

Volume 6, Number 2 February 2019

Indiana Must Keep or Increase Funding for Hoosier State

This Passenger Train Service Is at Risk of Stopping in July if State Funding Stops

Your Action Is Requested Now!

The funding from the State of Indiana for the Hoosier State Passenger Train, which is reviewed every two years, may stop starting July 2019 unless the money is put back in the budget by February 25th.

You can do something about this! Some IPRA Members are actively working to restore the funding from Indiana but you can also help! Please contact your Indiana State Representative immediately and ask them to support continued funding for the Hoosier State. If you don't live in Indiana, but know someone who does, please ask them to help.

You have at least two options to let your Indiana State Representative know what you want:

Go to the Midwest High Speed Rail Association website at https:// www.midwesthsr.org/hoosier-state-action-alert-january-2019, enter your home address, modify the customizable letter and select [Send the Emails!]. When you enter your home address, the email addresses of Governor Holcomb, your Indiana Senator and your Indiana State Representative are automatically selected. You can send your customized let-

ter in a matter of minutes!

The **Hoosier State** at Chicago Union Station

Write a letter to your Indiana Government representatives asking them to support restoring funding from the State of Indiana for the Hoosier State. See the following page for a sample letter.

IPRA recommends that you send your message as soon as possible. Using option (1) with customization from the letter referenced in option (2) is a wise choice.

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IPRA Membership Form The cost has dropped!



page 1) Example Letter to your Indiana Lawmaker:
Date
The Honorable {} Indiana State Senate / House of Representatives 200 W Washington Street Indianapolis, IN 46204
Dear Senator/Representative {},

I am urging you to support restoring State funding for the *Hoosier State* passenger train service between Indianapolis, Crawfordsville, Lafayette, Rensselaer, Dyer and Chicago (3rd largest metro area in USA). Governor Holcomb's proposed budget eliminates the \$3 Million State funding for this service. An additional \$500,000 is provided by some communities on the route.

Why should this funding be maintained or preferably increased?

- We would risk losing regional passenger rail service in Indiana for 4 days of each week since the *Cardinal* train provides once per day service the other 3 days. This would come at a time when *younger talent* the State hopes to attract and retain increasingly is opting away from vehicular transportation. Elsewhere in the Midwest, the *Hiawatha* (Chicago <-> Milwaukee) now runs daily seven times each way per day, giving them a competitive advantage in the quality-of-place competition.
- Passenger rail service is a vital alternative to frequently congested Interstate highways, which are now dangerous and regularly congested or closed due to traffic accidents and construction.
- To add highway lane(s), a recent estimate by INDOT Commissioner McGuiness is \$10 Million per mile, which is over 3 times more than the current *Hoosier State* budget.
- Passenger rail service between these six municipalities travel from downtown to downtown, not to a suburb requiring time & cost to reach downtown.

- Stations in these municipalities allow usually walkable (or have transit) access to businesses, convention centers, stadiums, museums, restaurants & universities.
- Many university students attending Purdue, IUPUI and Wabash rely on this service.
- Service (& station) improvements will generate more passenger traffic thus improving the <u>cost per ridership ratio</u>.
- Indiana also supports our <u>road and air travel assets</u>, like the Delta flights to Paris and the United flights to San Francisco.

I appreciate your help and ask that you please send me a response letting me know your position on this matter. This transportation service is an Indiana asset we can't afford to lose.

Sincerely, {your name} {City, ST ZIP}

The German Wonderland—A Model that Will Amaze You!

Miniatur Wunderland Can Be Found in Hamburg, Germany and Is a MUST SEE!

(Many thanks to **Don Yehle**, Board Member, Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance, for sharing with us this potential bucket list item!)

Remember the two brothers in Germany who had a wonderful model railway that was something to see?

This is an update for their German Wonderland. It was started by two brothers as a place to exhibit their hobby....it REALLY grew.

