



TWIN CITIES-MILWAUKEE-CHICAGO Intercity Passenger Rail Service

Public Involvement Summary

March 2021 Engagement Activities

St. Paul



Red Wing



Winona



MINNESOTA

La Crosse



Tomah



Wisconsin Dells
Portage



Columbus



Milwaukee



General Mitchell
International
Airport

Sturtevant



Glenview



ILLINOIS

Chicago



LAKE MICHIGAN

WISCONSIN

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction..... 1**
- 2. Local Official Meeting..... 1**
- 3. Public Presentation 1**
- 4. Project Feedback..... 2**
 - 4.1. Comment Summary 2
 - 4.2. Main Themes..... 4

List of Appendices

- Appendix A: Email Notices, Post Card Mailer and Press Releases (pages A-1 to A-55)
- Appendix B: Local Official Presentation and Public Presentation (pages B-1 to B-16)
- Appendix C: Stakeholder and Public Comments (pages C-1 to C-321)

1. Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), in coordination with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), conducted public engagement activities in March 2021 to provide an update for the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Intercity Passenger Rail project to local officials, stakeholders and the public about the project's anticipated project schedule, service improvements and proposed railroad construction work. This report documents the meetings, notices, presentations, and comment responses.

2. Local Official Meeting

Meeting Format

WisDOT and MnDOT hosted an online local official meeting on March 16, 2021 at 11 a.m. for the TCMC project. Meeting participants were invited to join a YouTube Live meeting, listen to a presentation, and submit questions to DOTTCMC@dot.wi.gov that were answered during the live event. Approximately 45 attendees joined the online meeting.

The presentation provided attendees information on the progress of the TCMC project, preferred route and service levels, and proposed railroad improvements needed to operate the service. A copy of the PowerPoint slides used during the local officials meeting can be found in **Appendix A**.

Meeting Notifications

Email notifications were distributed to local government staff and local, state, and federal elected officials along the corridor in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The first email notice was sent on Tuesday, March 2, 2021 and a reminder was sent on March 15, 2021. Copies of the email notifications are in **Appendix B**.

3. Public Presentation

Meeting Format

WisDOT and MnDOT prepared a self-guided prerecorded public presentation that was released to the public and posted to YouTube on Thursday, March 18, 2021. A presentation link was also available on WisDOT's TCMC webpage. The TCMC public presentation provided viewers information on the progress of the project, preferred route and service levels, and proposed railroad improvements needed to operate the service. The presentation received over 1,320 views on YouTube. A copy of the PowerPoint slides can be found in **Appendix A**.

Notifications

On March 18th, email notifications were sent to a distribution list of over 550 local government staff, local, state and federal elected officials and project stakeholders along the corridor in Wisconsin and Minnesota. The email notification informed them about the public presentation release and invited project feedback through an online comment form.

Postcard mailers with project-feedback information and presentation access were mailed to nearly 2,500 addresses adjacent to the project improvement sites in Wisconsin and Minnesota on Wednesday, March 3, 2021.

WisDOT and MnDOT also prepared and distributed news releases to media on March 19, 2021 and March 25, 2021, respectively.

After comments were received and closed to the public, another email notification was sent to the distribution list informing local officials and stakeholders of the numerous comments that were received and being considered during the advancement of the TCMC project.

The email notices and distribution list, postcard mailer, and news releases are shown in **Appendix B**.

4. Project Feedback

Local official meeting attendees, presentation viewers, and the general public were encouraged to submit feedback on the project through an online comment form linked to WisDOT and MnDOT TCMC project webpages. Links to the comment form and how to submit feedback to the project team were provided at the end of both presentations, in the postcard mailers, and in the email notifications and news releases.

4.1. Comment Summary

Nearly 3,900 comments were received from the time of the local officials meeting and public presentation to the comment submittal deadline (March 16 – April 9, 2021). Of the total comments received, 74 percent indicated they were in favor of the project and 10 percent indicated they were leaning in favor of the project. Twelve percent remained neutral and 4 percent indicated they were less or not in favor of the project (see Figure 1). Figure 2 shows the distribution of comments throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota based on respondents' addresses. The complete list of comments received can be found in **Appendix C**.

Figure 1: TCMC Comments by Favorability Rating

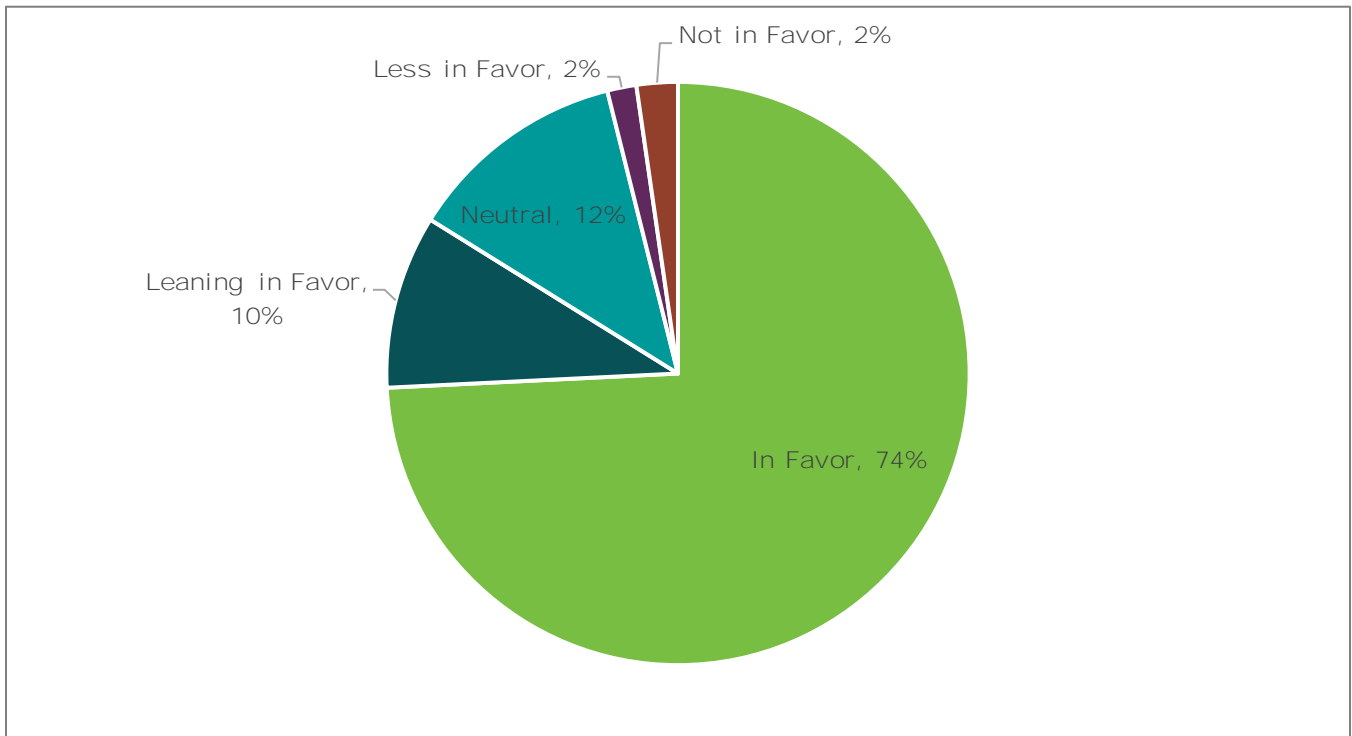
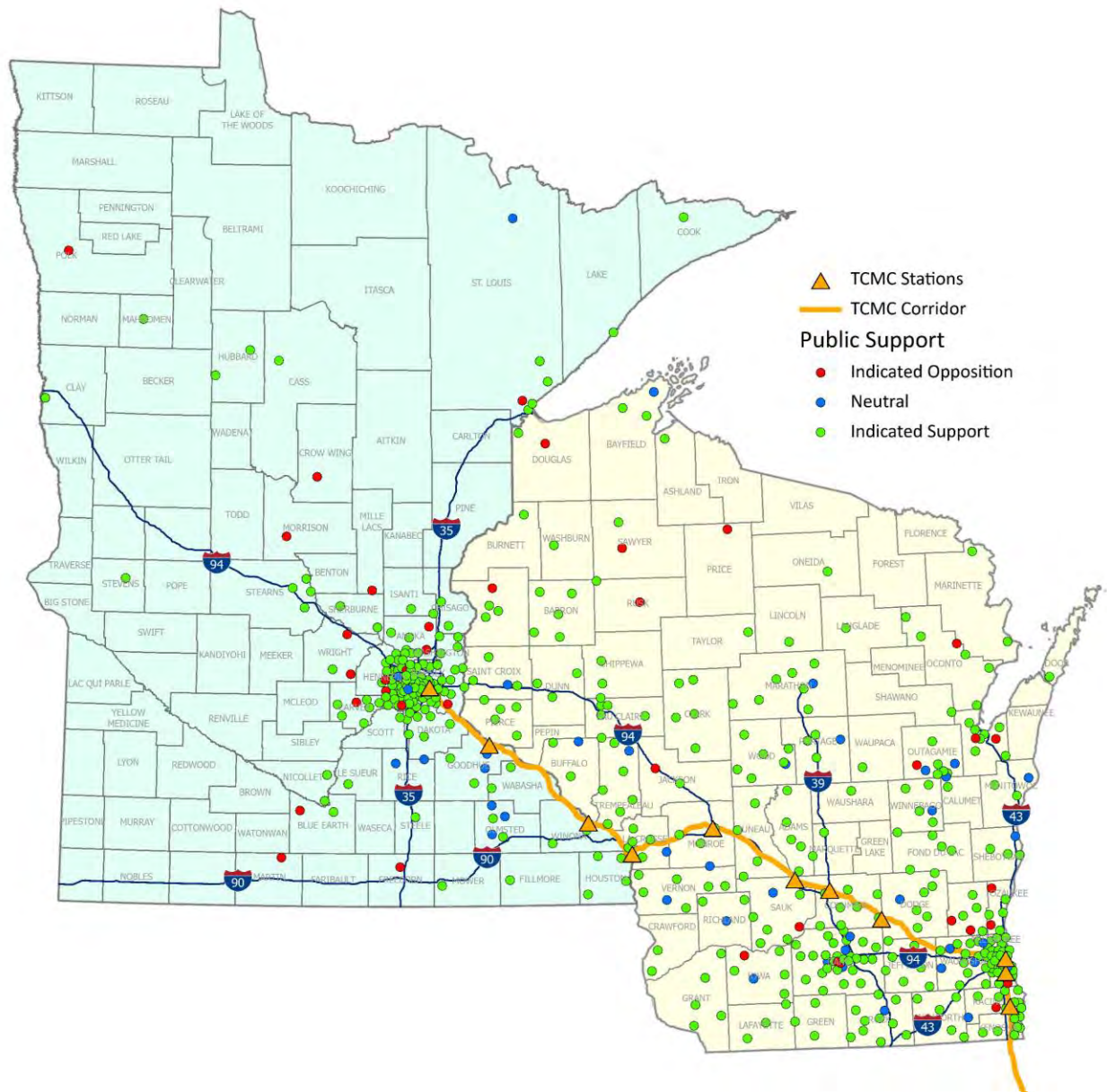


