

Indiana's Lt. Governor Lauds *Hoosier State* Amenities

A Special Report from the Lieutenant Governor

"I had a terrific experience riding the *Hoosier State* from Lafayette to Indianapolis," wrote Indiana Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb after his June 9 Hoosier Train Day trip.

"The continuation of the Hoosier State rail line is a fine example of the type of creative problem solving and teamwork that thrives in Indiana, he said.

"Communities along the line recognized that preserving the train required more than just money and they worked with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) to explore ways to improve performance and get more value out of the investment, Holcomb continued.

The *Hoosier State* is now among the highest-rated trains on the Amtrak system, with 93% rider satisfaction. On-time performance and ticket revenue are both up, too, noted the Lt. Governor.

Calling the ride fantastic, he praised the new amenities—including Wi-Fi, fresh food, and drinks—that make this an excellent alternative commute option.

The *Hoosier State* gives you the opportunity to have a productive commute from Indianapolis to Chicago without having to worry about operating your own vehicle, Holcomb added.

"It was enjoyable to interact with so many Hoosiers on the train and harkens back to the romantic age of passenger rail, while offering the modern amenities that today's traveler needs.

"I can't wait to ride again!" concluded Lt. Governor Holcomb.



Dignitaries pictured are Ed Ellis, Iowa Pacific; Lt. Governor Holcomb, Indiana, and Arvid Olson, Greater Lafayette Commerce, who emceed the Hoosier Train celebration in Lafayette (foreground).

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page Two

Riding the Rails

Page Three

Guest Writer Documents
Celebratory June Train Trip

Page Four

Indiana Train Partnership: A
National Model

Page Six

Hoosier Train Day Recognized
Nationally
Midwest High Speed Rail
Excited About *Hoosier State*

Page Seven

IPRA Board Convenes at
Gary-Chicago Airport

Page Eight

Governor's Liaison to INDOT
Says Service Transformation
Will Take Time
Contributors
For More Information...
Member Discounts

Riding the Rails

By Donald Yehle

TWEETING ALONG THE CORRIDOR -- *Hoosier State* ridership numbers and rider satisfaction will grow as millennials board the train and promote it in ways never before imagined – by tweeting. Brittany White, external communications program manager for the Indiana Department of Transportation, maintained a constant “tweet” with her 9,894 followers on Hoosier Train Day on Thursday, June 9.

View her tweets below:

June 9, 2016 - #Hoosier Train Day transcript

All aboard!!! Boarding the @Hoosier Train in Indianapolis for # @AmtrakMM #Iowa Pacific

Hoosier Train Day celebration begins in @City Lafayette Riehle Plaza at 2 p.m. Come celebrate with us!

Lots of friendly INDOT faces on the train including @brandye73 @LoriTorres2013! #Hoosier Train Day It is a beautiful day for a train day! #HoosierTrainDay #RideHoosierState <https://www.instagram.com/p/BGcNUODLOx>

Picking up more passengers in Crawfordsville. Next stop: @City Lafayette! #HoosierTrainDay

Lots of perks on the @HoosierTrain: food, drink, free wifi and gorgeous views of our great state. #HoosierTrainDay

Excited to have @girlscoutsIN Brownie Troops 357, 266 and 873 on board #HoosierTrainDay getting a merit badge today!

Quite the welcome at the @City_Lafayette train station! #HoosierTrainDay

@City_Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski welcoming the public to the #HoosierTrainDay celebration.