Soon they were joined by other 'Model Railroad Clubs' and other craftsmen. Some were electricians, model makers, carpenters, computer programmers. Their wives would stop by to see what they were doing and usually bring them a lunch. One thing led to another. Three of the ladies had worked at a bakery. Several visitors would ask if they had a snack bar. The idea was planted; some of the carpenters came and built a nice restaurant area for the bakery and a kitchen, too.

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("The German Wonderland..." continued from page 2) If the fresh coffee smell didn't get you, then the bakery definitely would.

This was about 5 years ago. One of the breweries came **and** furnished all of the tables and chairs, serving counter and etc.

Their latest finished area is the airport. Planes look like they are flying and landing. Remember this is all a model!

See this **GERMAN WONDERLAND** on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/embed/ACkmg3Y64_s?rel=0

Flower Show at Navy Pier a Perfect Excuse to Visit Chicago

Plan Your Chicago by Train Vacation Now! By **Bill Malcolm***, IPRA Board Member Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance

The Paris of the Midwest, Chicago, is perfect for a visit any time of year including winter. It's easily one of the friendliest cities in the world but without the attitude nor the high costs of its U.S. coastal competitors.

Incredible architecture, a vibrant neighborhood scene, great museums, and many transit options.

Getting There

Amtrak's *Hoosier State* or *Cardinal* passenger trains will get you there.

The downtown station is convenient to a number of transit options including the CTA Red or Brown Line and the 146 CTS Express Bus. The 151 CTA bus is another option if you are going to the Hotel Versey.

Close to downtown, Midway Airport is served by Southwest (with a quick Orange Line CTA ride into the City). O'Hare is a bit further out and is a hub for both United and American as well as many other carriers and is served by the CTA Blue Line.

In any event you won't need a car due to the plethora of transit options including Divvy Shared Bikes, CTA, and the regional rail carrier METRA.

Where to Stay

The Hotel Versey at 644 W. Diversey Parkway is my ab-

solute favorite. At the corner of Diversey/Broadway Avenue/Clark Street, it is in LakeView East just south of the Halsted and in the northern edge of Lincoln Park (with Lake Michigan just steps away). The music-themed hipster hangout offers free use of the LA Fitness around the corner.

The Majestic Hotel at 528 W Brompton Avenue and City Suites at 933 W Belmont Avenue are also local favorites in the Lakeview East area.

Other neighborhood hotels include the Willows on Surf Street and The Best Western Hawthorne Plaza on Broadway. These are great neighborhood options close to the action and out of the downtown.

Transit options abound at the hotel. It is close to the Diversey CTA Brown Line stop. The 151 CTA bus line can take you down to Michigan Avenue and to and from Amtrak's Union Station, or you can take transfer to the Red Line at Fullerton.

Trader Joe's is across the street (667 W. Diversey Parkway). A new popular grocery store chain, Mariano's, is up the street on Broadway.

Where to Eat

Leave your diet plans at home. Chicago has great pizza, loves its Chicago-style hot dog, and craves Stan's Donuts & Coffee (a new local donut chain). Many local restaurants and shops abound in the Lakeview East-Boystown area. Renaldi's Pizza on Broadway Avenue is a must for pizza.

Locals recommend Calo Ristorante in Andersonville for Italian food including pizza.

For Chicago style deep-dish pizza, try Pequod's Pizza in Lincoln Park or Lou Malnati's (several locations). If you're going to Pequod's, go early (6:00 pm at the latest as they do not take reservations). Clark Street Dog is great for an after the bar meal.

Try a Chicago style dog at Clark Street Dog.

For breakfast, Stan's Donuts & Coffee is on the corner of Diversey and Clark just steps from the Hotel Versey is a local favorite. They also have bagels.

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("Flower Show at Navy Pier a Perfect Excuse to Visit Chicago" continued from page 3)

What to Do

Shopping on Broadway Avenue and on Halsted Avenue is fun although the latter has fewer stores these days.

The Unabridged Bookstore on Broadway is one of a few local bookstores left in the country. You will find them at 3251 N. Broadway. It is a must. Clark Street in Andersonville a great option for shopping.