Figure 2: Comment Location in Wisconsin and Minnesota



4.2. Main Themes

The project team reviewed the comments to determine common sentiments and themes that emerged from the comments. These themes do not incorporate every comment but provide insights into what is deemed important to the respondents through the reoccurrence of similar comments. The comments included broad and diverse opinions from people throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The main themes to emerge from the comment analysis are as follows:

- Many respondents voice support for the project plans, describing the project as “long overdue” and express excitement and eagerness for the project to begin.
- Request for consideration and strong support to add stations/stops in additional locations such as Madison, Eau Claire and Watertown, WI.
- Adjust project plans and infrastructure to support higher-speed passenger rail rather than utilizing the existing infrastructure in place.
- The connection of Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities by passenger rail will encourage further employment and economic opportunities in and between these areas, especially for smaller or more rural areas.
- Reliable transportation options between these major cities and “hubs” will provide additional travel options for college students, professionals and leisure travelers from these areas.
- Rail travel is more environmentally friendly than automobile travel. The decrease in carbon emissions when people choose transit (specifically rail) over driving alone can help lessen the negative impacts travelers have on the environment.
- Alternative forms of transportation beyond travel in personal vehicles and air travel are an important option for individuals not interested, comfortable, or able to drive on their own.
- The existing Empire Builder route schedule has been labeled unreliable by many current and past customers/riders; a second daily round trip, as described and planned for in the TCMC Intercity Rail Service, will help address these concerns.
- The preference of travel by passenger rail over driving alone for long distance or frequent trips not only provides a convenience factor, but also improves safety components as too many cars on the roads and freeways cause congestion and often crashes.
- Operational cost concerns/considerations: Many respondents expressed interest to use the service on a regular basis (i.e., for commute purposes and/or frequent travel to visit friends and relatives) and therefore do not want the travel option to be a significant out of pocket cost for riders.
- Some respondents indicated they do not believe money should be invested in passenger rail because they are concerned the service will not be utilized and felt that the money should be used to support improvements to the existing highway system.

Examples of What the Public Said

“This corridor ... needs any help it can get to provide travelers and commuters with more non-automobile transportation options.”

“I live in Winona and all my kids live in Chicago. I would take this train once a month if you did this.”

“Recruiting and retaining good employees in smaller communities would be much easier ...”

“As a small businesses owner and eventual farmer, I am all for improving rail infrastructure for better access to the rural community.”

“The current departure time from St. Paul is often too early ... A second train [that will] provide more flexibility with times and greater reliability is much needed.”

WisDOT is considering these themes along with the nearly 3,900 unique comments submitted to understand Wisconsin and Minnesota residents' opinions and preferences regarding the project plans and passenger rail. The comments and themes will be further reviewed and considered as WisDOT and MnDOT continue the development of the TCMC project.

Appendix **A**

Local Officials Meeting Presentation and Public Presentation

TCMC LOCAL OFFICIALS MEETING

Tuesday, March 16, 2021



**ARUN
RAO**
AICP

Passenger Rail
Manager
WisDOT



**FRANK
LOETTERLE**
AICP

Freight and
Rail Planner
MnDOT



PRESENTERS

**AARON
BOWE**
PE

Project
Manager
HNTB



**CARON
KLOSER**
AICP

Environmental
Lead
HNTB



QUESTIONS

YouTube chat

Email: DOTTCMC@dot.wi.gov

MEETING AGENDA

- > Project background
- > Project overview
- > Improvement areas
- > Project timeline
- > Next steps



TCMC HIGHLIGHTS

- > Provides a second daily round trip passenger train service along the highly traveled Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago corridor
- > Uses existing rail infrastructure, stations and train equipment to keep costs down
- > Improves railroad operations and expands capacity to provide more reliable service with better on-time performance for both passenger and freight trains
- > Connects with local transit, bus services and air travel to enhance the intercity transportation network throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota





2015 Amtrak Feasibility Study

- > Studied adding second frequency to TCMC corridor
- > Favorable ridership and revenue projections



2016 to 2018 Activities

- > Developed purpose and need for project
- > Evaluated route and service alternatives
- > Conducted operations simulation modeling
- > Identified capital improvements and cost estimates

PRIOR TCMC STUDIES

KEY OUTCOMES

- > Selected a preferred route and service schedule
- > Identified infrastructure improvements
- > Positioned the project for federal funding and next project phases

PURPOSE and NEED



The **purpose** of the TCMC Project is to:

- > Address gaps in the regional transportation system
- > Provide flexibility and convenience oriented towards intercity travel within the TCMC corridor

The **need** of the project is based on:

- > Limited non-auto transportation options along the corridor especially for small and mid-size communities
- > Population and economic growth that increases roadway congestion and airline delays
- > Lack of passenger train schedule choices
- > Capacity issues with the Empire Builder service during peak travel periods

CURRENT PROJECT PHASE



Service Development Plan

- > Route and service alternatives analysis finalized
- > Preferred alternative confirmed
- > Project operations and financial feasibility
- > Capital improvement needs
- > Benefit-cost analysis



Environmental Review

- > Evaluate project's natural, social, economic and cultural effects
- > Environmental document under FRA review
- > If approved by FRA, project may proceed with final design and construction



Secure Funding

- > Federal
- > State
- > Amtrak

FEDERAL GRANT AWARDS

TCCM was awarded two federal grants in 2020.

- > \$12.6 million Restoration and Enhancement grant to support operational costs
- > \$31.8 million Consolidated Railroad Infrastructure and Safety Improvement grant to support final design and construction costs



Wisconsin-Minnesota passenger rail project selected to receive \$31.8 million federal grant

Release date: September 30, 2020

The joint Wisconsin-Minnesota Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail (TCCM) project will add an additional daily rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago, connecting the two cities to the existing long-distance Amtrak Empire Builder route.

"The expanded service provides a much-improved rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago," Craig Thompson, Wisconsin Department of Transportation Secretary, said. "It will provide many rural communities. They will have increased access to higher education facilities and jobs."

"Minnesotans will benefit from the expanded passenger rail service," MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher said. "It will provide many rural communities. They will have increased access to higher education facilities and jobs."

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced the grant as part of its Consolidated Railroad Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) competitive grant for final design and construction.

The grant application received broad support from communities, stakeholders, business groups, state legislators, as well as members of Wisconsin's congressional delegation.

The TCCM project will:

- Increase passenger rail service
- Increase access to higher education facilities and jobs
- Double the number of daily passenger trains between the Twin Cities and Chicago

News From MIPRC States

SuperUser Account / Monday, May 11, 2020 / Categories: News From MIPRC States

'Second Empire Builder' project wins a \$12.6 million Restoration & Enhancement grant

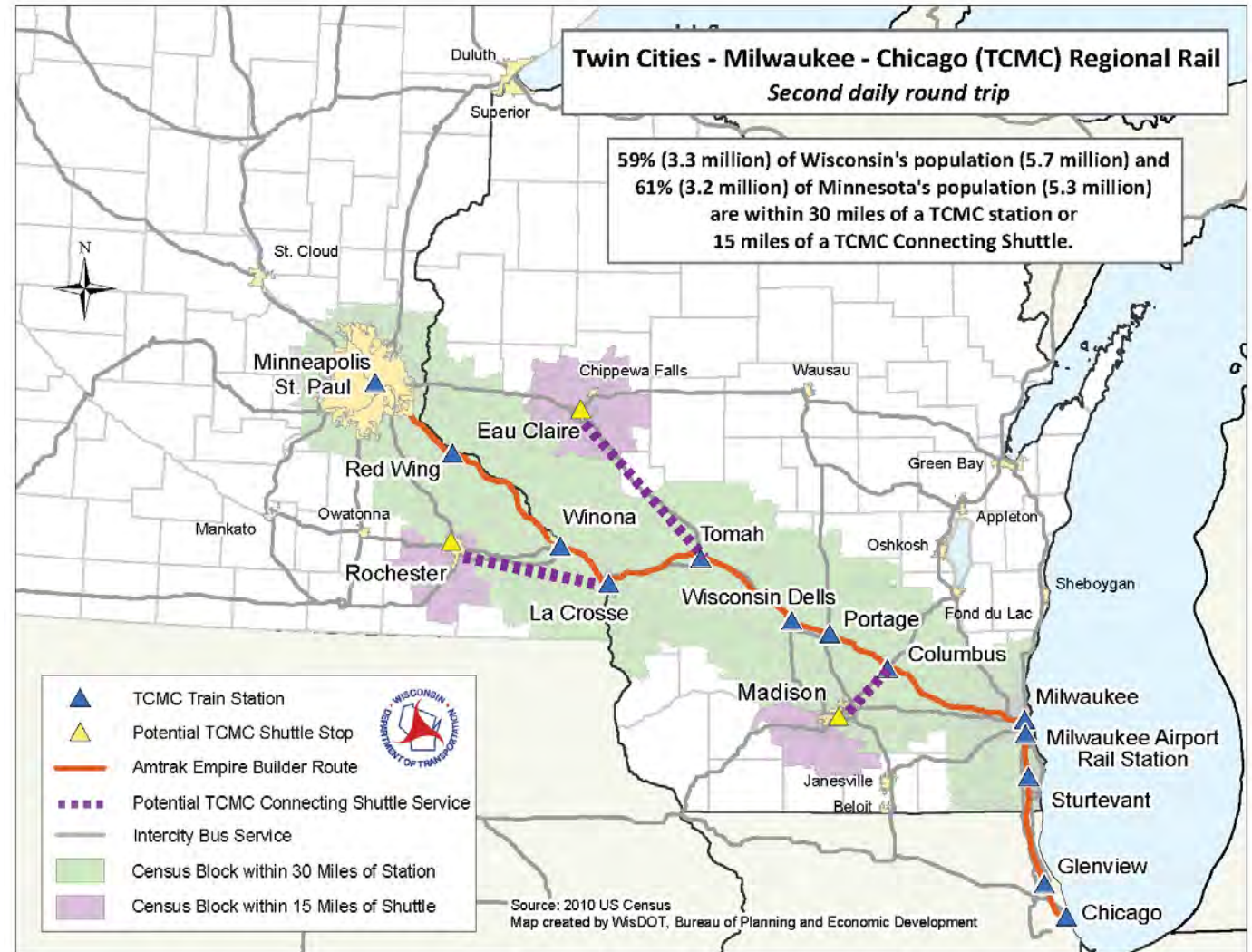
The multi-state effort to add a second daily passenger train between the Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago got a big boost when the **Federal Railroad Administration** announced the grant.

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation announced the grant on May 5 by the FRA. Authorized

TCMC CONNECTS PLACES, PEOPLE, and JOBS

Wisconsin and Minnesota Travel Shed

- > 6.5 million people
- > 3+ million jobs
- > 620 tourist attractions
- > 1,250 hotels and resorts
- > 7 casinos, 45 convention centers
- > 26 major medical facilities
- > 120 higher education institutions



TCMC BENEFITS



Traveler and User Benefits

- > Allows travelers to choose how they spend their travel time (work, rest, etc.)
- > Provides downtown-to-downtown connections
- > Allows travelers to avoid traffic congestion, weather delays, parking, security lines, and tolls

Reliable and Convenient Service to Enhance Mobility

- > Shorter travel times (avoids bottlenecks to the west)
- > Improves on-time performance and service reliability
- > Provides more schedule choices allowing more convenient trips via rail
- > Enhances intermodal connectivity with local transit, bus services and air travel

TCMC BENEFITS



Community and Economic Development

- Helps create jobs
- Supports tourism and local businesses in smaller communities
- Supports economic development efforts to attract and retain jobs and businesses
- Serves smaller urban and rural communities that currently have limited transportation options

Freight Network Improvements

- Improves freight rail operations and capacity.
- Grade crossing and railroad capacity improvements improve safety and reduce gate down times
- Supports freight rail shippers
- More efficient freight train operations reduce emissions and take trucks off roads.

PROJECT OVERVIEW



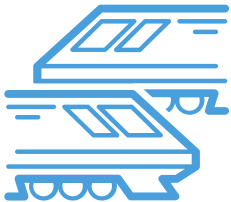
Route

411 miles
TCMC corridor
Saint Paul to Chicago



Stations

13 total
includes stations served
by Empire Builder and
Hiawatha routes



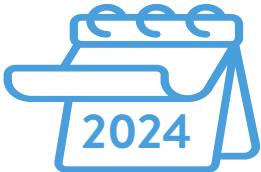
Train Frequency

2 round trips per day,
with TCMC and Empire
Builder service



Schedule

Doubles choices with
morning and mid-
day departures along
the corridor



Service Start

2024
depending on
availability of state
matching funds



Maximum Speed

79 miles per hour



Ridership

124,200 riders
annually projected
in opening year



Travel Time

7.5 hours
Saint Paul to Chicago

TCMC ROUTE

- > Utilizes the existing 411-mile Empire Builder route between Saint Paul and Chicago
- > Terminates at Union Depot in Saint Paul and Chicago Union Station
- > Stops at the 13 stations served by the Empire Builder and Hiawatha in the TCMC corridor





OPERATIONS and EQUIPMENT

- > Amtrak operator and crews
- > Initially uses existing Amtrak equipment
- > Equipment maintained at Amtrak 14th Street yard facility in Chicago
- > Light service, cleaning and crew layover at Amtrak's existing Midway facility in Saint Paul

IMPROVEMENT AREAS

* Potential improvements to Midway Station may occur if deemed necessary by Amtrak in future operations analysis

PROPOSED INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

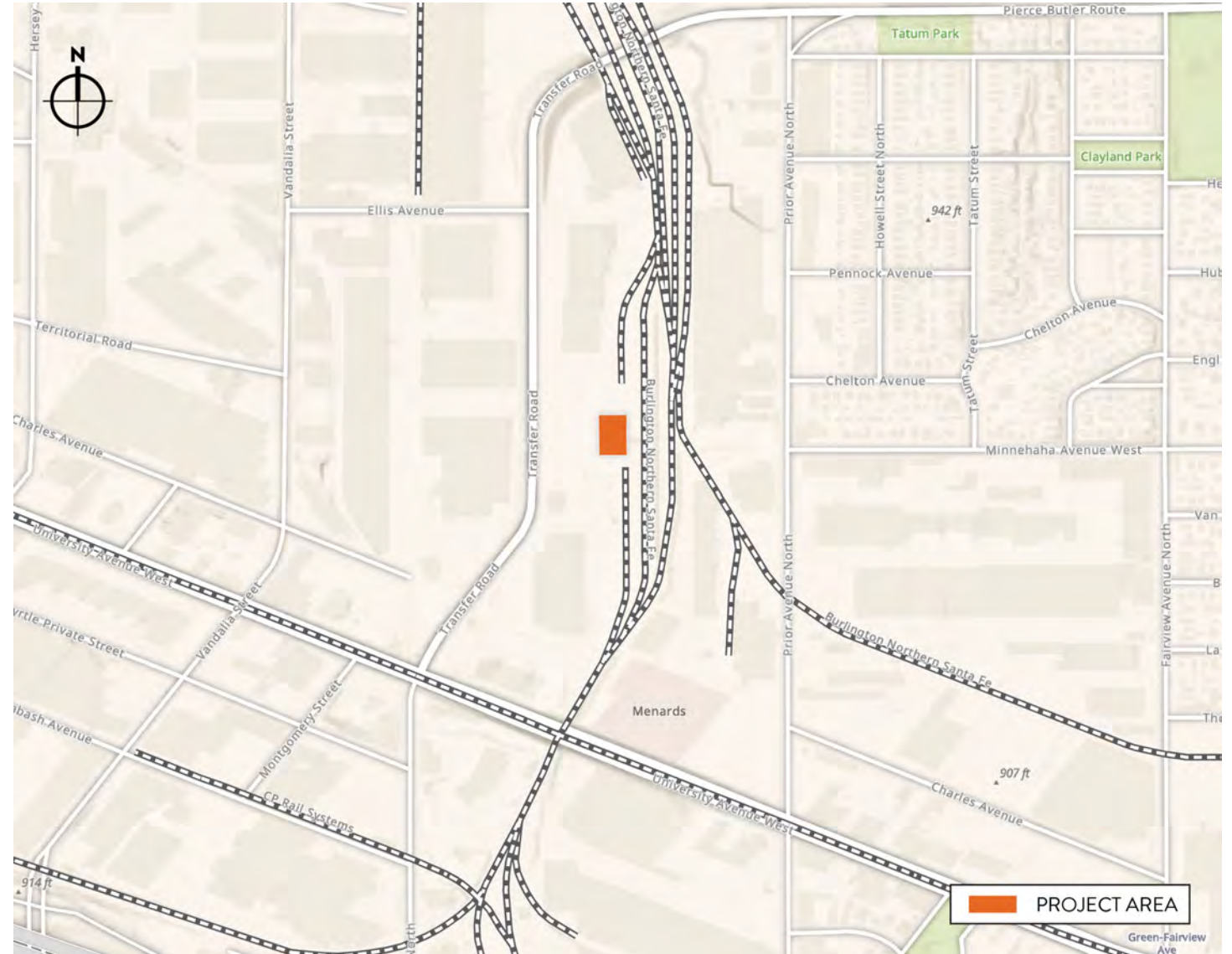
-  Area of congestion
-  Siding extension
-  Upgrade with power switches and signals
-  New or converted track
-  Install universal crossover
-  Building improvements



NOTE:
 These are **proposed** infrastructure improvements, subject to revisions during environmental review and final design work.

SAINT PAUL MIDWAY STATION

- > Potential interior renovations to serve as Amtrak crew base, layover and commissary facility
- > If deemed necessary by Amtrak in future operations analysis



WINONA TOWER CK

- Extend siding about a half mile
- Construct new turnouts
- Install new signals and communications
- Reconstruct Bierce Street at-grade crossing



WINONA WINONA SIDING

- Rehabilitate two miles of existing siding track
- Construct new turnouts
- Install new signals and communications
- Reconstruct track and panels at six crossings



LA CRESCENT RIVER JUNCTION YARD

- Convert one mile of yard track to signaled second main track
- Construct 0.4 miles new wye connection track
- Construct new turnouts
- Install new signals and communications



LA CROSSE DEPOT AREA

- Rebuild second main track through La Crosse Depot
- Convert existing yard track to new yard lead track
- Extend yard lead-track to the west and add power switch
- Reconstruct crossings at Saint Cloud/Liberty streets and Avon/Hagar streets



CAPITAL COSTS

TCMC is a cost-effective project that leverages existing rail infrastructure, equipment and facilities.