Here in our community, we really pulled together to work in a collaborative way to keep the @HoosierTrain running. - Mayor Roswarski

Big thank you to #IowaPacific and @Amtrak for the outstanding @HoosierTrain service. - @LGHolcomb #HoosierTrainDay

All parties are working together to make @HoosierTrain possible. - @LGHolcomb #HoosierTrainDay

The @HoosierTrain is now among the highest rated trains on the Amtrak system with 90% riders surveyed being very satisfied. #HoosierTrainDay

We have to consider ways of doing things differently. Our community believes this is important. – (State) Senator Hershman

I challenged you {committee} to come up with new ideas and money. And you did! - Senator Brandt Hershman #HoosierTrainDay

Under the partnership with Iowa Pacific, the train is operating faster, cheaper, better. - Senator Hershman

#HoosierTrainDay

What is unique to Indiana is the involvement of communities. You do more. - @Amtrak Senior Regional Director of State Corridors Jim Brzezinski

When I got here, I was so excited that I took a few selfies. This facility is beautiful. - @Amtrak Brzezinski
Indiana wanted to improve service and on time performance. - Iowa Pacific President Ed Ellis

#HoosierTrainDay

Fortunately, I like a challenge and I love riding the train. We worked hard, but we solved problems. - Ellis

#HoosierTrainDay

Trains are safer than any other mode of transportation. You don't have to deal with road rage or crazy drivers. Safe and great. – Ellis

On behalf of @GLCommerce, we would like to thank everyone here for the collaboration. - Arvid Olson (transportation chair, Greater Lafayette Commerce and board member, Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance).

Thank you to everyone who came to the #HoosierTrainDay celebration in @City_Lafayette. The @HoosierTrain has increased their average on time performance to 86%. #hoosiertrainday

The @HoosierTrain ticket revenue has increased 20%. #hoosiertrainday #ridehoosierstate

Iowa Pacific President, Ed Ellis conducting media interviews to promote @HoosierTrain. #HoosierTrainDay
A celebration isn't complete without @Gigisindy cupcakes! #HoosierTrainDay

Glad you could join us for #HoosierTrainDay @LGHolcomb! Enjoy the ride back to Crawfordsville / Indianapolis

Approaching the Crawfordsville stop. We rode right by our @INDOT_WCentral district office! #HoosierTrainDay

View from Business Class on the @HoosierTrain train. #HoosierTrainDay

Arrived back in Indy right on time! Thanks for following along with us today for #HoosierTrainDay.

Brownie troops enjoyed their day on the @HoosierTrain! #HoosierTrainDay @girlscoutsIN (continued)



("Riding the Rails" continued from page 2)

FOLLOW OTHER HOOSIER STATE TWEETERS – To view all tweets (and see numerous pictures) from other users regarding the ride, visit: <https://twitter.com/search?f=tweets&vertical=default&q=%23hoosiertrainday&src=typd>

TRAIN SERVICE SAVED, INDOT SAYS – Indy's TV 6, an ABC network affiliate, was among traditional media covering Hoosier Train Day. Click on the attached link to hear what officials had to say:

<http://www.theindychannel.com/news/local-news/indot-declares-indy-to-chicago-train-line-saved>

OXFORD, OHIO -- Amtrak has approved an Oxford stop on Amtrak's **Cardinal** route. Oxford and Miami University officials have selected a site and station design. Discussions now focus on locating funding to build the station, which will be contiguous to a planned multi-modal regional bus station. It is hoped that the station will be operational within approximately 36 months, according to Derek Bauman, SW Ohio director, All Aboard Ohio.

Currently, the **Cardinal** operates on the same tracks and serves the same Indiana cities as does the **Hoosier State**, but on different days. The **Cardinal** also connects New York City and Chicago through Maryland, Washington D.C., Virginia, West Virginia, Ohio, and Indiana.

KIDS RIDE FREE ON THE PERE MARQUETTE -- Enjoy Savings on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday travel. Purchase by August 30, 2016; valid for travel now through August 31. Other restrictions apply. The Pere Marquette is a 196-mile Amtrak route connecting Chicago and Grand Rapids, Michigan with intermediate stops in St. Joseph-Benton Harbor, Bangor, and Holland, Michigan.

On the Pere Marquette, up to two kids ages 2 - 12 can ride free with each adult rail fare purchased for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday travel between Grand Rapids, MI, and Chicago, IL.



