

Get MORE Involved!



Help make the TCMC Second Train and Minnesota High-Speed Rail a reality

Expanding passenger rail services along the River Route in Minnesota takes the combined effort of local elected officials, business and community leaders, and residents. Your involvement is welcome and vital to the success of the vision of the Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission. There are three different levels of involvement that you can participate in. Find the level that is right for you and start spreading the word about the TCMC Second Train, Minnesota High-Speed Rail and increased passenger rail opportunities!

Experience Trains

Have you experienced passenger rail firsthand? Did you enjoy traveling by train? Do you want more opportunities to travel by train? This level is for you, get more info from MNHSR via our website, follow us on Facebook, and tell others about your interest in passenger rail.

- Like [Minnesota High-Speed Rail](#) and [Minnesota Department of Transportation](#) on Facebook and participate in discussions.
- Consider educating and motivating your co-workers and elected officials to get involved. Get the word out!
- Keep up with recent train news and other project details via [MnDOT](#) and [MNHSR](#) and share it with your network.

Get Involved

Love train travel, but ready for things to start moving a little faster down the track? Sign up for the enews to keep up with opportunities to participate in public meetings. Lend your story and voice to a supporter spotlight and let us know how increased passenger rail options would affect you.

- [Sign up](#) for our occasional e-newsletter to stay current on River Route and commission news.
- Attend public hearings and meetings to get updates and provide feedback. Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission meeting details can be found [here](#) and MnDOT Public Engagement efforts can be seen [here](#).
- Share your story with us! Be featured on our supporter spotlight by letting us know how a second train or high-speed rail would benefit you. Where would you go by train? Email us your story at info@mnhighspeedrail.com or share your story on our Facebook page.

Get More Involved

Ready to take action to the people who make the decisions? Get more involved by writing letters to your local newspaper, visiting and emailing your legislators, and encouraging others to do the same. It takes a powerful network of supporters to make things happen, lead the way!

- Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Tips for a great letter are below.
- Contact your legislators, they want to hear from you! Tips for reaching out to legislators are below.
- Contact the commission member from your area to make your opinions about passenger rail options known.

We advocate for:

- The Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Second Train, a daily round trip passenger train between the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago
- 2018 legislative request of \$1 million to complete environmental work and service planning for the TCMC Second Train project
- 2018 legislative request of \$3 million for Minnesota's share of final design costs for the TCMC Second Train project.
- A vision of faster, expanded passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago

Contacting your Legislators

Some of us are a bit nervous or may feel intimidated about contacting their legislators. And do they really want to hear from us – would my call make a difference?

The answer is that legislators really do want to hear from their constituents. They want to know what is important to you, they want to hear from you, and there's no reason to be intimidated. Your voice is very important, so contacting your legislators is an excellent way to play a role in our democracy. Here are some suggestions.

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During the Legislative session

Legislators are very busy during legislative sessions. Your communication should be brief and concise. In a voicemail or email:

1. Immediately state why you are contacting them. (e.g. "I am calling about the TCMC Second Train and Minnesota High-Speed Rail")
2. In a sentence, describe how you feel about the project (for or against).
3. In a sentence or two, describe why you feel that way—it's best to personalize your statement by describing how the project would impact you. (e.g. "More frequent trains between the Twin Cities and Chicago would help me get to and from college." Or, "I would like to have another option to use to visit family along the Mississippi River Route.")
4. To schedule an in-person meeting, contact your representative's Legislative Assistant.
5. During an in-person visit, leave a brief summary of the reason you are visiting your legislator so they can add it to their file.

During the Off-Season

Legislators may have a bit more time to discuss issues. You can send email or call, but a personal visit may be more effective.

1. Invite your legislators to your company or home. However, agree to meet at a different location if it is more convenient for them. It may be possible to meet with a few legislators at the same time, but it may be more effective if you schedule individual meetings.
2. If a meeting is not possible, send your legislators a personalized letter or email.
3. Outline for them—in your own words and with information specific to your situation—your concerns on the issue of mobility, the environment, transportation options, or frequency of service. Tell them how you think the TCMC Second Train or higher-speed rail will impact your situation.
4. Legislators don't want to hear canned talking points, they want to hear real stories that they can share with other constituents and legislators.

Who represents me?

Learn who your Senator and House representatives are [here](http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/) - <http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

Follow legislative progress

Learn how to [track bills](#), and find out what is being discussed on the floor or in committee. <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/trackbill>

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What makes a good letter to the editor?

Newspapers love to hear from readers who want to share their opinions. It helps communities know what is happening, raises awareness of issues, and your local legislator often reads the paper.

Strategy

- The most effective letters have writers speaking from their personal experience – relate a story of why the TCMC Second Train or Minnesota High-Speed Rail is important to you. How would you use it? Do you have customers that might take a train to your business?
- Take a look at our website. Some of the benefits of passenger rail we mention might be important to you.
- Note that Minnesota High-Speed Rail Commission is supporting MnDOT’s request for passenger rail office funding so that the TCMC Second Train study can be completed.

Logistics

- Check with your local publication for any rules and when and how to send a letter to the editor.
- Typically, letters should be brief, up to 250 words.
- Address them: To the editor:
- Include the writer's name, address, occupation and telephone numbers (work and home).
- For Star Tribune, or other larger circulation newspapers, all submissions must be exclusive in Minnesota.

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Get More Involved Form

Let us know how you can help by filling out this form and sending it to info@mnhighspeedrail.com. We will be in touch and help you get started! Thank you for your time and energy in contributing to more passenger rail options for the River Route.

To help increase awareness of the Second Train Project, I can contribute time and energy in the following ways:

_____ Highlight me and why I'm interested in the project in the Supporter Spotlight in the MNHSR Enewsletter

_____ Write a letter to the editor to my local newspaper

_____ Provide TCMC Second Train information to business leaders/owners in my network

_____ Attend or host meetings in my community

_____ Meet with or send a letter of support to my local legislators

_____ Share names and contact information of people like me, who strongly support passenger rail

_____ Other (list ways you think you could help)

Name: _____

Email address: _____

Phone number: _____

City: _____

age: _____ 18 – 25 _____ 26 – 35 _____ 36 – 45 _____ 46 – 55 _____ 56 – 65 _____ 65+

Return this form to:

Kevin Roggenbuck
Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority
214 E. Fourth Street, Suite 200,
St Paul, MN 55101

Or email to: info@mnhighspeedrail.com