

ALL ABOARD *INDIANA*

The Official Newsletter of the Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance

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Cummins To Build Engines for Amtrak Locomotives

Indiana-based Cummins—in a partnership with Siemens—is building the new diesel electric engines for Amtrak locomotives. Siemens was selected by a five-state consortium to manufacture 32 diesel electric passenger locomotives with an option for 225 more. The order was placed by the DOTs in Illinois, California, Michigan, Missouri, and Washington state. The Charger locomotives that Siemens will deliver under the contract will be manufactured at their facility in Sacramento, California. However, the primary traction drive for the Charger is Cummins QSK95, a 16 cylinder diesel engine rated at 4,400 hp. The QSK95 is manufactured at Cummins Seymour Engine Plant, located in Seymour, Indiana.

The Cummins Seymour Engine Plant has undergone expansion since its launch of the QSK95 engine in 2011 that has resulted in increased engineering and manufacturing positions in southern Indiana. While these five states are purchasing the initial Charger locomotives, they are available to any state. Tracy Kiser of Cummins told *All Aboard Indiana*, "Cummins is proud to have partnered with Siemens to power their bid-winning Charger locomotives with our QSK95 engine, one of the most powerful high-speed diesels, as well as one of the first to meet U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Tier 4 ultra-low emissions regulations, to be installed in a locomotive."

Rail User New Chief of Staff to Governor

Governor Mike Pence appointed Jim Atterholt to his Chief of Staff. Atterholt, a native of Ft. Wayne, was formerly Chair of the Indiana Utilities Regulatory Commission. Before that, he was at the Department of Insurance. Atterholt also served in the state legislature. Atterholt regularly rides Amtrak. (He rode back from an energy conference in Washington, D.C. with *All Aboard Indiana* in February on "The Cardinal." The train left D.C. on time at 11 a.m. and arrived in Indianapolis a few minutes early. (The same day, Washington's Reagan airport closed due to snow in the area, stranding other conference attendees.)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page Two

Mayor Sees Few Options for Indy's Union Station
Stay in a Passenger Car at Indy's Crowne Plaza Union Station—And Save!

Page Three

Four Operators Compete with Amtrak To Run "Hoosier State" Service
National Train Day, Indy

Page Four

President's Report: DC Trip a Success

Page Five

Krause's Korner: NTD Lafayette a Success
Ft. Wayne Continues Work with Ohio on New Amtrak Route
Bicentennial Train Tours the State
Train Trip Provides New Adventure, Starts New Tradition

Page Six

Governor Pence Kicks Off \$71.4 Million Rail Upgrade In Our July Issue...

Mayor Sees Few Options for Indy's Union Station; New Fencing Erected

A new fence lines both sides of Illinois Street along Union Station in Indianapolis. This is a new addition to the scaffolding inside the station that is holding up the ceiling joints and the aging fluorescent lights which make a loud buzz indicating they are in need of repair.



Union Station's new fencing is a concerning development.

The city's consultant report on what to do with the facility—due out in February—still has not been released, although the City's Peggy Frazier told *All Aboard Indiana* it was 500 pages long. Emails to the City of Indianapolis asking when the 500 page consultant report would be released and why the new fencing had been erected were not returned.

However, at the Electric Drive Transportation Association Meeting in Indianapolis on May 21, Mayor Greg Ballard told *All Aboard Indiana* that there were few options for the station, none of them very good.

In other news, developers have apparently been assessing taking over Union Station from the City (and running it) according to a Crowne Plaza hotel employee. They have been out taking pictures of the building. This was also confirmed by a com-

ment INDOT's Bob Zier made at the "Hoosier State" RFP pre-bid meeting. (The City owns Union Station, the oldest building in Indianapolis.) Zier said the city wants to turn management of the facility over to a third party developer.

Stay in a Passenger Car at Crowne Plaza Union Station in Indianapolis

Do you want to spend the night in a passenger rail car? The Indianapolis Crowne Plaza Union Station just completed a \$8 million renovation adjacent to Amtrak's Union Station. The hotel features twenty-six rooms that are in 13 actual refurbished passenger rail cars such as a 1924 Pullman Train Car on the actual tracks used back in the day.

Also, a special 12% discount off the best flexible rate is in the works for our members. This is the only hotel like it in the world and is a must for rail buffs. J.J. DeBrosse and Nancy Pederson gave *All*

Aboard Indiana a tour of the facility recently, which still features the original beam work by Carnegie Steel not to mention signs with the history of the station and train travel. The original Union Station can be rented out for weddings and conventions (complete with catering) or used for meetings. For details go to www.crowneplaza.com/ind-downtown.



Four Operators Compete with Amtrak To Run "Hoosier State" Train Service

The Indiana Department of Transportation and its local community partners announced receipt of four proposals to improve the "Hoosier State" passenger rail service between Indianapolis and Chicago.