IndyGo volunteers spread word about transit changes

June 18, 2016: [Susan Orr](#)

Teams of Indy Go volunteers, called "transit ambassadors," are on foot at bus stops around the city, spreading the word about big changes that will affect all 31 of the system's routes.

City taking bids for more Union Station repair work - Indianapolis ...

www.ibj.com/.../59097-city-taking-bids-for-more-union...

Indianapolis Business Journal

3 days ago - **Indianapolis'** historic **Union Station** will soon receive another round of **repair** work. ... Home; **NEWS** King said the upcoming work will involve **repairing Union Station's** north wall and the steel beams behind it, which have ...

Guest Writer Documents Celebratory June Train Trip

By David C. Powell, President, Powell Rail Expediting, LLC

"It was a cooperative effort" is how Iowa Pacific Holdings sales and marketing manager Heather Hice described the entities who made this really unique non-revenue, by invitation only, celebratory trip possible. Those words were heard several times during the 5-hour trip from Indianapolis to Crawfordsville to Lafayette and return.

IPH offered its train, staff, food, drink, music and all the set up for a series of speeches at the Lafayette stop. INDOT helped with the cost for running it over the CSX, and the Amtrak engineer and conductor.

It was CSX, State of Indiana, Legislators, Iowa Pacific, Amtrak, and many local communities that all succeeded in a collaborative effort, in not only just continuing the **Hoosier State** train (operating 4 days a week between Indy and Chicago), but bringing to the traveling public a real gem of a train to ride on.

Many, many folks had worked on this effort quite a lot, but, well, had never actually seen the very train that they had worked so hard to bring about. The idea was to show off and share the train with these "collaborators". Today was their day.

The Indianapolis passengers all assembled in the beautiful, grand interior of Indianapolis Union Station, which was opened in 1888. This is on the site of another grand collaborative effort, made by competing railroads who had their own passenger stations, (Paris still has 5), to construct what was actually the first union station in the world, opening on September 20, 1853.

Fitting perhaps that this day's special train was another Hoosier "First".

The **Hoosier State** train, operated by Iowa Pacific with its own locomotives and wonderfully restored legacy passenger cars is unique; it's the only one like it in the Amtrak system!

Many short distance trains are locally subsidized similarly but everywhere else, Amtrak runs the show. (continued)

("Celebratory June Train Trip" continued from page 3) For the **Hoosier State**, Amtrak sells the tickets, provides an engineer and conductor/brakeman but that's it. These are not Amtrak cars, nor on-board Amtrak cook and attendants. Iowa Pacific does all of that.

In addition to the wonderful dome car, IPH coaches have loads of legroom, reclining seats, and are nicely appointed, with Wi Fi available, power outlets at seats, and freshly prepared gourmet meals, too! First time a train like this has been put into place this way with the train equipment privately owned and operated. It's a class act, and everyone loved it.

We were all on the platform above the sorry Amtrak/bus waiting room when the 5-car train rolled in, locomotives on either end, 3 coaches, and a classic former Santa Fe full-length glass top dome car in the middle, and an executive sleeper/lounge/flat-end observation car, "Adirondack Club," was last. (The "Ad Club" car is never part of the normal train.) An obviously happy and smiling Andy Bradburn (written up in the June issue of *All Aboard Indiana*) greeted us.

The dome car was extremely popular and was just over the top luxury. Beautifully appointed, flowers at the tables, silverware, real china; just like the good old days! Drink orders were taken by attentive service staff and turkey wraps were presented on plates and chips and salsa and pickles were also enjoyed.



Passengers enjoy the Hoosier State service on June 9. (Photo courtesy of David Powell)

Speaking from experience the food and service didn't deviate from what is normal on board, as all food is always prepared fresh and no microwaving.

High standards together with a very affordable menu are always the rule on this train. The upstairs in the dome is sold as Business Class with meals and drinks included. Coach passengers can order from a menu and dine downstairs. What a dramatic change from the one or two coaches Amtrak used to offer, with total amenities: water.