\$53 million total

- > \$40.7 million in Minnesota
- > \$12.3 million in Wisconsin

Funding partners:

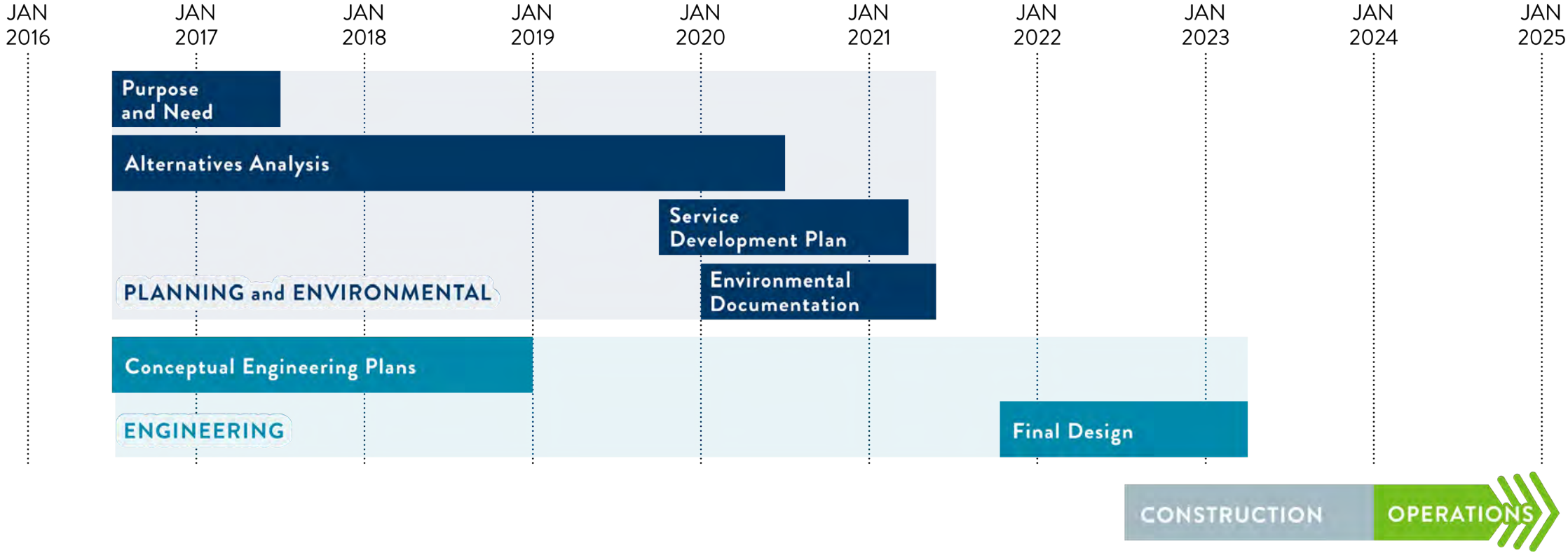
- > WisDOT - \$6.5 million (pending approval)
- > MnDOT - \$10 million (pending approval)
- > Amtrak - \$5 million (committed)
- > FRA (CRISI grant) - \$31.8 million (committed)

TCMC Revenue and Operating Cost Forecast

REVENUES AND OPERATIONS (\$ in millions)						
FISCAL YEAR	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
REVENUE (TICKET and FOOD & BEVERAGE)						
<i>Ticket and Food & Beverage Total</i>	4.86	4.91	4.95	5.00	5.04	5.09
FUNDING						
State Partner Support (split among states)	1.81	3.20	4.58	7.34	7.30	7.27
Federal R&E Grant	5.62	4.20	2.79	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Total Funding</i>	7.43	7.40	7.37	7.34	7.30	7.27
OPERATING COST						
	12.29	12.30	12.32	12.33	12.35	12.36

REVENUES AND OPERATIONS

- > Annual Operating Cost: \$12.29 million
- > Annual Revenue: \$4.86 million
- > Annual Operating Support: \$7.43 million
 - Split between state partners
 - Offset by federal Restoration and Enhancement grant for three years (committed)



PROJECT TIMELINE

NEXT STEPS



- Complete environmental review spring 2021
- Secure state funding matches to federal grants
- Advance final design to prepare for construction

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

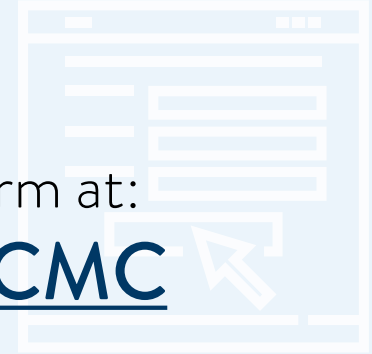
Please submit your
comments by April 9, 2021

Use the online comment form at:

WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC

or

DOT.State.MN.US/TCMC



*If you are unable to submit electronically,
please mail your comments to:*

Arun Rao, WisDOT Passenger Rail Manager
P.O. Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707

TCMC PUBLIC PRESENTATION

Released: March 18, 2021



**ARUN
RAO**
AICP

Passenger Rail
Manager
WisDOT



**FRANK
LOETTERLE**
AICP

Freight and
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PRESENTERS



PRESENTATION TOPICS

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- and greatly improve access to higher education facilities and jobs
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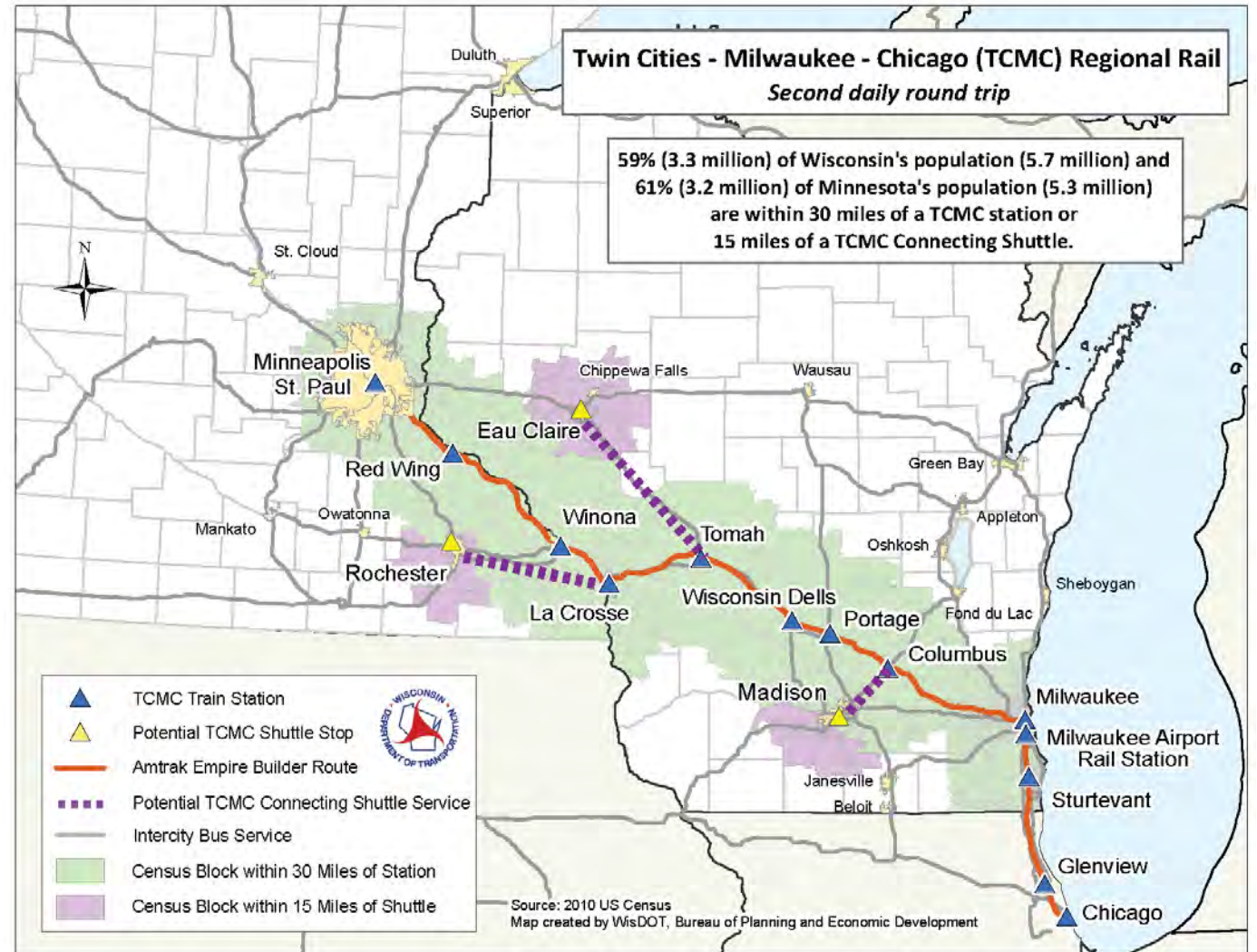
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TCMC CONNECTS PLACES, PEOPLE, and JOBS

Wisconsin and Minnesota Travel Shed

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Freight Network Improvements

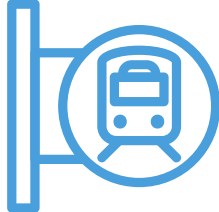
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PROJECT OVERVIEW