The proposals submitted were from:

- (1) Corridor Capital LLC,
- (2) Herzog Transit Services Inc. and Passenger Transportation Specialists Inc.,
- (3) Iowa Pacific Holdings Inc. and
- (4) Railmark Holdings Inc.

Amtrak is the incumbent provider of the service and previously submitted a proposal for 2014-2015.

The selected proposal will be announced this summer. To learn about how tax dollars support the "Hoosier State" passenger rail service, visit www.in.gov/indot/3200.htm.

"Trains Are Cool," Proclaims Senator Merritt; Beech Grove Impact Celebrated at National Train Day

National Train Day was a hit in Indianapolis. The Indiana Historical Society Bicentennial Train was on display along with Amtrak cars. Tours of both were provided. The Bicentennial Train—on display at NTD

A family walks between an Amtrak train and the Bicentennial Train during NTD Indy.



and part of the Indiana Historical Society—had 71,000 people turn out to view the rolling history museum. Exhibitors included Central



Brandon Herget (Senator Donnelly's staff), Lowell Baker (Amtrak Beech Grove), Mike Franke (Amtrak Chicago), State Senator Jim Merritt and INDOT's Robert Zier at NTD. Note scaffolding in place in background.

Indiana Regional Transit Authority, the Indiana Transportation Museum, Amtrak, Greyhound, and others.

Speakers included State Senator Jim Merritt, who is also a Vice President of Corporate Affairs at Indiana Railroad Company. He gave a brief overview of the history of trains in the state. He also discussed the 26-year history of Indiana Railroad Company. "Trains are cool," Merritt quipped, saying he wanted people to think of trains this way.

Another speaker was Amtrak's Lowell Baker, an employee at Amtrak Beech Grove. Now a five-year Amtrak Beech Grove veteran, he had a personal story on the facility and its economic impact. With a wife and two children, he was out of work for almost two years before being hired by Amtrak Beech Grove.

Senator Donnelly's aide Brandon Herget saluted the 550 employees at Amtrak Beech Grove. Donnelly supported CIRT's request for TIGER funding for the proposed red bus rapid transit line in Indianapolis. (The funds would fund the environmental impact statement.)

In a discussion on the INDOT RFP to have someone else run the train to Chicago, INDOT's Robert Zier said the "Hoosier State" could provide more amenities and expand service throughout the day. Zier is the Director of Multimodal Planning and Programs at the Indiana Department (*continued*)

(*National Train Day, continued from page 3*) of Transportation. He noted INDOT had received proposals from four other companies to run the "Hoosier State" train. INDOT wants the train to Chicago to provide excellent service by being timely, comfortable, and reliable.



Amtrak Beech Grove employees at NTD

Amtrak's Mike Franke also highlighted Amtrak's economic impact on the state, noting that Amtrak spends \$21

million annually with Indiana companies. He noted this was one of 250 NTD events nationwide.

Andrew Halter of The Indiana History Center described the Bicentennial Train (see story pg. 5).

President's Report: DC Trip a Success

By Steve Coxhead

In my capacity as Indiana's representative to the Council of the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), I attended the annual NARP business meeting in Washington, DC at the end of April.

The meeting is an annual event, and a good opportunity to understand what other states are doing, and to talk to some Congressmen and women about modern passenger rail development in the United States. Featured speakers were: (i) Mark Murphy: General Manager – Long Distance Services, Amtrak, (ii) Frances Bourne: Chief of Federal Relations, Amtrak, and (iii) Tim Hoeffner: Director, Department of Rail, Michigan DOT and Chair of the Midwest Intercity Rail Commission.

We were able to visit the offices of several mem-

bers of Congress and make the case for modern 21st Century passenger rail.

Indiana offices visited included (i) Senator Joe Donnelly, (ii) Congressman Larry Bucshon (Evansville), (iii) Representative Pete Visclosky

(NW Indiana), and (iv) Congresswoman Jackie Walorski (Peru area). We discussed things that all those interested in passenger rail development might want to bring themselves up to speed on. While they are national issues, they will have an effect on what is possible in Indiana and how it is done, including the following goals:

- (i) enact mandatory, multi-year funding of at least \$5 billion per year over the next four years for the national passenger rail network (all trains running through Indiana are a part of the national passenger rail network),
- (ii) include a passenger rail account in the Transportation Trust Fund as part of the multi-year reauthorization of MAP-21 with funding not less than that requested by the US DOT (affects how projects in Indiana could be funded),
- (iii) appropriate at least the \$4,775 million the US DOT has requested for passenger rail in FY 2015 (affects availability of federal funds for projects in Indiana), and
- (iv) needed technical amendments to PRIIA, Section 207 (the law that determines who must pay for "Hoosier State" service).