It seemed to this frequent rider very strange to be departing Indy 12:11 pm in bright sunshine! Great views of Lucas Oil stadium and Victory field in broad daylight! (The scheduled train departs at the way-too-early time of 6 am and arrives back also at a way-too-late time, just before midnight).

No delays in gliding past Indianapolis International airport,

then north and a left turn at Clermont to the Crawfordsville stop, where about 20 people quickly boarded and we were off for Lafayette. There, passengers were invited to walk up and over to the depot esplanade where chairs and tent were all set up for speeches by the Mayor of Lafayette, legislators, the Lt Governor, and Mr. Ed Ellis, who is the President of IPH.

It was somewhat like an awards show in Hollywood, so many congratulations, and tributes. It seemed a wonderful combination of hard work, commitment, economic development goals, and excitement that the gleaming train they were all talking about was here too! Nice to hear of the 90% approval rating, and the train operates 90% on-time now, much improved from when Amtrak ran it.

Live music, refreshments and we are all back on the train, some left us, others just now joining the train including Lt Governor Eric Holcomb and his media man whom I sat with in the Adirondack Club with jumbo shrimp and veggie plates being passed around, and drinks placed on vintage railroad drink stands.

It really was a grand celebration of a wonderful train. The cars are immaculate, the staff all really glad to be there and so helpful and happy and professional. I got the feeling that this was a really smart thing to have happen; sure can't hurt for those involved in funding the train after expiration of funding on June 30, 2017.

Great idea for them to have a look first hand at the fruits of their labor. Indiana is paying \$255,000 a month to keep the Hoosier State running, The Indiana legislature will have to appropriate additional funding in order to keep the train in operation past that date.

This day, there was an air of celebration and pride about the train, and after nearly a year of regular operation. it was time to show off the train and I can personally attest, it certainly was done in grand style!

Editor's note: David C. Powell can be reached at www.powellrail.com or by calling 317-459-0254

Indiana Train Partnership: A National Model

By IPRA Staff

At the 2016 Hoosier Train Day ceremony held in Lafayette on June 9, the INDOT-Amtrak-Iowa Pacific partnership was highlighted as a new national model and the envy of states across the nation.

The event was a celebration of the 3-4 year effort to save the 4-day-a-week *Hoosier State*, which required a state investment. *(continued)*

("Indiana Train Partnership" continued from page 4) Moderator Arvid Olson – transportation chair, Greater Lafayette Commerce -- noted that INDOT's (at the time) multi-modal director Bob Zier was not going to settle for "a piece of cr**" and pushed to outsource operation of the train to a third party (Iowa Pacific). (INDOT also requires local communities along the route to cover part of the investment while the state funds the rest.)

The result has been an unqualified success in saving train service to Chicago. (Zier was determined to improve service on the train which was frequently not on time and offered no food nor beverage service on the 5-hour journey.)

Ridership and on-time performance are both up thanks to the new amenities offered on the train to Chicago (free Wi Fi, business class service, cooked to order meals, and marketing of the service).

In his speech to the 100+ attendees at the ceremony in Lafayette, Lieutenant Governor Eric Holcomb cited the improved performance of the Hoosier State since Iowa Pacific assumed the partnership.

State Senate Majority Leader Brandt Hershman said the railroad means jobs. He noted that the **Hoosier State** is now the highest rated train on the Amtrak system with a 90% satisfaction rate. The Senator said that the train is a new paradigm for rail transportation for the entire U.S. He praised the partnership between state and local government.

"Faster/cheaper/better," he said (the title of his wife's book), means the train was now on time and providing first class service in a public / private partnership.

Hershman said this train was the envy of the U.S. and noted all of the U.S. is watching.

He noted he had challenged the advocates to do things differently (in developing the partnership).

Other officials who spoke included the Mayor of Lafayette (Tony Roswarski). The Mayors of Crawfordsville (Todd Barton) and West Lafayette (John Dennis) were cited for making the **Hoosier State** partnership a reality.



