

TWIN CITIES-MILWAUKEE-CHICAGO Intercity Passenger Rail Service Project

TCMC SECOND TRAIN

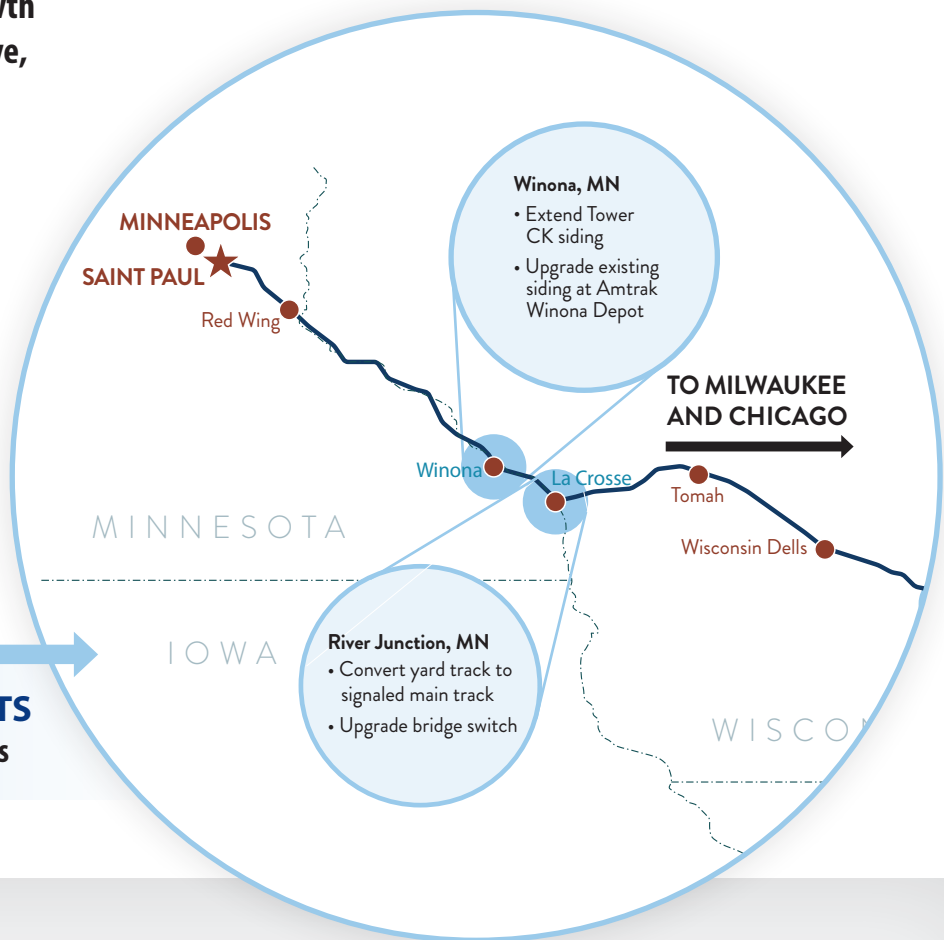
A second passenger train between the Twin Cities and Chicago is a great idea!

- Creates jobs and generates economic growth
- Provides safe, reliable, relaxing, productive, affordable alternative to driving or flying
- Provides access to tourism, colleges, events and more

Legislative Request

- \$1 million to complete environmental work and service planning
- \$3 million for Minnesota's share of final design costs
- With support TCMC could be operational as early as 2022

MINNESOTA TRACK IMPROVEMENTS
\$30 million from federal, state and local sources



Project Features

Add another round trip per day, to complement existing Amtrak® *Empire Builder* service.

Serves 3 stations in Minnesota (Saint Paul, Red Wing, Winona) and 13 total.

About 155,000 riders annually, on top of current *Empire Builder* service (123,000).

Travel time faster than *Empire Builder* service—about 7.5 hours between Saint Paul and Chicago.

Speed 79 mph (maximum) on existing tracks.

Anticipated schedule about 4-6 hours difference from the departure/arrival times of the *Empire Builder* service.

Federal Railroad Administration ranked the Chicago to Minneapolis-Saint Paul corridor first in the Midwest for future enhanced service.

Information at www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail

[See other side for details >](#)



JOBS

Construction of track and station area improvements, estimated at \$30 million, will create new jobs.

Case Study: The proposed Northern Lights Express (NLX) project is expected to create 3,200 jobs and \$360 million in wages during construction.

Case Study: In a 2008 Michigan passenger rail station study, travelers sent a stream of benefits throughout the community resulting in local benefits of \$25.7 million annually.

Amtrak Data: During 2013, Amtrak contracted with 50 vendors in Minnesota, having a total economic impact of \$21 million.

Vendors in the TCMC corridor include:

- Winona – Fastenal, Miller Ingenuity (Felpax), Phillips Bus Service
- Red Wing – Railway Research Inc.
- La Crescent – Ready Bus Line
- Twin Cities – Dynamic Air Conveying Systems, Railway Equipment Company, Loram- MOW Inc., Lewis Rail Fasteners, Ecolab, Inc., Thompson West, Accustream, Inc.

Amtrak spent over \$60 million on goods and services in Minnesota in fiscal year 2016.



TOURISM

TCMC will support tourism growth in Minnesota cities along the River Route, bringing visitors to major sporting events, small town festivals and our beautiful natural attractions.

Case Study: The Heartland Flyer service (Oklahoma City, OK, to Fort Worth, TX) reports the median spending level for lodging, meals, shopping, and entertainment per passenger to be approximately \$120 to \$160, depending on the time of year.

Amtrak Data: Tourism spending in Minnesota from Amtrak passengers in 2016 was \$460,000.

Amtrak boardings and alightings in FY 16 in the River Route were approximately 96,500 in St. Paul, 8,400 in Red Wing, and 18,900 in Winona and 26,619 in La Crosse. Ridership in Minnesota was up almost 6% from FY 15.

About 46% of Amtrak riders are tourists.



SAFETY

83% decline in collisions – Operation Lifesaver reports train/motor vehicle collisions in the US have decreased from a 1972 high of roughly 12,000 to approximately 2,025 in 2016.

- Positive Train Control, a system intended to address operator error, is mandated by Congress to take effect before TCMC service begins.
- The Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Federal Railway Administration have invested over \$11 million in crossing safety improvements along the TCMC corridor; \$11.6 million in additional crossing safety improvements are being studied.
- According to the Rail Passengers Association, shifting just 1% of car traffic to rails in the U.S. would save 200 lives each year (equal to \$1.88 billion per year in economic value).



COMMUNITY BENEFITS

Passenger rail improvements also benefit freight, automobile drivers, the environment, college students and more.

College students—A survey of over 3,000 college students, faculty, and staff in six institutions in Minnesota shows:

- 41% in Winona have taken the train to/from school.
- 60% said they are likely to take the train in the future.
- 57% say they would take the train if more frequent service was available.

Freight rail—Freight operators could see cost savings from using improved track. The flow of goods to market would be improved for businesses.

Roadway—The project will reduce pavement wear and tear by diverting auto users to rail.

Environment—The project will reduce automobile emissions.