The Landmark Century Theater around the corner from the Hotel Versey features first rate art and independent films.

Take the CTA Red Line to the museums. Use the Monroe stop for the world-famous Art Institute and the Roosevelt stop for the Shedd Aquarium as well as the Field Museum of Natural History (also served by the 146 CTA bus line).

Shopping on Michigan Avenue, the Magnificent Mile, is another must.

Starting in the spring, take a boat tour on the Chicago River to learn about the city's varied historical architecture. Several cruise lines offer this. They also have walking tours year-round.

Don't miss a Cubs game at historic Wrigley Field, which hosts several special events, and now has a new boutique hotel nearby.

Another summertime must is a trip up to Hollywood Beach. The huge sandy beach on Lake Michigan features a fun outdoor café.

Upcoming Events Include:

Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier: March 20-24. For more information go online at https://navypier.org/chicago-flower-garden-show.

You won't have enough time to do everything Chicago has to offer. Great transit, great food, great neighborhoods. Think New York with a dash of Midwestern friendliness. Not to mention the awesome architecture.

For more information and Chicago vacation ideas, check out The Reader.

*Bill Malcolm is a syndicated value travel writer based in Indianapolis. Louis Harris of Chicago contributed with additional edits from Ted Blackman.

Special thanks to Choose Chicago and my friend Cory Jobe and his staff at Navy Pier for their helpful event ideas. All or parts of this column may appear in other publications and did appear in HOTSpots Florida.

Bill also writes the Round the Ripple column in The Broad Ripple Gazette and founder of Hoosiers for Passenger Rail and Friends of Broad Ripple Pool on Facebook as well as RTO Alumni on LinkedIn.

Follow Bill on Twitter @billmalcolm6 or friend him on Facebook.

O'Hare Global Terminal Plans Need to Add a Train Station

This article is courtesy of **Midwest High Speed Rail Association** online <u>here</u>.



Have you seen the latest updates for the O'Hare expansion and modernization project? Newly released architectural renderings for each of five proposals show impressive plans for the new "O'Hare Global Terminal and Concourse," the centerpiece of the City's plan.

Blair Kamin of the Chicago Tribune argues that the **Foster + Partners design (pictured above)** evokes "the great *railroad stations* of the past." He notes that it provides a space where customers will actually enjoy their time waiting to depart, rather than sitting in a holding pen before being shepherded onto a plane.

Foster + Partners is also leading the design of <u>Florence</u>, <u>Italy's newest high-speed train station</u> set to be completed in 2021. Much like the firm's O'Hare plans, this (continued)

("O'Hare Global Terminal Plans Need to Add a Train Station" continued from page 4) station design focuses on passengers, emphasizing open space and visibility. Its train platforms are set about 25 meters below ground level, with the rest of the station rising above them.

Kamin's comparison is a not so subtle reminder that Chicago's Union Station redevelopment plan is rather uninspired and appears to have stalled. But, we're hopeful that with **Rep. Lipinski** as Chair of the House Railroad Subcommittee, we will see some meaningful progress.

The airport expansion will provide a boost to the region and is a positive infrastructure investment. However, there is a glaring omission in the current plans. There has been no planning for a railroad station. They should prepare for express trains from downtown, commuter trains from the suburbs and high-speed trains from surrounding cities. This will not only help with connectivity, but will also help deal with increased traffic to the airport that will inevitably follow the expansion.

We have some ideas on how to accomplish this. You can check them out online here.



Please make plans to attend the Rail Passengers Association's...

Rail Passengers Kentucky Meeting

A Joint Regional Gathering for Midwest and Mid-South Rail Passengers

Starts: Friday, March 8, 2019 at 9:00AM EST
Concludes: Saturday, March 9, 2019 at 12:00PM EST
Location: Hotel Louisville - 100 West Broadway Louisville KY 40203

Come and participate in a Throwback Weekend of the former NARP Region 5 (AL, FL, GA, KY, LA, MS, NC, SC, TN) & Region 6 (IN, MI, OH) States to discuss common Amtrak and Transit issues in advance of the Rail Passengers Association

RailNation Washington 2019 Advocacy Summit & Day on The Hill (March 31 - April 3).