Lt. Gov. Holcomb and State Sen. Merritt mingle with others near the Hoosier State.

Also in the audience, cited for his work saving the train to Chicago, was State Senator Jim Merritt.

Ed Ellis of Iowa Pacific said we need more trains so travelers can go to Indy for the day. He wants trains running 15 times a day between Indy and Chicago.

Moderator Olson praised the public officials and rail advocates who came together to make this happen. Olson noted this was about economic development. (Indeed, the sound of construction around the station could be heard as new residential development abuts the rail station.)

The ceremony in Lafayette was the culmination of a special trip on the **Hoosier State** from Indianapolis. Lunch was served on the train which included rail advocates, public officials, Amtrak, and Iowa Pacific officials. The event was organized by Iowa Pacific. We met in the Union Station meeting area instead of the bus rail station. The special train featured lunch service in the dome car.

INDOT Commissioner Brandye Hendrickson and her staff (plus retired multi-modal INDOT Director Robert Zier) attended the event, as did officials from the Indiana Rail Road including Tom Hoback and Eric Powell.

Also in attendance were Bruce Becker and Cliff Dunn from the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP).

The trip went without a hitch and we were back in Indianapolis by 5 p.m. (after leaving the Circle City around noon).

There was a lot of media coverage including RTV6 in Indianapolis and Channel 18 in Lafayette.

Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance (IPRA) President Steve Coxhead observed that organizing the event was a huge effort on the part of Iowa Pacific. "Ed Ellis, Heather Hice, and the Iowa Pacific staff did a great job again. We were delighted to see the enthusiasm for passenger rail from INDOT, state officials, and rail advocates in attendance," he said.

"I never thought we would get to this point," noted IPRA Board member Doug Yerkeson who had suggested such an event two years ago as a way to promote the service. "Hats off to Iowa Pacific, INDOT, and our state legislators and local elected officials for all the hard work to make this happen," he continued.

In the coming months, IPRA will continue to reach out to Indianapolis officials -- including to clean up the beleaguered Union Station -- as well as to support train service to Chicago. (continued)

("Indiana Train Partnership" continued from page 5) IPRA will also be approaching corporations like Cummins to consider becoming IPRA members to help us with our advocacy efforts.

Hoosier Train Day Recognized Nationally

In its June 10 weekly newsletter, the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP) shined its light on the Indiana Department of Transportation, Iowa Pacific Holdings, and Amtrak for operating a special inspection train between Indianapolis and Lafayette. NARP commented the train was in support of state funding for the current 4-day-a-week **Hoosier State** service and to highlight the need for increased frequencies on the route from Chicago to Indianapolis.

"State and local officials, including Indiana Lt. Gov. Eric Holcomb, spoke at a Lafayette press event and then rode the train back to Indianapolis. Lt. Gov. Holcomb was very impressed with the ride and thoroughly enjoyed the view from the train's dome car. NARP staffer Bruce Becker & Council Member Cliff Dunn were among the invited guests and Indiana officials were pleased to have NARP's support on the trip. Ridership on the Hoosier State was up 20% in May 2016 over last year and revenue was up 65%," NARP wrote.



Midwest High Speed Rail Excited About Potential of Hoosier State

"On June 9 a special train operated between Indianapolis and Lafayette. Elected officials and stakeholders from local communities boarded the train to celebrate the new **Hoosier State** service. There is plenty to celebrate with ticket revenues for the service up 20 percent, customer satisfaction at 90 percent and on-time performance improving.

"It is clear that the Save The Hoosier State effort has re-energized local leaders across Indiana in support of enhancing service. Many of them took the opportunity on June 9 to express their backing for continued improvements to the route. With the public-private partnership between Amtrak, INDOT and Iowa Pacific creating stability along the corridor, now is the time to make the investments that would lead to faster and more frequent service.

"The Chicago-Indianapolis Corridor connects two of the largest cities in the Midwest and is vital to the communities it serves. It is also a key segment of the statewide network and has the potential to grow substantially. In order to meet the demands of the market, service with 12 trains/day and travel times below 3 ½ hours are necessary.

"This level of service will require improvements to the existing infrastructure. For this to happen, INDOT needs to take a leading role by requesting capital cost estimates for faster and more frequent service. We are excited to see the support for the Hoosier State Corridor continue to grow and will continue to work hard to keep the public and elected officials informed about the benefits of faster and more frequent service.

"Best,
Dylan Hayward
Program Manager"
[You can check out our proposal for the Chicago-Indianapolis Corridor here.](#)

Recently at MHSRA:

- Our Executive Director Rick Harnish rode the special **Hoosier State** train from Indianapolis to Lafayette with local officials and stakeholders.
- We attended the Alliance for Regional Development's event "How Intercity Rail Ties Our Economies Together," which focused on seeking a stronger economic connection between Gary, Chicago and Milwaukee.
- The Sandhouse Rail Group hosted a meeting where NICTD detailed their [double tracking project](#) between Michigan City and Gary.
- We had a great time at Franklin Park Railroad Daze where we ran into some current MHSRA members and shared [our vision](#) with others.

Articles We Enjoyed:

Officials: Hoosier State Rail a Collaborative Feat

"Only two years ago the future of the Hoosier State passenger rail line was in jeopardy. Thursday afternoon, however, lawmakers and local officials gathered at Lafayette's Big Four Depot to celebrate recent improvements and increased ridership."

IPRA Board Convenes at Gary-Chicago Airport

By Steve Coxhead, President, IPRA

The Board of the Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance (IPRA) met on May 12, 2016, in the Administration Building of the Gary-Chicago International Airport. Thanks to Board member Dennis Hodges for arranging the meeting, and to the Airport for hosting.

The meeting venue was of particular interest, as the Gary airport has long been discussed as a possible Northwest Indiana multi-modal transportation site, combining commercial air service with both Amtrak and South Shore Line passenger rail service. That being the case, the Board was interested in viewing the facility.

The following business came before the Board at the May meeting. Congratulations were extended to Board member Tom Hayhurst on his recent receipt of an award from the Rotary International organization. It was noted that Tom is a former member of the Fort Wayne City Council.

Thom Davis reluctantly tendered his resignation from the Board, citing time conflicts owing to his current work activities. The resignation was accepted.

Donald Yehle, long time editor of the newsletter, was nominated for a seat on the Board. After a brief discussion, Don was elected by unanimous vote of the Board.

It was noted that Rep. Randy Truitt (West Lafayette) has decided to retire from the General Assembly, and will not run for re-election in November. Rep. Truitt had also served as one of the Indiana appointees to the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC).

Board member, Fred Lanahan, give a report on the status of the Chicago/Fort Wayne project that has been the focus of the Northeast Indiana Passenger Rail Association (NIPRA). Last year's application for federal funding for the tier one environmental impact study (EIS) was, unfortunately, turned down. There is some preliminary work to be done prior to a full blown EIS, and NIPRA is addressing that issue, while waiting for funding to become available for the full EIS.

There was an open discussion to determine the next steps in the on-going "Hoosier State" project. Highlights of the discussion were:

The revamped "**Hoosier State**" has enjoyed a certain measure of success. The business class service instituted by Iowa-Pacific has been very popular.

Ridership has held its' own and revenue is up. There appears to be a significant market for a premium service, as well as traditional coach class.

Adding additional frequencies is key to growing the service, and achieving long term economic viability.

IPRA must work with members of the General Assembly to determine the level of funding that can, or is, set aside for passenger rail. The goal would be to generate support for balanced spending on public transportation. To that end, it was decided to form a legislative subcommittee, of the Board, to determine how best to communicate the case for passenger rail to members of the General Assembly.

