified as a Phase I route in the Minnesota State Rail Plan (2015).

We have designated this member of the Commission as the contact for this EOI: Scott Rogers, Chair

West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition Eau Claire Area Chamber of Commerce 101 N Farwell St., Suite 101, Eau Claire, WI 54703 Phone: (715) 858-0616 · Email: rogers@eauclairechamber.org

The Chippewa-Eau Claire Rail Commission is confident that this corridor satisfies the Selection Criteria outlined in the Federal Register Notice. We look forward to working with the FRA through the implementation of this project.

Sincerely,

James Dunning, Chair Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission

FACT SHEET

TO FILE NO. 22-23/055

This resolution authorizes a contribution of \$3,000.00 in funding from Eau Claire County to support the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission in pursuing a market sounding event and associated operating expenses.

The Association for Innovative Passenger Rail Operations (AIPRO) is collaborating with the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission regarding determining the feasibility of the corridor and creation of a Service Development Plan. AIPRO proposes conducting a Market Sounding event hosted by the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission to explore key issues and develop information needed for a future proposal to the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA).

Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission is requesting a \$3,000.00 contribution toward the \$12,000 consulting fee from each of its voting members to cover these costs.

Fiscal Impact: \$3000.00

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon McIlquham Corporation Counsel, Eau Claire County

1	Enrolled No.	RESOLUTION	File No. 22-23/055
2 3 4			FROM EAU CLAIRE COUNTY TO SION IN PURSUING A MARKET
- 5 6	SOUNDING EVENT AND A		
7 8	WHEREAS, the Chipp of Interest to the Federal Railr		on intends to submit an Expression the Eau Claire-Twin Cities
9 10	passenger rail corridor; and		
11		e	r Rail Operations (AIPRO) accepted
12 13 14	determining the feasibility of t		aborate on pursuing the next steps in ervice Development Plan; and
14 15 16			r Rail Operations (AIPRO) proposes -St. Croix Rail Commission to
17 18	e	2 11	re proposal to the Federal Railroad
19		un station Quinting LLC and	
20 21			omitted a proposal to represent the inistering the Market Sounding
22	Event, and compiling and facil		1 1
23 24	Railroad Administration for a	consulting fee of \$12,000; and	
25	· 11	e	Commission is seeking a \$3,000.00
26 27	contribution from each of its v Commission anticipates there		
28 29	NOW THEREFORE	BE IT RESOLVED that the Ea	au Claire County Board of
30			ing member of the Chippewa-St.
31	e	e	ne costs associated with the Market
32 33 34	Sounding Event and compiling Railroad Administration; and	g information necessary to sub-	mit a proposal to the Federal
35	BE IT FURTHER RES	OLVED the Eau Claire Count	ty Board of Supervisors supports the
36	Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Com		
37 38	ADOPTED		
39	ADOI IED		
40			
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48			
49		Committee on A	Administration
50	Dated this day of Septem	ıber, 2022.	

- Whereas the newly enacted Bipartisan Infrastructure Law provides unprecedented opportunities
 and funding for expansion of passenger rail corridors in the US,
- 3
- Whereas the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has announced the Corridor Identification
 and Development Program (CID) to create a pipeline of eligible projects for passenger rail
- 6 expansion of routes under 750 miles,
- 7
- 8 Whereas the Wisconsin and Minnesota State Rail Plans include future passenger rail routes9 utilizing the Chippewa-St. Croix corridor,
- 10
- Whereas the purpose of the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission is to advance the public
 interest by pursuing the implementation of passenger rail service and other public transportation
 improvements to serve the Chippewa and St. Croix Valleys,
- 14

- 17
- Whereas FRA is inviting eligible entities to submit Expressions of Interest to FRA for proposedcorridors,
- 20
- 21 Therefore, be it resolved, the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission will work with relevant
- 22 partners and supporters, including the Association of Innovative Passenger Rail Operations
- 23 (AIRPRO), Amtrak, and/or others to pursue submissions of Expressions of Interest to FRA for
- 24 an Eau Claire-Twin Cities regional corridor and a Chicago-Milwaukee-Eau Claire-Twin Cities
- 25 intercity corridor. The Commission Chair is to appoint an ad hoc FRA Corridor Identification
- 26 Committee under section 10.A. of the Commission's Bylaws to engage with relevant parties,
- 27 report back to the Commission, and prepare and submit the proposed Expressions of Interest no
- 28 later than September 30, 2022.
- 29

Whereas the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission meets FRA's criteria as an eligible entity forparticipation the CID,

1	Enrolled No.	RESOLUTION	File No. 22-23/045
2			
3 4 5 6 7	AND EACH OF ITS VOTING MEI	000.00 IN FUNDING FROM EAU C MBERS TO SUPPORT THE CHIPPI IG A MARKET SOUNDING EVEN	EWA-ST. CROIX
8			1 . 5
9 10 11	· • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	St. Croix Rail Commission intends to dministration (FRA) for the Eau Clair	1
12	passenger fan corritor, and		
13	WHEREAS, the Association	for Innovative Passenger Rail Operation	tions (AIPRO) accepted
14	-	ission's invitation to collaborate on pu	× / I
15	determining the feasibility of the con-	ridor and creation of a Service Devel	opment Plan; and
16			
17		for Innovative Passenger Rail Operation	· / I I
18		hosted by the Chippewa-St. Croix Ra	
19	1 1	mation needed for a future proposal t	o the Federal Railroad
20 21	Administration (FRA); and		
22	WHEREAS RBC Transport	ation Solutions, LLC submitted a pro	nosal to represent the
23		on in convening and administering the	
24		g information necessary for a proposa	
25	Railroad Administration for a consu	lting fee of \$12,000; and	
26			
27		St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission	is seeking a \$3,000.00
28	contribution from each of its voting	members; and	
29 30	WHEREAS the Chippewa	St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission	anticipates there may
30	be other operating expenses related		anticipates there may
32	be other operating expenses related	to this project.	
33	NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT	RESOLVED that the Chippewa-St.	Croix Rail Commission
34		of \$3,000.00 from each of its voting n	
35	e	unding Event and compiling informat	
36 37	a proposal to the Federal Railroad A		-
38	NOW, THEREFORE BE IT	FURTHER RESOLVED the Chipper	wa-St. Croix Rail
39		e proposed Market Sounding Event an	
40		BC Transportation Solutions, LLC to	-
41	administer the Market Sounding Eve		

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Commission hereby requests a contribution of \$3,000.00 from each of its voting members to fund the Market Sounding and associated operating expenses.

ADOPTED

	Committee on Administration
Chippewa-St. Croix Rail Comm	