This Meeting is open to all individuals interested in improved Passenger Rail in the Region.

Items to be discussed include:

- Daily Cardinal Service
- Hoosier State Extension
- Missouri Service Extension to Indianapolis
- City of New Orleans, Illini and Saluki Services
- The Floridian
- Improved Thruway Bus Services and Feeder Routes

Register at **Eventbrite** (not incl fees):

\$25 Attendee (no meals),

\$35 (under age 30), **\$65** (over age 30) Lunch on Friday and breakfast on Saturday will be provided.

Please Register by: February 22, 2019

Please contact John Owen for more information.



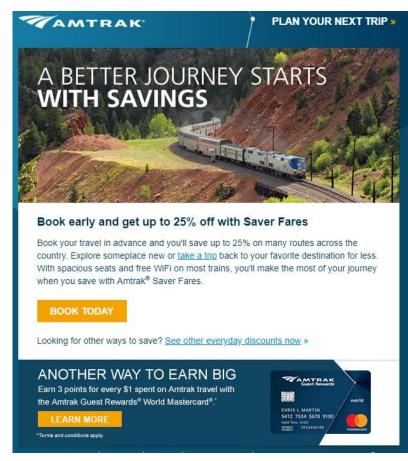
The Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance is a not for profit organization of concerned citizens, working to bring modern, 21st Century passenger rail systems to Indiana. We believe such systems are one of the keys to Indiana's economic success in the new century.

Goals for Indiana:

- Improve the Chicago-Indianapolis-Louisville-Cincinnati corridor (The Hoosier State)
- Build the Chicago-Fort Wayne corridor
- Expand the NW Indiana South Shore commuter system
- Develop light rail commuter systems for Central Indiana

Modern transit systems are demanded by the work force now coming of age, and expected by 21st Century businesses considering locations for expansion.



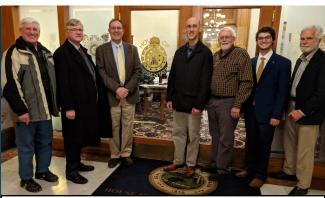


Bullets from the Board

By **Steve Coxhead**, President, Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance

The Board of the Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance (IPRA) met on Thursday, January 24, 2019 at the downtown office of Faegre Baker Daniels in Indianapolis. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon and adjourned at 2:00 pm. Here are the highlights.

- Mr. Logan Day was congratulated on being elected to the IPRA Board.
- A lengthy discussion revolved around the unexpected announcement that Governor Holcomb's draft budget for the coming biennium contains no Indiana funding in support of the Hoosier State passenger train. If unchanged, this would result in the Hoosier State being discontinued beyond July 2019. IPRA members will reach out to members of the 121st General Assembly to attempt to correct this situation. All IPRA members and friends are invited and encouraged to join in this effort, by contacting your Indiana State Representative. See front page for more information.
- After the Board meeting, several IPRA members walked



(Left to Right) Phil Streby, Steve Coxhead, Tod Bassler, Logan Day, Duane Chattin, Chandler Likes, Tim Watson

over to the Indiana State House to meet with a number of State Representatives & Assistants (like Chandler pictured) to discuss the *Hoosier State*.

- The new **Indiana budget** must be passed from the House to the Senate about **February 25**th so please contact your State Representative immediately! Funding for the **Hoosier State** must be restored to the budget by that time.
- In order to attract more members, the IPRA membership dues structure has changed effective immediately.