Please address comments and questions concerning the above to *All Aboard Indiana*, and we'll try to address them. Also, I invite those of you who are not already NARP members to visit the website at www.narprail.org, and thoughtfully consider joining.



Andrew Halter of the Indiana Historical Society talks to President Coxhead about the Bicentennial Train during NTD.

Krause's Korner: NTD a Hit in Lafayette

By Joe Krause, Lafayette

Lafayette had a successful National Train Day event on Saturday May 10. Lafayette City employees put up a banner on the Riehle pedestrian bridge and one on the Lafayette Depot. Greater Lafayette Commerce contacted Amtrak and received quite a bit of promotional material for adults as well as children. Donald Yehle arranged to have the National Association of Railroad Passengers send a box of the most recent newsletter as well as subscription blanks. Marge Deverall of the Lafayette Economic Development Department arranged two tables full of engineer hats, coloring books, timetables, vacation planners, and even Amtrak-chef-inspired recipes. The Tippecanoe County Historical Association also parked a trailer which had some valuable Monon train models as well as memorabilia. In addition there was an "N" gauge model railroad set up and running in the large assembly room. It was estimated that over 200 people attended--mostly young parents with toddlers to pick up buttons, coloring books, and also to see the trains. There were additional train fans who picked up the timetables, vacation planners, and NARP material.

Ft. Wayne Continues Work with Ohio on New Amtrak Route

By Fred Lanahan

Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association (NIPRA) participated in National Train Day on May 3, 2014 at the Toledo, Ohio Amtrak station. They had the opportunity to educate hundreds of people on our Chicago-Fort Wayne-Columbus, Ohio passenger rail project. There was also much interest in reconnecting Toledo and Fort Wayne via passenger rail service.

In addition, Rich Davis, Tom Hayhurst and Fred Lanahan of NIPRA and Dorothy Hagan

of the City of Fort Wayne attended and presented information on the Chicago-Fort Wayne-Columbus passenger rail project at the All Aboard Ohio Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, where the project received strong support.

Bicentennial Train Tours the State

The Indiana Bicentennial Train is a traveling exhibition and experience that travels to select communities throughout the state each fall. It is in its second of a four-year run that will culminate with the state's 200th birthday in 2016. A unique collaboration with The Indiana Rail Road Company and Norfolk Southern Corporation, the Indiana Bicentennial Train consists of three 65-foot renovated Amtrak freight cars and features a free traveling exhibition, *The Next Indiana* (designed by the Indiana Historical Society exhibitions team). The train will make four stops this fall. Details will appear in the July issue.

Train Trip Provides New Adventure, Starts New Tradition

By Don Yehle

A new adventure commenced in late May for Noblesville's Margaret Gordon, her daughters, daughter-in-law, seven granddaughters, a foreign exchange student, and an eight-year-old grandson. Rather than take a traditional "girls" outing by car to Chicago and the American Girl store, these 12 ladies plus one climbed aboard the "Cardinal" in Indianapolis for a Memorial Day weekend trip to the Big Apple.

"It's cool to sleep in a comfortable bed on the train," quipped 15-year-old Susanna. The teenagers enjoyed being away from annoying brothers, playing "Uno," staying up late talking all night in the sleeper car, and dining on the train.

The 23-hour train trip brought a big surprise to Sylvia, the trip planner. She misread (*continued*)

("New Tradition", continued from page 5) the train log and thought the Cardinal's New York City arrival would be at 10 a.m. rather than 10 p.m. on Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. That was no problem for Sylvia, however, who was sleeping soundly late into the day as the train was roaring through Indiana, Ohio, and into West Virginia.

Margaret Gordon, who spoke on the train with Indiana Passenger Rail Coalition member Don Yehle, is now a sustaining member of NARP. Look to see these ladies again on an Amtrak train roaring through your home town.

Governor Pence Kicks Off \$71.4 Million Rail Upgrade

According to an INDOT press release, on Thursday, May 29, Governor Mike Pence joined representatives from Amtrak, the Federal Rail Administration and Norfolk Southern to officially kick off the \$71.4 million Indiana Gateway project. This project aims to improve a congested passenger and freight rail line between Porter, Ind., and the Illinois state line. The event was held at the Amtrak Hammond-Whiting Station. IPRA President Steve Coxhead was present to witness this important event.

Coming in our July Edition...

- A tour of Amtrak Beech Grove,
- The fate of Union Station update,
- Where to see the Bicentennial Train

NOTE: Amtrak's new timetable is effective June 9, 2014.

For More Information:

the Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance (formerly Indiana High Speed Rail Association).

To join IPRA go to
www.indianahighspeedrail.org

To follow rail news on Facebook go to Hoosiers for Passenger Rail and/or Hoosiers for the Hoosier State.

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Note:

This group is not affiliated with Amtrak, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation.