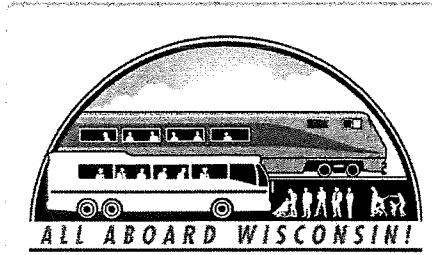


Media Advisory

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All Aboard Wisconsin: We join the State Battle for Transit and Rail

National Train Day, May 11 Kicks Off Effort

All Aboard Wisconsin, a newly established statewide transportation advocacy group will be formally announced at an 11:00 a.m. news conference at the Milwaukee Intermodal Station, 433 West St. Paul Avenue, Milwaukee. The Saturday May 11th announcement event will be coinciding with National Train Day.

Michael McCoy, President, **All Aboard Wisconsin** said, "**All Aboard Wisconsin** is being established by organizations and individuals throughout the state who believe there's a big hole in Wisconsin's public transportation network – too little passenger train service to too few communities on too few routes, too few trains on existing routes, and a lack of convenient connections with local transit. **All Aboard Wisconsin** is all about strengthening that travel network, to serve those who work in other cities, attend sporting and entertainment events, make

out-of-town medical visits, enjoy Wisconsin's tourist attractions with their families and friends, and pursue educational opportunities, to name a few."

A full listing of National Rail Day activities can be found at: <http://www.nationaltrainday.com/s/>. National Train Day was founded in 2008.

Event: All Aboard Wisconsin News Conference and Announcement

Date: Saturday May 11, 2013

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Front western entrance to the Intermodal Station, 433 West St. Paul Avenue, Milwaukee

Speakers: Michael McCoy, President All Aboard Wisconsin, Ms. Nona Hill, Vice-President All Aboard Wisconsin and Executive Director of High Iron Travel, Gary Goyke, Secretary of All Aboard Wisconsin, Mr. Craig Peachy, Legislative Director SMART, Christopher Zenchenko, past President Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

Upcoming community outreach efforts including passenger train forums will be announced. A dedicated **All Aboard Wisconsin** website for the organization is now under construction and will be released soon.

AAW email: info@allaboardwisconsin.org

Twitter account at [http://twitter.com/AllAboard Wis](http://twitter.com/AllAboardWis)



All Aboard Wisconsin

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All Aboard Wisconsin is an alliance of organizations and individuals promoting passenger trains and connecting buses and other public transportation choices statewide as an integral part of Wisconsin's and the nation's travel network.

We are a non-profit, non-partisan, organization incorporated by the State of Wisconsin and whose applications for recognition as a 501c3 and 501c4 entity are pending. We are building representation within our membership and on our Board of Directors of train travelers, business, economic development agencies, governmental offices, and those representing connecting forms of transportation. Greater connectivity between forms of public transportation is a major need.

Some initial affiliated organizations are ProRail, Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association, Empire Builder Coalition (La Crosse), Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers, United Transportation Union, Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired, and the Wisconsin Association of Taxicab Owners. .

Among our early activities has been the first-ever Passenger Train Summit in Wisconsin and the start of a series of Community Forums around the state to solicit the public views on passenger train travel and the need for route expansions and increased frequencies.

We place importance on passenger trains as a travel option because it is the first choice of many travelers and the most or only viable choice of others, all of whom value having the freedom to travel.

Passenger trains bring more business to the communities served, supporting area economic development, and promote tourism and its economic benefits, all of which fosters population and job growth.

We believe passenger trains are and are viewed by the public as non-partisan transportation. We emphasize offering non-partisan information. Our current public policy issues are shown on the reverse side.

ALL ABOARD WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE GOALS 2013-2015

Milwaukee Intermodal Station Improvements

We urge completion as soon as possible by WisDOT of the needed passenger platform and train shed redesign.

Hiawatha Corridor Improvements

The Amtrak Milwaukee-Chicago Hiawatha Corridor has long been targeted by Amtrak and the State of Wisconsin for 10 round trips daily. We concur and support such service expansion during the coming biennium.

Chicago-Twin Cities Amtrak Improvements

We urge the addition of a second daily roundtrip train between Chicago and the Twin Cities on the existing Amtrak Empire Builder route. We are confident it would increase year-round tourism to all Wisconsin communities served by Amtrak by providing more travel flexibility and protect schedules against the weather/flooding/etc. delays encountered by an only-long-distance – in this case Chicago-Seattle/Portland – passenger train..

The importance of passenger train service is underscored by the fact that each Amtrak station in Wisconsin is connected with 1,000 other communities served by passenger trains throughout North America and hundreds of other communities with a bus-train connection..

State Rail Plan Completion

We support funds necessary to allow completion of work on and release during the biennium of a State Rail Plan that:

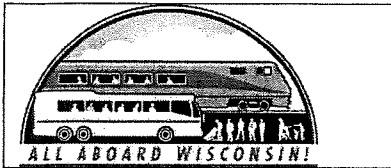
- a) supports the improvements identified above;
- b) are compatible with the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative. Establishment of the additional Wisconsin service proposed in the MRRRI has our highest program priority. We also support grade crossing safety improvements and educational programs as new routes go into service.
- c) promotes greater connectivity between passenger trains, intercity buses and local transit; and
- d) provides state support needed to local efforts in Eau Claire, if proposed during this biennium, for private business-operated passenger train service between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities and Chicago-Madison.

Protect Amtrak financial support from state budget reductions

We believe the benefits of passenger train service in Wisconsin justify these costs.

Support Multi-Modal transportation financing

We support a multi-modal state fund that consolidates all transportation spending into a shared dedicated account, allowing state government the flexibility to maintain a balanced transportation network throughout Wisconsin.