 Regular membership will be \$25 per 12-month period with Student & Senior (65+) being \$15.
- A proposal was made and accepted to change this newsletter's publishing schedule from monthly to bimonthly starting July 2019. This means that this year there will be 9 issues of All Aboard Indiana.
- IPRA members will continue the dialogue with the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) concerning support for passenger rail in our State.
- IPRA members will continue reach out to the Governor's staff to initiate a dialogue at that level concerning more extensive support for passenger rail in our state.
- Greater use of social media, such as Twitter and LinkedIn, to spread our message will be seen over the coming year, in coordination with the existing Facebook page. Anyone interested in getting involved with this initiative should contact us via email here.
- Along with an increased use of social media, the coming year will see a major clean up and modernization of the IPRA website. Content will be streamlined and made more relevant. Anyone interested in getting involved with this initiative should contact us via email here.
- A more active outreach to southern Indiana will be seen in 2019 in an attempt to effectively articulate that area's needs and desires for modern passenger rail systems.

(continued)

("Bullets from the Board" continued from page 6)

The next IPRA Board meeting will be held on Saturday, March 23, 2019 (i.e. this time it's on the 4th Saturday instead of the usual 4th Thursday on odd numbered month) in Seymour! All IPRA members are welcome to attend!

What: IPRA Board Meeting

When: Saturday, March 23, 2019 from 12:00 noon to 2:00 PM Eastern (Indianapolis) Time

Where: Jackson County Public Library, 303 West Sec-

ond St, Seymour, IN 47274

Food: Sandwiches will be brought in so that we may have a working lunch

Those planning to attend this board meeting are requested to respond to the meeting announcement so that we may plan adequately. Please watch your e-mail for more details as this meeting's date approaches.

For your plans, future IRPA Board Meetings are scheduled for these year 2019 Thursdays: May 23rd, July 25th, September 26th & November 21st.

Don't forget to include the *Hoosier State*, the *Cardinal* and other Amtrak services in your travel plans. Heavy ridership is the most important weapon we have in the fight to improve rail passenger service in Indiana.

Finally, please talk with your State Representative about Indiana's commitment to modern, 21st Century transportation systems. They do listen. Also, let us know about your conversations regarding passenger rail in Indiana by sending a message via email here.

Riding the Rails

By **Tod K Bassler,** Editor – *All Aboard Indiana*, Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance

HOOSIER STATE Update-

- The On-Time Performance (OTP) of the Hoosier State train for the most recent six months (with a 6-month average of 87%) is:
 - August 2018 94%
 - September 2018 91%
 - October 2018 83%
 - November 2018 74%
 - December 2018 89%
 - January 2019 88%
- Ridership (up 8.6%) and revenue have been trending up

- every month since [start of fiscal year] July 2018!
- Radio advertisements for the *Hoosier State* started in mid-November 2018 in Indianapolis & Lafayette
- This information is courtesy of the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT)



See INDOT's website here for more information

CANCELLING THE CENTRAL INDIANA LIGHT RAIL BAN PASSED IN HOUSE COMMITTEE – Indiana House Bill HB-1365 was put in front of the Indiana House Roads and Transportation committee on February 6, 2019 and passed with votes 10-2. This bill now goes to the Indiana Senate.

INDYGO TO FINISH CONSTRUCTION OF RED LINE BRT IN INDIANAPOLIS BY END OF SUMMER –The completion of construction for the IndyGo Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Red Line between University of Indianapolis and Broad Ripple via downtown has been moved up 4 months. This will reduce the negative impact of construction on people and allow this much anticipated service to start sooner!

TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT (TOD) IS STARTING TO SURFACE IN INDIANAPOLIS —The Indianapolis Neighborhood Housing Partnership has created a \$15 million loan fund intended to create and preserve affordable housing along the city's transit routes. (This news thanks to Indianapolis Business Journal)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2019 = THE DAY AMTRAK IN CHICAGO STOOD STILL —The -20 degrees Fahrenheit was enough for Amtrak to call it quits for a day in Chicago, where they typically run 55 trains per day. While Metra lit their tracks on fire to warm them, Amtrak played it safe. Years ago, trains were known to be the only all-weather mode of transportation.

