



Iowa Rails

Iowa Association of railroad passengers

November 2012



November 17, 2012 meeting in Des Moines

We will meet at 11:30 am at the Iowa State Bar Association Headquarters, 625 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50309 (515) 243-3179

Built in 1902, The Iowa State Bar Association Headquarters is in the former Ft. Dodge, Des Moines and Southern Freight Depot.

Speaker information and tentative agenda are listed on pages 2 and 3.

We will order lunches from "In the Bag". It is IMPORTANT that you RSVP so that we will have a lunch for you. (see page 3)

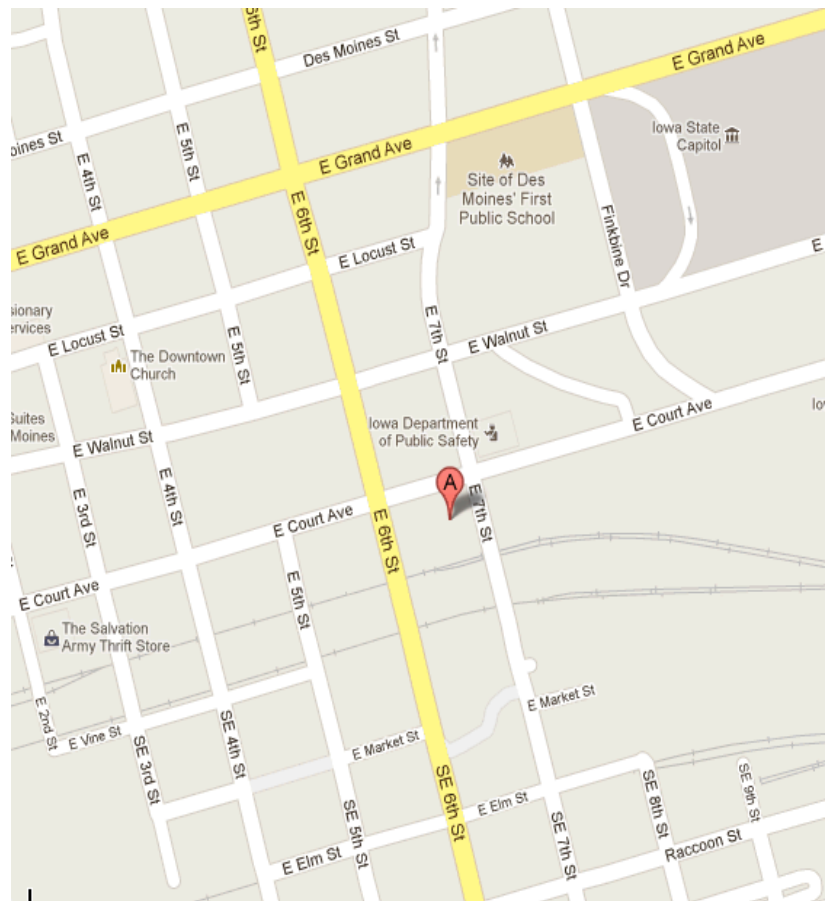
Directions

FROM THE EAST:

Take Exit 8B (I-235) East 6th/Penn Street. Turn left onto East 6th Street. Turn left onto East Court Avenue. The Iowa State Bar Association is on the right.

FROM THE WEST:

Take Exit 8B (I-235) East 6th/Penn Street. Turn right onto East 6th Street. Turn left onto East Court Avenue. The Iowa State Bar Association is on the right.



Speakers



Paul Trombino is Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Prior to being appointed director, Mr. Trombino worked at the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for 17 years.

He will speak on passenger rail in Iowa.

William Sharp is vice president and senior transportation engineer with HDR, Inc. Mr. Sharp served as project manager on the Iowa DOT Intercity Passenger rail Chicago to Iowa City environmental assessment and service development plan and currently serves as the project manager Iowa DOT Chicago to Omaha study.

Mr. Sharp will give us an update on the Chicago to Omaha study.



Steve Falck is a senior policy advocate for the Environmental Law Policy Center (ELPC) in Des Moines. He previously worked as Director of State Government Relations for Renewable Energy Group, Inc. and as a policy advisor and legislative liaison for Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack. He served as an Iowa State Representative for three terms representing Iowa House 28 constituents.

Mr. Falck will talk to us about passenger rail advocacy.

LUNCH

Lunches will be catered by "In the bag - lunches". The cost will be \$10.00 per person. Please RSVP by November 15 to be guaranteed a lunch.

AGENDA

- 11:30 Gordon Canfield will welcome all in attendance.
 The Honorable Mayor Cownie will welcome us to Des Moines.
 Introduction of members and guests
- 12:00 Lunch. Gordon Canfield will introduce our keynote speaker, Paul Trombino
 Director of the Iowa Department of Transportation.
- Will Sharp, HDR
- Steve Falck, ELPC
- We will have a short business meeting following our speakers
 Treasurer's Report
 Secretary's Report
 Update on Chicago - Dubuque passenger train
- Report on publicity activities
 IARP at the Farm Progress Show
 Social Media Efforts Report

Have you been to IARP's Twitter or Facebook page?