The concept of a "day at the Statehouse" was explored. This would be a day, while the legislature is in session, on which as many passenger rail advocates, as possible, would schedule meetings with their state senators and representatives, to communicate the case for, and preferred agenda, for advancing the state of passenger rail in Indiana.

The Board voted to continue our association with the Rail Users Network (RUN), a rail users' advocacy organization. It was felt that there could be some useful synergy in cooperating with like-minded organizations.

Board members Doug Yerkeson and Bill Malcolm met with the Indianapolis Department of Public Works to discuss the need for improvements to the physical condition of Indianapolis Union Station. The Department of Public Works is the "owner" and ultimate landlord of the station.

Progress continues to be made on reconstruction of the Lafayette rail passenger station.

The Board of the Passenger Rail Alliance is intended to be an open activity. Those IPRA members who feel they could play a useful role in furthering the cause of 21st Century passenger rail in our state by participating on the Board are encouraged to make their interest know by sending a note to info@indianahighspeedrail.org.

Remember to ride the "**Hoosier State**", and "**Cardinal**", and let your representatives in the legislature know how important 21st Century passenger rail is to Indiana!

Editor's Note: The next meeting of the IPRA board has tentatively been set for Thursday, July 21, in Indianapolis, with additional meetings scheduled for September 15 and November 17.

Governor's Liaison to INDOT Says Service Transformation Will Take Time

Several IPRA members (and other Hoosiers) have written to the Governor requesting improvements to the "Hoosier State" (more frequencies, etc.). This was the Governor's June 2016 response to the letter of one IPRA member.

"Thank you for contacting the Office of the Governor regarding the Hoosier State Train. Governor Pence has forwarded your request to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

"Thank you for your support of the Hoosier State Service. Indiana citizens' support has been critical to preserving the Hoosier State Service, and to its continued improvement since August 2015. Ticket revenues are climbing and the on-time performance is averaging 87% year to date. In addition, responses from on-board ridership surveys indicate customer satisfaction is at its highest level in years.

"The second phase of transforming the service will take some time. All service improvements must be studied to determine what is feasible and the associated cost. A first step is making the Hoosier State a daily train as it currently operates round-trip four times per week. The next step is to determine the appropriate number of trips per day that are desirable. Infrastructure improvements over the length of the route are needed, such as track replacement or repair, signal modernization, etc. These improvements must be identified, priced, and prioritized. These improvements will also help decrease the travel time from the current five-hour schedule.

"Commissioner Hendrickson has directed her staff at the Indiana Department of Transportation to work with CSX Corporation and Amtrak to determine the capital investments required to further improve the Hoosier State Service. The project list of infrastructure improvements will be subject to review by an independent party that will be tasked with recommending investments that will bring the most value to Indiana taxpayers.

"INDOT looks forward to your continuous support of the Hoosier State Service to make the Hoosier State Train a viable transportation option for students, the business community and leisure travelers.

"Sincerely,
Alexis Morgan
Governor's Liaison
Indiana Department of Transportation
Attachments area"

Contributors

All Aboard Ohio – Derek Bauman, SW Ohio director

IPRA – Steve Coxhead, president

Midwest High Speed Rail – Dylan Hayward, program manager

Powell Rail Expediting, LLC – David Powell

For More Information

All Aboard Indiana is a monthly publication of the Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance (IPRA), formerly the Indiana High Speed Rail Association (INHSRA).

To learn more about IPRA, visit
www.indianahighspeedrail.org

or contact us at

Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance
3951 North Meridian Street, Suite 100
Indianapolis, IN 46208

IPRA President: Steven Coxhead

Newsletter Editor: Donald Yehle

djyehle@gmail.com or 765-418-4097

Newsletter Publisher: Shereen Vinke

Member Discounts

Crowne Plaza Union Station Indianapolis: Ask for discount 100329414 and receive 12% off the best flexible rate.

AAA and NARP members save 10% off Amtrak tickets at www.amtrak.com if booked three or more days in advance.