



ALL ABOARD MINNESOTA

P.O. Box 4212, St Paul, Minnesota 55104
www.allboardmn.org

Help make more passenger trains in Minnesota a reality

Expanding passenger rail services in Minnesota takes the combined effort of local elected officials, business and community leaders, and residents. Your involvement is welcome and vital to the success of the vision of All Aboard Minnesota. There are three different levels of involvement that you can participate in. Find the level that is right for you and start spreading the word about increased passenger rail opportunities!

Experience Trains

Have you experienced passenger rail firsthand? Did you enjoy traveling by train? Do you want more opportunities to travel by train? This level is for you, get more info from our website, follow us on Facebook, and tell others about your interest in passenger rail.

- Like All Aboard Minnesota on Facebook and participate in discussions.
- Consider educating and motivating your co-workers and elected officials to get involved. Get the word out!
- Keep up with recent train news and other project details via MnDOT and share it with your network.

Get Involved

Love train travel, but ready for things to start moving a little faster down the track? Contact us at our site: allboardmn.org, or through our email at: allboardminneosta@gmail.com. Lend your story and voice to a supporter spotlight and let us know how increased passenger rail options would affect you.

- Attend public hearings and meetings to get updates and provide feedback. MnDOT Public Engagement efforts can be seen [here](#).
- Share your story with us! Let us know how more rail passenger service would benefit you. Where would you go by train, where do you want to go by train? Email us your story at allboardminnesota@gmail.com or share your story on our Facebook page.

Get More Involved

Ready to take action to the people who make the decisions? Get more involved by writing letters to your local newspaper, visiting and emailing your legislators, and encouraging others to do the same. It takes a powerful network of supporters to make things happen, lead the way!

- Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Tips for a great letter are below.
- Contact your legislators, they want to hear from you! Tips for reaching out to legislators are below.
- Contact All Aboard Minnesota to make your opinions about passenger rail options known. You can also call us: 612-781-2894

We advocate for:

- The MnDot State Rail Passenger rail plan which includes
 - The Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Second Train, a daily round trip passenger train between the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago and extending this service to St. Cloud and Fargo
 - New service which includes Twin Cities to Des Moines, IA and Kansas City
 - New service Twin Cities to Duluth
- 2018 legislative request of \$1 million to complete environmental work and service planning for the TCMC Second Train project
- 2018 legislative request of \$3 million for Minnesota's share of final design costs for the TCMC Second Train project.
- 2018 legislative request of \$7 million for Minnesota's share of environmental work and service planning for the rest of MnDot's State Rail Passenger plan as outlined above
- A vision of faster, expanded passenger rail service between Fargo, St. Cloud, the Twin Cities and Chicago

Contacting your Legislators

Some of us are a bit nervous or may feel intimidated about contacting their legislators. And do they really want to hear from us – would my call make a difference?

The answer is that legislators really do want to hear from their constituents. They want to know what is important to you, they want to hear from you, and there's no reason to be intimidated. Your voice is very important, so contacting your legislators is an excellent way to play a role in our democracy. Here are some suggestions.

During the Legislative session

Legislators are very busy during legislative sessions. Your communication should be brief and concise. In a voicemail or email:

1. Immediately state why you are contacting them. (e.g. "I am calling about the TCMC Second Train)
2. In a sentence, describe how you feel about the project (for or against).
3. In a sentence or two, describe why you feel that way – it's best to personalize your statement by describing how the project would impact you. (e.g. "More frequent trains between the Twin Cities and Chicago would help me get to and from college." Or, "I would like to have another option to use to visit family along the Mississippi River Route.")
4. To schedule an in-person meeting, contact your representatives Legislative Assistant.
5. During an in-person visit, leave a brief summary of the reason you are visiting your legislator so they can add it to their file.

During the Off-Season

Legislators may have a bit more time to discuss issues. You can send email or call, but a personal visit may be more effective.

1. Invite your legislators to your company or home. However, agree to meet at a different location if it is more convenient for them. It may be possible to meet with a few legislators at the same time, but it may be more effective if you schedule individual meetings.
2. If a meeting is not possible, send your legislators a personalized letter or email.
3. Outline for them—in your own words and with information specific to your situation—your concerns on the issue of mobility, the environment, transportation options, or frequency of service. Tell them how you think more rail passenger service option in Minnesota will impact your situation.
4. Legislators don't want to hear canned talking points, they want to hear real stories that they can share with other constituents and legislators.

Who represents me?

Learn who your Senator and House representatives are [here](http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/) - <http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

Follow legislative progress

Learn how to [track bills](#), and find out what is being discussed on the floor or in committee.

<https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/trackbill>

What makes a good letter to the editor?

Newspapers love to hear from readers who want to share their opinions. It helps communities know what is happening, raises awareness of issues, and your local legislator often reads the paper.

Strategy

- The most effective letters have writers speaking from their personal experience - relate a story of why more passenger rail service is important to you. How would you use it? Do you have customers that might take a train to your business?
- Take a look at our website. Some of the benefits of passenger rail we mention might be important to you.
- Note that All Aboard Minnesota is supporting the MnDot State Rail plan.

Logistics

- Check with your local publication for any rules and when and how to send a letter to the editor.
- Typically, letters should be brief, up to 250 words.
- Address them: To the editor:
- Include the writer's name, address, occupation and telephone numbers (work and home).
- For Star Tribune, or other larger circulation newspapers, all submissions must be exclusive in Minnesota.