FACEBOOK <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Iowa-Association-of-Railroad-Passengers/397496803647317?ref=ts&fref=ts>

You can also access Facebook from the IARP website.

TWITTER
<https://twitter.com/RidelowaRails>

Dana Noble is doing a great job with twitter and facebook. Check them out

Promotion of Passenger Rail in Des Moines, Iowa

2012 has been a busy year for the promotion of passenger rail in Iowa. Six members of the Iowa Association of Railroad Passengers have been involved: Paul Davis, our Marketing Director, Jon Fussell, Mike Kulik, Dave Risvold, and Judy Risvold, an IARP Board member.

The year started on Train Day, May 12th, with a booth at the Des Moines Farmers Market. During our five hour run there, thanks to the Downtown Community Alliance, we handed out over 1000 train whistles to kids and had 137 IDOT Passenger Rail surveys filled out by their parents.



We continued at the Des Moines Farmers Market the following week, May 19th. This time, much to the disappointment of the kids, without the train whistles, but had 122 completed IDOT Passenger Rail surveys turned in.

Dave Risvold had an opportunity to represent passenger rail at the Elkhart, Iowa Pig and Lamb Roast on July 23rd. That night he collected over 30 Passenger Rail surveys – many with barbeque sauce on them!

Using his own funds, Dave Risvold also had a booth at the Farm Progress Show on Aug 28th, 29th, and 30th. He was able to talk with many people about passenger rail in Iowa. Dave said, "I had a great time! It was over 100 degrees, but people were friendly and willing to stop and talk." He had about 90 completed surveys turned in and handed out another 350. **(If you see Dave, help him out with the costs - \$750 for the space and \$110 for insurance, both out of his own pocket!)**



Our next opportunity at the Farmers Market was Saturday, September 29th. We were able to get approximately 80 people to complete the IDOT Passenger Rail Survey.

We also participated in one of the first Wednesday Farmers Markets on Oct. 3rd, with about 50 surveys completed by the public and another 20 or so handed out to be mailed in.

Our most recent event was at the IMT Insurance Marathon on October 19th and 20th when we had 179 surveys completed and another 25 or so handed out.

Thanks to all the IARP volunteers who man the booths and thanks to the Downtown Community Alliance for providing us with the space to talk to the public about passenger rail in Iowa.

Submitted by Jon Fussell

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Barbara Andersen of the Downtown Des Moines Alliance has created a new website, Barb is the Public Transportation Planning and Policy Manager for the alliance.

www.allaboardforiowa.com

She has also created a Facebook page for them.

I encourage you to visit the website and Facebook page.



Penny Roeder will be sharing information on the Chicago to Dubuque route at the November 17 meeting.

They are continuing to recruit advocates. They are seeking advocates at colleges, the farmers market, and events at the historic mill district.

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A copy of the Executive Order from the University of Iowa Student Government Association pertaining to the Chicago to Omaha Passenger Rail Project is below:



September 17, 2012

University of Iowa Student Government

Executive Order 1

By the President:


- Whereas: The Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail project will connect the cities of Chicago, Illinois and Council Bluffs, Iowa in which Iowa City will be linking station (stop); and
- Whereas: Regional rail service would bring added benefits to the State of Iowa including transportation oriented development, reduced travel times, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, alternative options for travel, and improved travel reliability; and
- Whereas: The University of Iowa community would realize added benefits including opportunities to market the University, regionally connect alumni, family, and friends, and offer new and future students with opportunities to connect on a regional level.

Therefore, by virtue of the power vested in me by the University of Iowa Student Government, it is hereby

Ordered: UISG endorses and supports the Iowa City City Council in its efforts to move forward in plan to develop the Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail project, furthermore, UISG urges the State of Iowa to approve measures to encourage the development of the Chicago to Omaha Regional Passenger Rail project.

SO ORDERED

Authorized this 17th day of September, 2012

Signature: 

UISG President, Nicholas D. Pottebaum

IARP CONTACTS

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website:

WWW.iowarailpassengers.org



Upcoming Events

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|-------------------|--|
| November 10, 2012 | Hawkeye Express (University of Iowa home football game) |
| November 17, 2012 | IARP meeting in Des Moines |
| November 22, 2012 | Hawkeye Express (University of Iowa home football game) |
| December 05, 2012 | Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be in Muscatine, Iowa (7:45 pm) |
| December 06, 2012 | Canadian Pacific Holiday Train will be in Davenport (2:00 pm)
Clinton (4:30 pm), Bellevue (7:00 pm) and Dubuque (8:45 pm) |
| February 2013 | Pro Rail Nebraska meeting (date & place TBD) |



Iowa Association of Railroad
Passengers 1422 West 9 Street
Davenport, Iowa 52804-4018

IARP MEETING

November 17, 2012

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