

2017 Indiana State Rail Plan – Statement of Position

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Website

www.indianahighspeedrail.org

E-mail

info@indianahighspeedrail.org

The Indiana Passenger Rail Alliance (IPRA) would like to express its' appreciation to the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) for providing the public with an opportunity to provide input to the 2017 Indiana State Rail Plan. IPRA would like to express the hope that the Rail Plan would include significant improvements to service in the Hoosier State passenger rail corridor.

1. Double the number of frequencies, resulting in two trains in each direction, each day.
2. Adjust schedules so as to incorporate later departure times from Indianapolis.
3. Determine a permanent source of funding for any state investment found to be necessary.
4. Press for resolution of the congestion problem between Chicago Union Station and Dyer, Indiana.
5. Set a goal of reducing Chicago-Indianapolis travel time to 3.5 hours by 2022.
6. Rehabilitate Indianapolis Union Station into a modern, 21st Century, bus-rail facility.

In addition, we fully support the efforts of the Northern Indiana Passenger Rail Association (NIPRA) in its' efforts to bring modern passenger rail to northern Indiana.

The Northern Indiana Passenger Rail Association (NIPRA) continues to work hand in hand with local and regional governments—including the City of Fort Wayne—as well as private entities across northern Indiana and Ohio. NIPRA's mission is to make regular passenger rail trips available from Chicago to Gary, Valparaiso, Plymouth, Warsaw and into Fort Wayne and on to Lima, Ohio and eventually on through to Columbus, Ohio and Toledo, Ohio. Significant funds have already been committed by multiple private and public entities to create a sound foundation for funding the required federal environmental approval process, which is anticipated in the near future.

While understanding that change can take time and that funding is often problematic, IPRA would hope that the new Rail Plan charts a course into the future, and thus serves to drive progress.