



## March 2, 2013 meeting in Grinnell, Iowa



We will meet at 11:30 am at the Iowa Transportation Museum, 927 4th Avenue, Grinnell, Iowa. (641) 236-9860. [www.iowatransportationmuseum.com](http://www.iowatransportationmuseum.com). From I-80, head north into Grinnell. Turn left at Fourth avenue and travel two blocks to Spring Street. There is plenty of parking in the lot on the west side of the building. All spaces are handicap accessible and there is an elevator in the building.

We will be given a tour of the Iowa Transportation Museum.

Please call or email Mary Buczek that you will attend. We need a count for a tour and we also need a count if you plan to eat a sack lunch.

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phone: (563) 323-3390

Our guest speaker will be Steve Falck.

Steve 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., policy advisor and legislative liaison for Governor Tom Vilsack, and served as an Iowa Representative for three terms.



As members of the Iowa Association of Railroad Passengers, we are well aware of progress on the Chicago to Council Bluffs–Omaha rail project and the need for the current legislative session to allocate funding for progress to continue. If the needed funding is not allocated, there is a possibility the U.S. Department of Transportation will reclaim the remaining funds, moving them to a state which is progressing with their plan and requesting more money. Iowa may be required to return millions of dollars of federal funds.

Working alone, it is difficult to make our voice heard where it counts – in the Iowa Legislature. The Iowa Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) and others are hosting a gathering of many organizations on March 18<sup>th</sup> on the rotunda in the State Capital building. By joining with them, we can multiply our efforts. If you think it is possible to be present, send me your e-mail address so that I can provide updates as planning progresses.

Our message must be straightforward and consistent by all: “Fund Passenger Rail,” House File #xxxx, this session. Then add your reasons why. Don’t let that reason distract from the main message so the main message gets lost. “FUND PASSENGER RAIL.”

Each of us should make a personal effort toward our goal, at the Capital, if possible. Many of our members will not or cannot be at the Capital. However, they can be a part of our effort. Each Iowan resides in a precinct represented by a State Senator and a State Representative. Get to know them, if you don’t already. Send each an e-mail or visit, if possible, explaining your interest in continuing the rail movement. Some will represent districts far from the rail line. However, their vote is equal to every other senator or representative’s vote. Possibly your member representative will choose to refrain from voting because no one has expressed interest because the tracks are far from his area. You could be the only person to express an opinion. Your call or e-mail may show there is local interest. A contact on the March day could generate a “YAA” vote.

Paul Davis

Marketing Director IARP

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*Ride the Rail is a volunteer group of local citizens in response to ENVISION, a local grassroots process, run by volunteers that engaged Dubuque and tri-state area citizens in a community visioning process in an open, all-inclusive discussion developing a variety of ideas for the future of greater Dubuque and the tri-state area. Over 2500 ideas were submitted to a Selection Committee, who reviewed all suggestions and refined the list down to 100 ideas, then to 30 ideas, and finally in a community-wide evaluation process to 10 ideas that could become community projects. Passenger rail was included in the final ten objectives. Ride the Rail's mission advocates for the development of passenger train service for business and pleasure travel to out-of-town accommodations, meetings and conventions, attractions or cultural events and makes travel accommodations easier for tourists to visit our community. Ride the Rail considers the following resolution and forwards the resolution to legislators of our State of Iowa for action.*

#### RESOLUTION

##### COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM

**WHEREAS** the State of Iowa is a national leader and high producer of ethanol fuels, grain, agricultural and industrial equipment and other manufactured goods exported to the forty-nine other states and the world;

**AND WHEREAS** the State of Iowa's continued leadership demands and is dependent on a well-maintained, comprehensive and competitive transportation system including highway, rail and air service;

**AND WHEREAS** there are presently discretionary funds for necessary maintenance and improvement of highway and air transportation systems with none for rail transportation;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the State of Iowa general budget includes a designated general fund allocation for the maintenance and improvement of a competitive railroad system and the Department of Transportation administer said funds.

Moved and passed by Ride the Rail this 10<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2012.

  
David A. Solberg, Chair

  
Penny Roeder, Secretary

## WHAT DOES THE DES MOINES WINTER MARKET AND SKYWALK GOLF HAVE TO DO WITH IOWA PASSENGER RAIL?

It seems the folks in Des Moines will use any public gathering to promote passenger rail in Iowa.

On December 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of last year, we had the opportunity to attend the Winter Market in Des Moines, thanks to Barb Anderson of the Downtown Community Alliance. Our location allowed us to “pitch” passenger rail to all the people entering the market, as such we were able to fill out 332 IDOT surveys to show public support for Iowa passenger rail. We were pleasantly surprised at the number of people that had heard about it and were in favor and supported our efforts. Thanks to Barb Anderson, Paul Davis, Jon Fussell, Mike Kulik, and Dave Risvold for their efforts.



Members of IARP had the opportunity to create a “passenger rail” golf hole in the 28<sup>th</sup> Skywalk Golf Classic in Des Moines on Saturday, February 2, 2013. With a short lead time of a little over one week, the team of Paul Davis (IARP Marketing Director), Jon Fussell, Mike Kulik, and Dave Risvold, put together a “Putt for the Train to Omaha” hole. Through the rail viaduct, through the Des Moines Rock Island Station, to the hole in Omaha. The event had a great turnout and while the golfers were waiting to putt, we could discuss passenger rail and fill out IDOT surveys and PIRG cards for the Governor. Thanks to all for their hard work and railroad cars on the golf hole.





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## Upcoming Events

- |                |                                   |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|
| March 2, 2013  | IARP meeting in Grinnell          |
| March 18, 2013 | PIRG hosts a Day at Iowa Capital  |
| April 6, 2013  | WisARP meeting in Wisconsin Dells |





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

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# IARP MEETING

*March 2, 2013*

## 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**