ALL ABOARD WISCONSIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2012-2013

All Aboard Wisconsin is an alliance of organizations and individuals promoting passenger trains and connecting buses and other public transportation choices statewide as an integral part of Wisconsin's and the nation's travel network.

MICHAEL H. MCCOY of Madison (*President*) is a longtime intercity passenger rail advocate. He was a co-founder and past President of Madison-based ProRail and a founding member of the Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers where he has served on the Board of Directors. He also is a longtime member of the National Association of Railroad Passengers, the Midwest High Speed Rail Association, and the Minnesota Association of Rail Passengers. He has traveled over 150,000 miles on Amtrak since Amtrak's creation and designed and presented workshops introducing Amtrak travel to first-time travelers. He is a former daily newspaper reporter and an Air Force and Wisconsin Air National Guard officer, and was employed by the Wisconsin Dept. of Workforce Development in various headquarters capacities over 27 years. He also was co-owner of the Capital Communicators Group, a Madison-based communications training organization, and a contributor to the "Tough Questions Answer Book."

NONA HILL (*Vice President*) has had a lifelong interest in passenger trains and rail travel. She and her husband Clark Johnson have owned High Iron Travel Corporation and operated rare mileage train trips throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico. In addition to her travel by train, she has been active as an officer in the Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers and ProRail since 1989. She also serves as a Director for The Center for Railroad Photography and Art.

GARY R. GOYKE (*Secretary*) is a former Wisconsin State Senator and staff person for Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey's political efforts. From Oshkosh, he has been Legislative Director and/or lobbyist for many organizations serving the public transportation and passenger rail industry since 1983.

CLARK JOHNSON (*Treasurer*) worked as a physicist and technology entrepreneur with a lifelong interest in trains and train travel. He founded High Iron Travel Corp. in 1984 and operated the private car, Caritas, traveling with it on most of the 750,000 miles it has covered in North America. He serves as a Director of Iowa Pacific Holdings, operator of eight short line railroads in the United States and the United Kingdom.

ROBERT FISHER (*At-Large Director*) of La Crosse served 34 years until his retirement on the staff of the Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, most of which as transportation planner. He conducted several rail-related feasibility studies and plans in that job. Bob is a member of the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) and now owns and operates a tree care consulting business in La Crosse. He also serves as Secretary of the Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WISARP) and is a member of the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP) and the Midwest High Speed Rail Association (MHSRA). Locally Bob serves on the La Crosse Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and the Technical Committee of the La Crosse Area Planning Committee and the local Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO).

(over)

DAVID MCDONALD (*At-Large Director*) of Windsor is a longtime advocate for intercity rail service, particularly on a regional basis, and serves on a number of non-profit boards. A native Midwesterner, his earliest memories recall train travel between Springfield and Chicago, Illinois. He has served as a minister in the United Church of Christ since 1991. Dave believes that rail service offers unique travel opportunities for families of all sizes, and should be available and accessible in new and affordable ways to travelers of all ages.

DAVID MUMMA (*At-Large Director*) joined the Janesville Transit Department in 1979 as Assistant Transit Superintendent and was promoted to Transit Director in 1980. He has 41 years experience in both the private and public sectors of the school, charter bus, and public transportation industries in Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin. Dave holds a B.A. in History/Political Science from St. John's University (MN). He is past President and served for many years as a member of the Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the Transportation Development Association of Wisconsin. He is also a two-time past Chairperson of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Urban and Rural Transit Association (WURTA), and served for many years in various committee assignments with WURTA.

CRAIG PEACHY (*At Large Director*) of Friendship is State Director of the 1,000-member United Transportation Union in Wisconsin and a Conductor on the Canadian National (CN) railroad and has worked in the railroad industry for about 23 years. He also has been a UTU Legislative officer for most of his railroad career with a passion for the safety of railroad employees and the citizens of Wisconsin, inspired in part by an injury suffered on the railroad by his son who could not return to work due to the injury. He says: "I strongly believe in all public transportation including public rail transportation. Many people cannot imagine a transportation system in our country without utilizing the railroads. As UTU State Director, I will do all I can to support All Aboard Wisconsin and their efforts."

AL SIMONIS (*At-Large Director*) is president of Almagamated Transit Union Local 998 representing bus operators, mechanics and service personnel at five transit properties in southeastern Wisconsin. Prior to being elected president he spent 27 years working in the fleet maintenance department and as a bus operator. He believes that transit is a lifeline for many individuals and that quality, affordable efficient public transportation is essential to the future of Wisconsin.

CHRIS ZENCHENKO (*At-Large Director*) is the President of the Wisconsin Council of the Blind and Visually Impaired. Its mission is to promote the dignity and independence of the people in Wisconsin who are blind and visually impaired by providing services, advocating legislation and educating the general public. Passenger trains and buses provide important transportation services for those the Council represents.

Hey, Wisconsin!



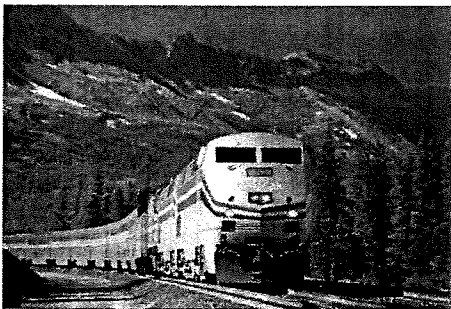
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Boston
Philadelphia
San Francisco
Atlanta
Glacier Natl Park
Miami

Los Angeles
Kansas City
Minneapolis-St. Paul
Vancouver
Orlando (Walt Disney
World)
Charlottesville, Va.
San Diego
St. Louis
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***This message brought to you by All Aboard Wisconsin
Find us at <http://twitter.com/AllAboardWis> (more links coming)***