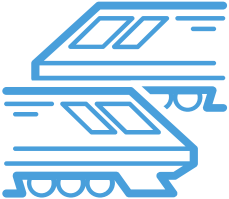
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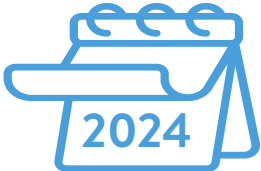
Train Frequency

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Schedule

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morning and mid-
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the corridor



Service Start

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depending on
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Ridership

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Saint Paul to Chicago

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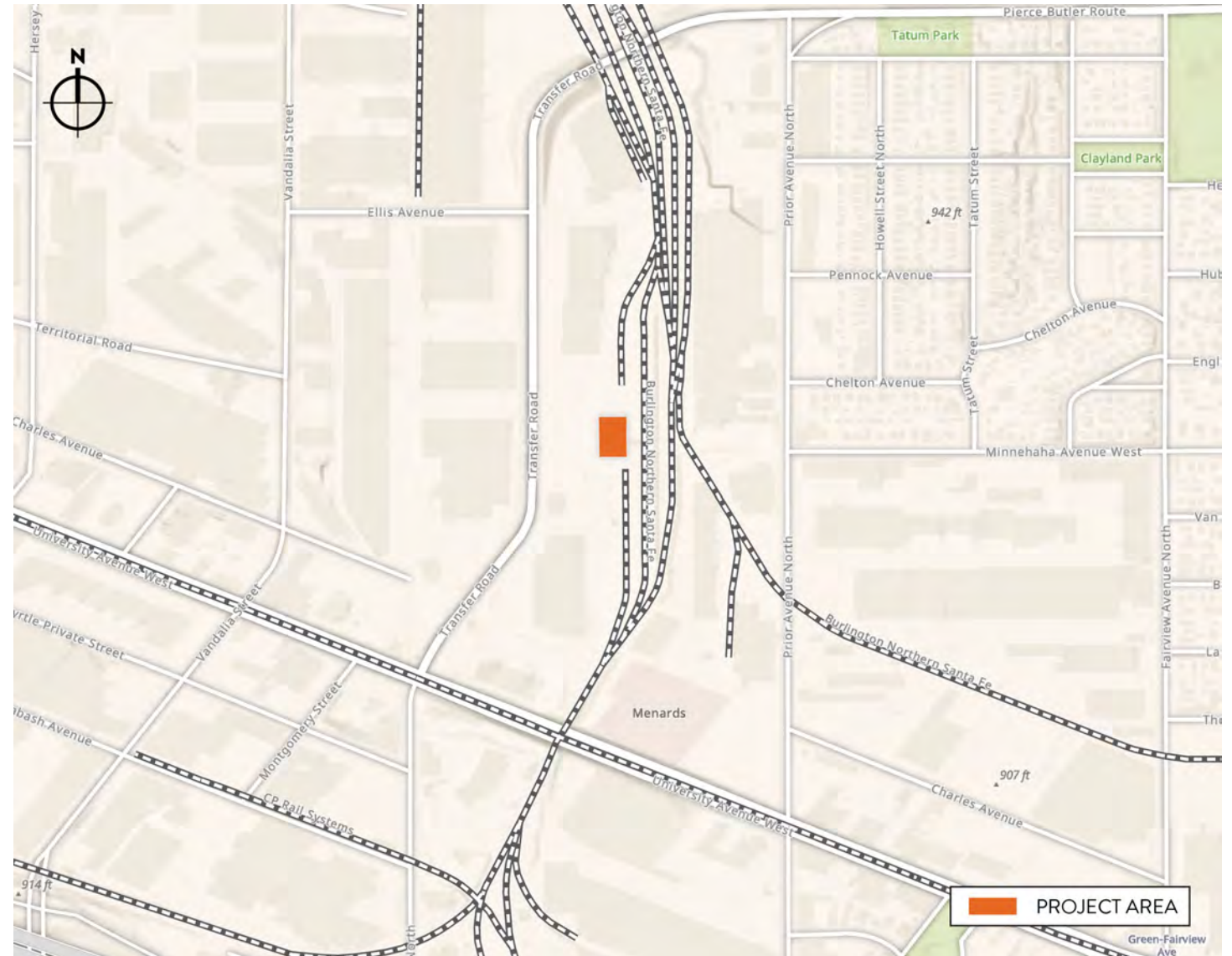
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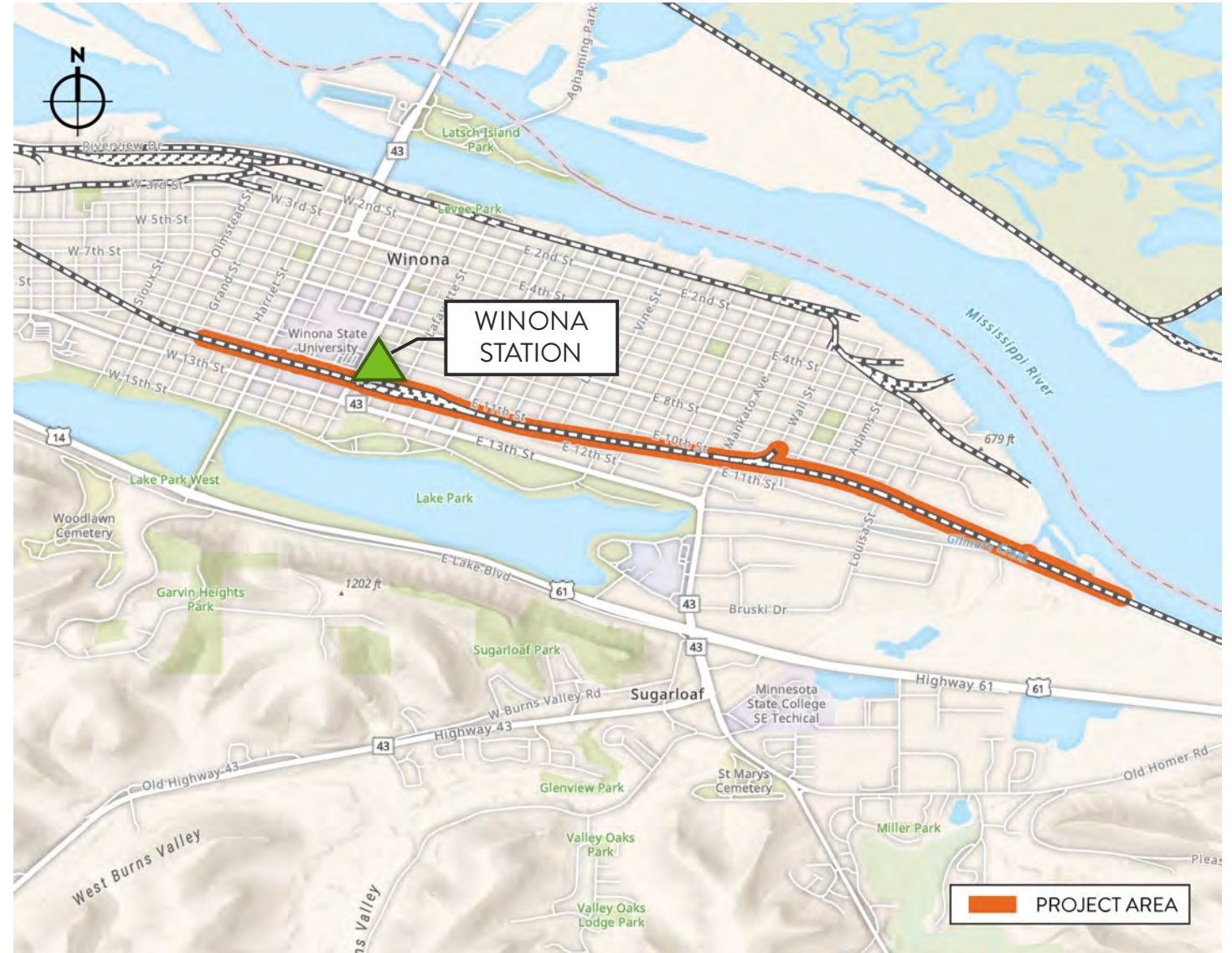
WINONA TOWER CK

- Extend siding about a half mile
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WINONA WINONA SIDING

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LA CRESCENT RIVER JUNCTION YARD

- Convert one mile of yard track to signaled second main track
- Construct 0.4 miles new wye connection track
- Construct new turnouts
- Install new signals and communications



LA CRESCENT MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE

- Realign west approach track alignment
- Upgrade bridge switch and moveable track points
- Increases freight train speeds across the bridge from 10 to 15 mph



LA CROSSE DEPOT AREA

- Rebuild second main track through La Crosse Depot
- Convert existing yard track to new yard lead track
- Extend yard lead-track to the west and add power switch
- Reconstruct crossings at Saint Cloud/Liberty streets and Avon/Hagar streets



CAPITAL COSTS

TCMC is a cost-effective project that leverages existing rail infrastructure, equipment and facilities.