DOWNTOWN DRIVING TAX COULD FIX URBAN TRAFFIC CONGESTION – Seattle's Mayor wants to *toll* folks who drive downtown. It's about time we get with the plan that already works in many other cities like London and Gothenburg. See online here for this good article. (This news courtesy of **Josh Cohen** at *Crosscut*) (continued)

("Riding the Rails" continued from page 7)

PLEASE SIGN THE ILLINOIS FAST TRACK PETITION – Passenger Rail improvements in Illinois will also benefit Indiana (embarrassment is a great motivator). Please go online here and tell Illinois Governor Pritzker and members of the Illinois General Assembly that you want to see modern rail transportation in Illinois. (This request courtesy of *Midwest High Speed Rail Association*)

CHICAGO UNION STATION MODERNIZATION PLANS GET U.S. CONGRESSIONAL BOOST – The new chairman of a key U.S. House panel wants to motivate officials who aren't moving fast enough to improve Chicago Union Station. Read this good article online here. (This news thanks to Greg Hinz at Crain's Chicago Business)

INDIANAPOLIS-CHICAGO AMTRAK ROUTE IS BIKE FRIENDLY – Don't forget that bicycles are accepted between Indianapolis and Chicago aboard both the Amtrak *Hoosier State* and Amtrak *Cardinal* trains. Read this article online here. (This news courtesy of *Amtrak Media Relations*)

SECURE RAIL CONFERENCE 2019 IS IN ORLANDO IN MAY

– Registration is now open for the SECURE RAIL Conference on May 1-2, 2019 in Orlando, Florida. Rail security professionals are welcome to register online here.

THE INFRASTRUCTURAL HUMILIATION OF AMERICA -

This article is a good read about the deplorable state of our Country's transportation infrastructure. If anything, it should motivate you to jump in and help fix the problem. See online here for this good article. (This news thanks to **Jon Evans** at **TechCrunch**)

GLENVIEW ILLINOIS SPENDING MORE THAN HALF MIL-LION TO OPPOSE AMTRAK HIAWATHA EXPANSION – A

proposal to increase the daily 7 roundtrips between Chicago & Milwaukee to 10 has got this Chicagoland community up in arms. Is this being cautious or NIMBY? Hmm... Read this good article online here. (This news courtesy of John Greenfield at Streetsblog Chicago)

Discounts

Amtrak - The Rail Passengers Association (RPA) members save 10% online at www.amtrak.com if booked three or more days in advance. Select the NARP discount on Amtrak's website.

Rail Passengers Association (RPA) (a.k.a. NARP) members have a benefit... MemberDeals. Current RPA members will find details on RPA's website. If you're not an RPA member, this is a great time to join!

STUDENTS CAN SAVE ON AMTRAK MIDWEST TRAVEL -

If you're a traveling student, please go online here and learn how you can save money travelling on Amtrak!

YOUR KIDS GET A 50% DISCOUNT WHEN TRAVELING WITH YOU – Please go online <u>here</u> and learn how you can save money when travelling with your children on Amtrak!

Crowne Plaza Union Station in *Indianapolis*: Selecting Corporate ID = **6972** will give you the Amtrak rate of **\$134** per night (King or two Double beds). You can also request an historic train car room for **\$154** per night (King or 2 Double beds). The cancellation policy is 48 hours and these rates will be available until December **31**, 2019. You can also call the hotel directly at **317-631-2221** and ask for the Amtrak rate.

For More Information

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

To learn more about IPRA, please visit on our website: https://www.indianahighspeedrail.org

...or contact us at our mailing address: Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance 125 West South Street, # 662 Indianapolis, IN 46206-0662

...or at email address: info@indianahighspeedrail.org

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IPRA Membership

Membership, which has just been reduced by \$5/year, can be purchased online at https://www.indianahighspeedrail.org. You are also welcome to print and mail the form on the following page.

Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance

A one-year membership in the Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance is only \$15 (Student/Senior 65+) or \$25 (Member)

Join or renew at http://www.indianahighspeedrail.org/join.html

Please mail check to: Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance, 125 West South Street, Unit 662, Indianapolis, Indiana 46206-0662

Name:		
Address:		
City:		
State:		
Zip Code:	-	
E-mail:		