



# IOWA RAILS

IOWA ASSOCIATION OF RAILROAD PASSENGERS

====March 2009====

## IARP to meet in Coralville

Our next meeting is Saturday, March 14, 2009, at 1:00 pm at the Johnson County Historical Society Museum, 860 Quarry Road, Coralville, Iowa, across from the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center.

Prior to the meeting, at Noon attendees may enjoy an optional buffet lunch. Cost for the buffet is \$8.00

Following the meeting, members will have the opportunity to visit the Hawkeye Model Railroad Club in the same building.

The program includes:

Patrick Hendricks, President, IARP  
Passenger rail update

Dick Welch, Iowa representative to the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP) Council.

### Topics:

- ◇ Federal legislation supporting the national passenger train system
- ◇ Midwest Regional Rail Initiative
- ◇ Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission
- ◇ Iowa DOT
- ◇ Cedar – Iowa River Rail Transit Project
- ◇ Proposed Passenger Train Service to Dubuque
- ◇ Proposed Passenger Train Service to the Quad Cities and Iowa City
- ◇ The stimulus package and passenger train service



## **Iowa Department of Transportation asks Iowa Legislators and Governor Culver for Special Capital Allocations for Iowa Passenger Trains**

January 2009 – Tami Nicholson, director of the Iowa Department of Transportation’s Office of Rail, and Kevin Brubaker, Deputy Director of the Chicago-based Environmental Law & Policy Center met with Iowa legislators. They updated the legislators about passenger train service between Chicago to Quad Cities and Iowa City and passenger train service between Chicago and Dubuque. Both informed the Iowa legislators that Illinois officials are aggressively pursuing available funding.

The Iowa Department of Transportation has printed a booklet “Iowa Connections – Get on Board with Passenger Rail.” It is also available online.



The Iowa Department of Transportation, working with the State of Illinois, Iowa cities, planning organizations and advocacy groups has created a bold new vision called “**Iowa Connections.**”

The vision is to create a passenger rail network that connects Iowans to each other and the country, and make Iowa a more attractive place to live, work and visit.

**Passenger train service can benefit Iowans:**

- ◇ Energy efficient to promote energy independence
- ◇ Fewer greenhouse gas emissions for healthier Iowans and a better environment
- ◇ Business environment that can create and attract new and retain existing jobs
- ◇ Enhanced business and university recruitment
- ◇ More travel options
- ◇ Access to travel for those who do not and cannot drive
- ◇ Speedy and straightforward boarding
- ◇ Productive travel time with use of laptops and cell phones enroute
- ◇ Benefit to freight rail service from infrastructure improvements to support passenger trains

**The time is now to get on board** – encourage your state legislators to invest in passenger train service.



Additional Amtrak studies have been requested for the following routes:

- Between Iowa City and Des Moines
- Between Dubuque and Waterloo

Iowans deserve passenger trains in Ft. Madison,  
Between Burlington, Mt. Pleasant, Ottumwa, Osceola, Creston  
Quad Cities, Iowa City, Des Moines  
Dubuque and Waterloo

## Stimulus Package and Passenger Rail

The stimulus package includes \$8 billion for capital assistance for high speed rail corridors and intercity train passenger service. This money can make the proposed passenger trains a reality.

Did you know --

- The U.S. Department of Transportation estimates that 42,000 jobs are created for every \$1 billion spent on transportation infrastructure.
- Every \$1 billion invested in rail creates 20,000 green jobs.
- Quad Cities Amtrak service is estimated to create 550-825 jobs, increase household income by \$11-16 million, and increase property values by \$52-75 million.
- Illinois recently prioritized the Chicago to Quad Cities and Chicago to Rockford Amtrak routes for stimulus funding because of the 4,700 jobs that would be created statewide.

We need to make sure that Rockford to Dubuque and Quad Cities to Iowa City become priorities in Iowa.

A copy of the stimulus package can be located at <http://elpc.org/american-recovery-and-reinvestment-information>



In order to celebrate 30 years of state-supported trains in Missouri, Amtrak and MODOT (Missouri Department of Transportation) sponsored a NAME THE TRAIN contest. The new name for the passenger train between St. Louis and Kansas City is....

***MISSOURI RIVER RUNNER***

Congratulations to Missouri for 30 years of state-supported passenger trains!

# **Eliot Keller is awarded the 1<sup>st</sup> Eliot Keller Award**

IARP awarded Eliot this award at our September meeting. This award will be presented to persons who provide dedicated and ceaseless efforts to bring fast and frequent passenger train service to the state of Iowa.

## **Dick Welch will serve as Iowa's representative to the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP)**

With reorganization, Iowa is now part of the Midwest Council. This includes the states of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Ohio and Wisconsin.

Iowa will continue to work with Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming (the states of former Region 10)

Congratulations, Dick, on being named the Iowa representative!

### **IARP GOALS**

**Continued support of the *California Zephyr***

**Work with the *California Zephyr* support group**

**Continued support of the *Southwest Chief***

**Work to establish service between Dubuque and Chicago**

**Work to establish service between Iowa City, Quad Cities and Chicago.**

**Supporting all these routes give Iowans more transportation choices**

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