\$53 million total

- > \$40.7 million in Minnesota
- > \$12.3 million in Wisconsin

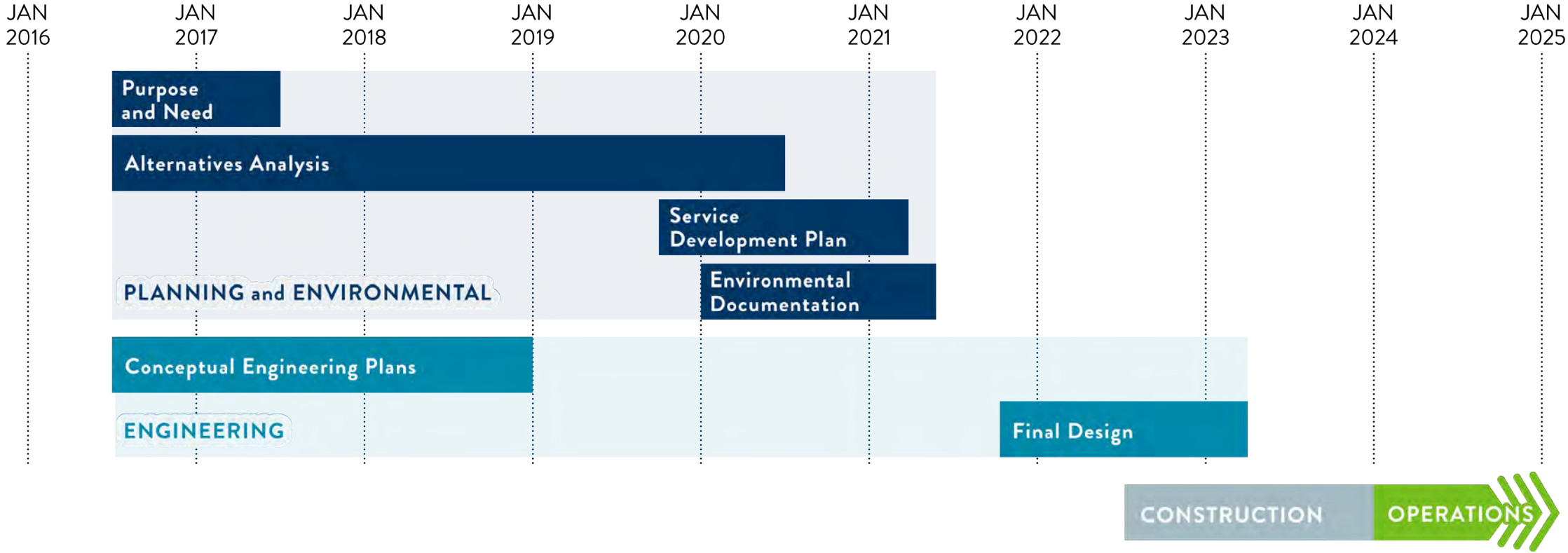
Funding partners:

- > WisDOT - \$6.5 million (pending approval)
- > MnDOT - \$10 million (pending approval)
- > Amtrak - \$5 million (committed)
- > FRA (CRISI grant) - \$31.8 million (committed)

REVENUES AND OPERATIONS (FIRST YEAR SERVICE)

TCMC Revenue and Operating Cost Forecast (\$ in millions)						
FISCAL YEAR	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Annual Operating Cost	12.29	12.30	12.32	12.33	12.35	12.36
Annual Revenue	4.86	4.91	4.95	5.00	5.04	5.09
Total Operating Funding	7.43	7.40	7.37	7.34	7.30	7.27
State Partner Support (split among states)	1.81	3.20	4.58	7.34	7.30	7.27
Federal R&E Grant	5.62	4.20	2.79	0.00	0.00	0.00

- > Operating Cost: \$12.29 million
- > Revenue: \$4.86 million
- > Operating Support: \$7.43 million
 - Federal R&E grant \$5.62 million (committed)
 - State partners \$1.81 million



PROJECT TIMELINE

NEXT STEPS



- Complete environmental review spring 2021
- Secure state funding matches to federal grants
- Advance final design to prepare for construction

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

Please submit your
comments by April 9, 2021

Use the online comment form at
WisDOT and MnDOT TCMC websites:

<https://wisconsindot.gov/Pages/projects/multimodal/tcmc.aspx>

or

<http://www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/tc-mil-chi/>



*If you are unable to submit electronically,
please mail your comments to:*

Arun Rao, WisDOT Passenger Rail Manager
P.O. Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707

Appendix **B**

Email Notices, Post Card Mailer
and Press Releases

From: [TCMC](#)
Subject: WisDOT/MnDOT Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Passenger Rail Project, YouTube Live, March 16 @ 11 a.m.
Date: Tuesday, March 2, 2021 3:40:20 PM



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) invite you to attend an **online local official meeting on March 16, 2021 at 11 a.m.** regarding the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Intercity Passenger Rail project. Project staff will give a live presentation that describes the anticipated project schedule, service improvements and proposed railroad work, and local officials will have an opportunity to ask questions. Pending project approvals and funding availability, construction could begin in 2022 with service starting in 2024.

This meeting will preview a recorded presentation that will be available on the WisDOT website for public viewing starting March 18, 2021. A separate notice will be sent for the public presentation.

To join the YouTube Live meeting, visit: <https://youtu.be/dLyEz6Z9tzc> by 11 a.m. on March 16, 2021. You will be able to share your questions or comments during the meeting via YouTube Live or submit questions via email to DOTTCMC@dot.wi.gov to be answered by WisDOT and MnDOT staff following the presentation.

If you are unable to access or participate in the YouTube Live presentation, please contact Arun Rao, Passenger Rail Manager, at 608-266-3015 or DOTTCMC@dot.wi.gov, and arrangements will be made to share the information in another format.

Project Description: The project adds a second, daily round-trip passenger rail service along the 410-mile TCMC corridor that is currently part of Amtrak's long-distance Empire Builder and Hiawatha routes. The Project will improve mobility along this corridor with new schedule options, better on-time performance, more convenient regional travel and improved connections to other intercity and local transportation services.

Project features include:

- Adds a second daily round-trip train to provide both a morning and mid-day departure from Chicago and Saint Paul.
- Projects 124,200 annual riders with trains traveling at a maximum speed of 79 miles per hour along the corridor in approximately 7.5 hours.
- Stops at 13 existing metropolitan and intermediate Amtrak stations.
- Improves railroad track, at-grade crossing, signal and communication infrastructure in Winona, MN, La Crescent, MN and La Crosse, WI to allow freight trains to bypass passenger trains and reduce delays.
- Renovates interior space at the former Amtrak Midway Station in Saint Paul to serve as a crew base, layover and commissary facility if deemed necessary by Amtrak in future operations analysis.

Website: To view the project map and other project details, visit: WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC and DOT.State.MN.US/TCMC

Submit Your Comments: Please submit your comments online at [Comment Form](#) by April, 9, 2021. You may also mail your comments to: Attention Arun Rao, P.O. Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707.

Project Map: TCMC service will stop at the existing stations served by Amtrak's Empire Builder and Hiawatha routes between Saint Paul, Milwaukee and Chicago. Railroad infrastructure improvements are planned in Winona, La Crescent, and La Crosse.

From: [TCMC](#)
Subject: Reminder: WisDOT/MnDOT Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Passenger Rail Project, YouTube Live, March 16 @ 11 a.m.
Date: Monday, March 15, 2021 12:13:15 PM



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) invite you to attend an **online local official meeting on March 16, 2021 at 11 a.m.** regarding the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Intercity Passenger Rail project. Project staff will give a live presentation that describes the anticipated project schedule, service improvements and proposed railroad work, and local officials will have an opportunity to ask questions. Pending project approvals and funding availability, construction could begin in 2022 with service starting in 2024.

This meeting will preview a recorded presentation that will be available on the WisDOT website for public viewing starting March 18, 2021. A separate notice will be sent for the public presentation.

To join the YouTube Live meeting, visit: <https://youtu.be/dLyEz6Z9tZg> by 11 a.m. on March 16, 2021. You will be able to share your questions or comments during the meeting via YouTube Live or submit questions via email to DOTTCMC@dot.wi.gov to be answered by WisDOT and MnDOT staff following the presentation.

If you are unable to access or participate in the YouTube Live presentation, please contact Arun Rao, Passenger Rail Manager, at 608-266-3015 or DOTTCMC@dot.wi.gov, and arrangements will be made to share the information in another format.

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Website: To view the project map and other project details, visit: WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC and DOT.State.MN.US/TCMC

Submit Your Comments: Please submit your comments online at [Comment Form](#) by April, 9, 2021. You may also mail your comments to: Attention Arun Rao, P.O. Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707.

Project Map: TCMC service will stop at the existing stations served by Amtrak's Empire Builder and Hiawatha routes between Saint Paul, Milwaukee and Chicago. Railroad infrastructure improvements are planned in Winona, La Crescent, and La Crosse.

From: [TCMC](#)
Subject: WisDOT/MnDOT seek feedback: Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Passenger Rail Project
Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021 2:37:24 PM



The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) are **seeking your input on proposed intercity passenger rail** service improvements for the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) corridor. A **recorded presentation is available** on the WisDOT [website](#) that describes the anticipated project schedule, service improvements and proposed railroad work. Pending project approvals and funding availability, construction could begin in 2022 with service starting in 2024.

Presentation Details: The presentation will be ready to view on March 18, 2021 at: WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC

Special Accommodations: If you are unable to access the presentation and need a printed copy, please contact Kia Her at Kia.Her@dot.wi.gov, (608) 267-7350, or via Telecommunications Relay Systems (Dial 711).

Project Description: The project adds a second, daily round-trip passenger rail service along the 410-mile TCMC corridor that is currently part of Amtrak's long-distance Empire Builder and Hiawatha routes. The Project will improve mobility along this corridor with new schedule options, better on-time performance, more convenient regional travel and improved connections to other intercity and local transportation services.

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Website: To view the project map and other project details, visit: WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC and DOT.State.MN.US/TCMC

Submit Your Comments: Please submit your comments online at [Comment Form](#) by April, 9, 2021. If you are unable to submit your comment electronically, please mail your comments to: Attention Arun Rao, P.O. Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707.

Project Map: TCMC service will stop at the existing stations served by Amtrak's Empire Builder and Hiawatha routes between Saint Paul, Milwaukee and Chicago. Railroad infrastructure improvements are planned in Winona, La Crescent, and La Crosse.

From: TCMC <admin@pima.wisconsin.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 1:16 PM

Subject: WisDOT/MnDOT project update: Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Passenger Rail Project



In early March 2021, the Wisconsin and Minnesota departments of transportation hosted a local officials meeting and publicly shared a recorded presentation detailing the TCMC project. In response, **the states received (as of April 9) over 3,800 comments**, with about 84% indicating support for the project.

We appreciate all the feedback that was shared about this corridor and passenger rail. Your feedback will be considered as we continue to advance the TCMC project.

Please visit WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC to view or download the **new TCMC project summary booklet**.

The TCMC adds a second, daily round-trip passenger rail service to the 411-mile corridor used by Amtrak's long-distance Empire Builder and Hiawatha routes. It uses existing infrastructure, stations and equipment to keep project costs down. **It improves operations and expands capacity to provide more reliable service with better on-time performance for both passenger and freight trains.** Overall, TCMC provides more choices for regional travelers with time-sensitive schedules, making more trips viable by rail.

The TCMC received a \$31.8 million Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program grant in 2020 that will cover 60% of the TCMC project's total capital cost of \$53.3 million. Amtrak has committed \$5 million, and **the remaining \$16.5 million in state funds is needed to match and secure the federal funds.** Pending approval of all funding sources, the TCMC could begin service in 2024.

To learn more about the TCMC, view the public presentation, or get a copy of the project booklet, please visit WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC. Additional project information from prior study phases is available on the MnDOT [website](#).



Passenger rail service improvements: How to get involved in project planning

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) are seeking your input on proposed intercity passenger rail service improvements for the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) corridor. A recorded presentation is available on the WisDOT website that describes the anticipated project schedule, service improvements and proposed railroad work. Pending project approvals and funding availability, construction could begin in 2022 with service starting in 2024.

Presentation details

The presentation will be ready to view on March 18, 2021 at: WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC

Special accommodations

If you are unable to access the presentation and need a printed copy, please contact Kia Her at Kia.Her@dot.wi.gov, (608) 267-7350, or via Telecommunications Relay Systems (Dial 711).

Project description

The project adds a second, daily round-trip passenger rail service along the 411-mile TCMC corridor that is currently part of Amtrak's long-distance Empire Builder and Hiawatha routes. The project will improve mobility along this corridor with new schedule options, better on-time performance, more convenient regional travel and improved connections to other intercity and local transportation services.

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Submit your comments by April 9, 2021:

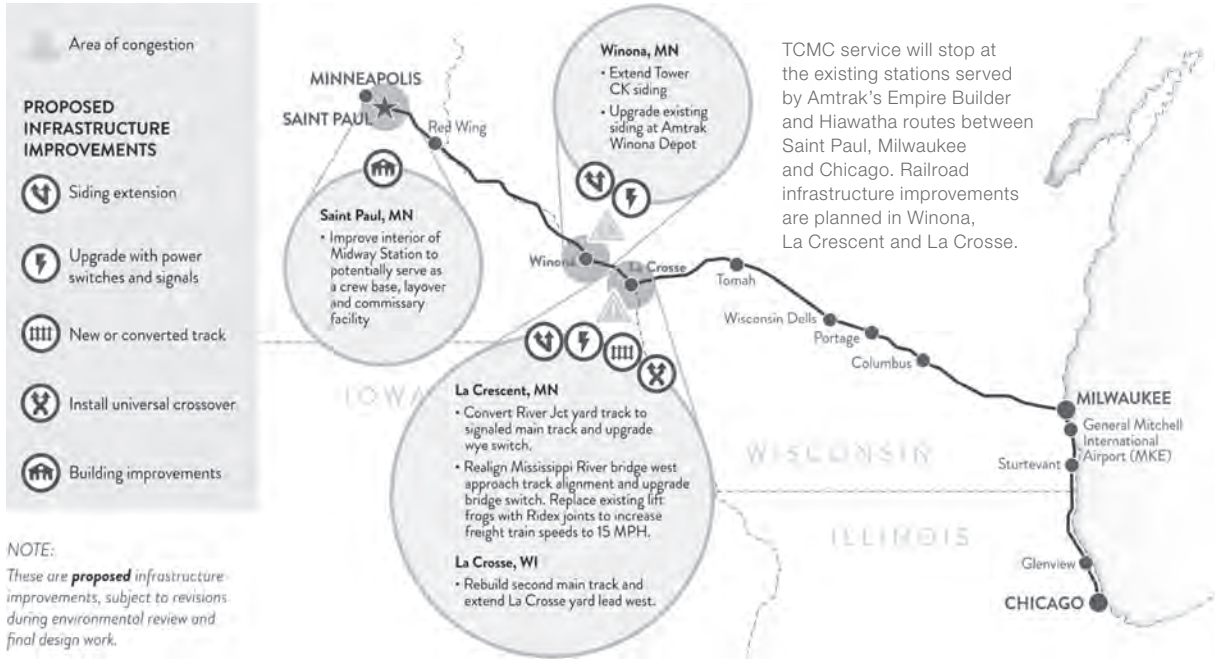
- To submit your comments online, please look for the Comment Form link at WisconsinDOT.gov/TCMC.
- You may also mail your comments to: Attention - Arun Rao, P.O. Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707.

Routes: Amtrak Hiawatha and Empire Builder



WISDOT DTIM S631
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 RAILROADS AND HARBORS
 4822 MADISON YARDS WAY
 MADISON WI 53705-9100

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NOTE:
 These are **proposed** infrastructure improvements, subject to revisions during environmental review and final design work.





State of Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago passenger rail project open for comment

Presentation of second daily round trip and other project details available online

Release date: March 19, 2021

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT), together with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT), is seeking public input on proposed intercity passenger rail service improvements for the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago corridor.

The [recorded presentation is available](#) and includes information on the anticipated project schedule, service improvements and proposed railroad work.

“The importance of intercity connectivity and travel options cannot be overlooked when considering regional transportation,” WisDOT Secretary-designee Craig Thompson said. “The Milwaukee-Chicago Hiawatha as well as the Amtrak Empire Builder in 2019 were operating at or near capacity during peak travel seasons and forecasted demand is growing. As the population ages and more and more young professionals and businesses consider moving to our states, the need for increased transportation options is vital to grow local economies and improve the quality of life. This project leverages the existing rail corridor and passenger rail service to significantly improve the value of this transportation option across the state. This not only serves major Midwestern cities, but many rural communities along the route.”

“Increasing capacity and reliability on the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago passenger train route will create economic growth in corridor communities while providing a safe and reliable transportation alternative and benefitting local freight system,” said MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher. “Passenger rail service is also essential to an equitable transportation system – increasing access to jobs, colleges and communities along this critical Minnesota corridor.”

Currently only one train a day connects the major Midwestern cities of Minneapolis-St. Paul, Milwaukee and Chicago and the smaller urban and rural communities in between. The one daily round-trip schedule and capacity constraints, limits options for regional travel by rail.

The Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Passenger Rail Project will maintain and improve the existing 411-mile rail corridor currently used by Amtrak Empire Builder and Hiawatha trains by adding a second, daily round trip along the route. In addition to business and leisure travel, the project also provides direct benefits to freight transportation. Its primary benefit, however, will be to provide

residents of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois convenient access to jobs, cultural attractions, top universities and world-class healthcare. The TCMC will help to better connect smaller urban and rural communities with the economic epicenters of the region of Milwaukee, the Twin Cities, and Chicago.

The Project also provides for infrastructure upgrades including:

- Improvements to railroad track, at-grade crossing, signal and communication infrastructure in Winona, MN; La Crescent, MN; and La Crosse, WI, to allow freight trains to bypass passenger trains and reduce delays.
- Renovations to interior space at the former Amtrak Midway Station in Saint Paul to serve as a crew base, layover and commissary facility if deemed necessary.

Pending project approvals and funding availability, construction could begin in 2022 with service starting in 2024.

In addition to the presentation, other [project details, including the project map, are available](#) . Please note: If you are unable to access the presentation and need a printed copy, contact Kia Her at Kia.Her@dot.wi.gov, (608) 267-7350, or via Telecommunications Relay Systems (Dial 711).

The public is asked to submit comments via the [online comment form](#) by April 9, 2021. Comments may also be mailed to: Attention Arun Rao, P.O. Box 7913, Madison, WI 53707. :

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News releases

March 25, 2021

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Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago passenger rail project open for comment through April 9

Presentation of second daily round trip and other project details available online

ST. PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Department of Transportation and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation are seeking public input on proposed intercity passenger rail service improvements for the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago corridor.

[A recorded presentation is available here](#), and includes information on the anticipated project schedule, service improvements and proposed railroad work.

“Increasing capacity and reliability on the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago passenger train route will create economic growth in corridor communities while providing a safe and reliable transportation alternative and benefitting local freight system,” said MnDOT Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher. “Passenger rail service is also essential to an equitable transportation system – increasing access to jobs, colleges and communities along this critical Minnesota corridor.”

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In addition to the presentation, other project details, including the project map, are available at wisconsin.gov/Pages/projects/multimodal/tcmc.aspx. Please note: If you are unable to access the presentation and need a printed copy, contact Kia Her at Kia.Her@dot.wi.gov, (608) 267-7350, or via Telecommunications Relay Systems (Dial 711). N

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Appendix C

Stakeholder and Public Comments

ID	Date	Comment
1	3/19/2021	This should run along I-94 through Eau Claire. Development is occurring at a rapid pace along this corridor and the usage would be higher and more cost-effective.
2	3/19/2021	Being able to quickly and easily ride between Milwaukee, Racine, and Chicago is extremely important to me. I have family in Chicago and would love to travel down to them easier than driving 294.
3	3/19/2021	I strongly support the addition of a second train between the Twin Cities and Chicago and would love to see this project come to fruition.
4	3/19/2021	Daily service would be amazing. Make this happen!
5	3/19/2021	We frequently travel overseas and utilize both the Minneapolis and, more often, Chicago O'Hare airport. My two comments are as follows: 1) We have tried using the train to get to the airports before, but it has been extremely unreliable. You must be able to rely on the train schedule, or you will miss a flight. Please work on improving your reliability. We have used trains all over Europe and Asia, and you can always count on them to be on time. Amtrak needs to greatly improve the time table reliability, if you want people to use the train to get to flights, business meetings, etc. For now, we rent a car and drive. 2) I applaud the effort to add a second train per day! Even if we trusted Amtrak to get us to our destination on-time, often the schedule does not work out with just one train per day.
6	3/19/2021	Totally in support of such an addition. I believe this would be a game changer! Fewer cars on the road is smart and affordable travel is smart! Recruiting and retaining good employees in smaller communities would be much easier with this addition.
7	3/19/2021	Yes! Yes! Start yesterday! As someone in La Crosse who may be taking a job with frequent travel to Chicago, I strongly support frequency improvements on this MSP - Chicago route. It would be great if speeds could be increased above 79 mph, but should not let this slow down the start of service. This will also make it easier for those of us in La Crosse to sometimes consider rail as an option to reach the MSP airport.
8	3/19/2021	This is a fantastic idea and should happen as soon as possible! Would be nice to have more options to travel from Chicago to visit friends in Twin Cities, as well as all the places along the line. Lots of great weekend destination trips that are only possible with a 2nd train on the schedule. Next step should be restoring service to and through Madison.

9	3/19/2021	<p>I support adding a second bidirectional daily train to the Empire Builder route. Right now, if I want to travel to a meeting or presentation from La Crosse to other cities on the line without a car, I must spend at least two days and probably three. Bus and train routes are sufficiently unmatched to ensure long delays between legs. This is absurd. Our great great grandparents had better rail options for trips like this. Two trains a day are good, but, if you have used public transportation almost anyplace else in the world, you will know that it is still pitiful. In most civilized countries, there is hourly or even more frequent modern, smooth, fast service between major cities. Still, two trains a day will certainly help people without cars and may entice those who own cars to become choice riders, especially if we [quote]climate cost[quote] private gasoline-fueled car travel so train travel is cheaper and more convenient. Whatever you can do to promote this first step toward a modern, more climate-friendly transportation system, please do. This initiative, along with the Solutionary Rail proposal to make this route electric (https://www.solutionaryrail.org/lacrosse) can be a hopeful step in addressing the climate crisis. The next step will be to connect our STATE CAPITOL to the Amtrak service. Again, bus connectors are cumbersome, inaccessible, slow, and costly. So, in addition to a second train, we need a direct connection to Madison for this important route.</p>
10	3/19/2021	<p>I wholeheartedly support this project. Supporting better intercity rail projects is necessary as a regional economy. As someone that frequently travels across these three main metropolitan areas (MPS/SP, MKE, CHI) increasing options is important for better connecting the region and reduces road congestion.</p>
11	3/19/2021	<p>The sooner the better. Use Hiawatha from Milwaukee to Chicago on a regular basis. Would love a way to use a similar service to the Twin Cities and La Crosse.</p>
12	3/20/2021	<p>I strongly support this project. Current levels of intercity passenger rail service are woefully insufficient. This project is a small step forward in remedying that situation.</p>
13	3/20/2021	<p>I'm a frequent train user when they're available and they're my first mode choice if given one, but sadly they're mostly non-existent in Wisconsin. With that said I very much encourage this project as well as exploring high speed rail between Minneapolis-Madison-Milwaukee-Chicago and extending train service from Milwaukee to Green Bay/Appleton.</p> <p>Rail travel is green, incredibly safe, convenient and makes for a much more enjoyable journey than having to drive your car for 4-6 hours.</p>
14	3/20/2021	<p>Hey I was wondering if there is a possibility of a rail connection instead of a bus shuttle connection between Madison, Wisconsin and Columbus Wisconsin in the future?</p>
15	3/20/2021	<p>The empire builder often runs late and it is hard to make planned connections in Chicago. This would be a fantastic thing for Amtrak riders, and alleviate traffic jams near Madison and Chicago. Please, please, please get started on this project!</p>

16	3/20/2021	This is a good project. This corridor needs more frequency and higher speeds. Let's slowly upgrade sections of track to get to 110 or 125 mph. A station should also be added in the west Milwaukee suburbs. Brookfield Road would be an excellent choice.
17	3/20/2021	Strongly support. With these improvements would it be possible to increase the speed and reduce the travel time? The current schedule does not allow enough flexibility. Would be nice if somehow Madison and Duluth can be connected to the route as well. Would vastly prefer to take the train instead flying if there was a way to go south in the morning and return in the evening.
18	3/20/2021	I am so pleased to see this proposal. It's long overdue. I wish there were also decent service between Milwaukee and Madison, but at least this is a start. Thank you.
19	3/20/2021	Very excited about the possibilities here. As a twin cities resident I would love to take my kids on long wknd trips to LaCrosse or Madison, Milwaukee and/or Chicago. A couple of years ago, had the time of our lives when I took my oldest to Wisconsin Dells for the wknd. Prob is you need a car once you get there. I think Amtrak and the DOT's, etc could do a better job selling the line as tourism. The route along the River between St. Paul and Lacrosse is incredible esp in Fall!
20	3/20/2021	Residents on Shore Acres Rd in La Crescent that are north of the Mississippi RR bridge normally drive under the bridge. During high water they count on being allowed to drive over the tracks at a uncontrolled crossing. Emergency vehicles and utility repair trucks also need to use this uncontrolled crossing. Will this proposed project threaten the use of this crossing because of higher allowed train speeds or other reasons.
21	3/20/2021	<p>If the usage supports this, then I am all for it, but not with the current project plan. The Mississippi River swing bridge span at La Crescent should be part of the project and be replaced if this is to happen. This bridge is well over 120 years old and is an accident waiting to happen. There are CP employees there daily (not an overstatement) working on repairs and fixes to the bridge. Anywhere from 5-15 people at a time. This is a major spill or Amtrak accident just waiting to happen.</p> <p>It was set for replacement, for good reason, about 10-15 years ago but the funding was pulled during the recession I believe. The US Coast Guard condemned it in 1998, and identified it as a unreasonable hazard to navigation. Living here, I can tell you it is true, and it is also only a matter of time before a barge uncontrollably runs into this bridge causing damage and putting people on trains in danger. Remember, these barges are in the neighborhood of 105 ft wide and three football fields long. Trying to maneuver these through the 150' opening is difficult and dangerous. I should also mention the major shoreline erosion being created from those barges as they try to make their way around the failing bridge.</p> <p>In summary, I support the extra line if the people are there to ride, but I urge you to not make the mistake in letting this deteriorating bridge to be a hazard to our environment or to more riders on the Amtrak.</p>

22	3/20/2021	<p>I strongly support this project. This corridor is a hugely popular one and needs any help it can get to provide travelers and commuters with more non-automobile transportation options.</p> <p>My only comment is that I hope the route gets more frequency and gets upgraded to at least 110 mph (or more) soon in the future.</p>
23	3/20/2021	<p>I AM IN TOTAL FAVOR OF THE PROJECT BUT I HAVE AN ISSUE WITH THE SCHEDULES! WHAT PATRONS DO YOU EXPECT FOR RIDERSHIP? IT CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE FOR BUSINESS MEN WHO WILL REQUIRE AN OVERNIGHT HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS! THE CHICAGO ARRIVAL TIME PREVENTS ANY COAST TRAIN CONNECTIONS AND THE CHICAGO DEPARTURE MISSES MOST INBOUND CONNECTING TRAINS! YOU NEED AN EVENING TRAIN OUT OF CHICAGO AND AN EARLY 6 AM DEPARTURE OUT OF ST PAUL! I REALIZE THERE WOULD BE A CREWING ISSUE!</p>
24	3/20/2021	SAME APPLIES
25	3/20/2021	<p>Better train travel is essential! But why isn't there an actual stop in Madison? The lack of one discourages so many people in Madison from taking the train because the bus trip to Columbus is very annoying and inconvenient.</p>
26	3/20/2021	<p>As a grandma who has 3 little grandkids living in Minneapolis, I would love to use the train to make a visit. However, there is no pet provision for large dogs. Can't there be one car set aside for passengers with pets? *** sign a waiver, make sure they're on a leash, carry proof of vaccinations, pay a fee..... There must be something that can be done to accommodate people with larger pets. Thanks for your consideration! Cindy Reiske</p>
27	3/20/2021	<p>Please please please please invest in this. The more the better, and hopefully we can do a Madison spur from Portage in the future. Then we can fund inter city rail projects in the future.</p>
28	3/20/2021	<p>I like to go to Milwaukee and Chicago to shop and for cultural activities. I rarely go to Chicago because the Van Galder bus trip can take from 3-4 hours to get there and the buses have so little room to relax. I would definitely take a rail trip especially if there were two round trips per day.</p>
29	3/20/2021	<p>This project is vital to our region as it will help both freight and passenger rail. It is well worth the return on our investment into the infrastructure improvements for safety and rail capacity as well as on time performance for both passenger rail and freight operations. The improvements to the Winona Depot platform is important for safety and ADA compliance. The service will help university students, the general public, tourism, businesses and our economic development in our region and state of MN. We need the required 10 million dollars from the legislature to match our MN funding requirements for the project to move forward.</p>

30	3/20/2021	<p>This type of rail project is long overdue</p> <p>Our transportation opportunities are inferior to some 3rd world countries</p> <p>With doubt, this connection would be considerable economic benefit, not to mention drastically elevate opportunities for work and leisure</p> <p>The opportunities for driving between these cities are few, and during peak times, the massive congestion dissuades many from traveling</p>
31	3/20/2021	<p>I'm all for it! I will use it to get to those cities. I hate driving to large metro areas. I support rail transportation.</p>
32	3/20/2021	<p>Of course this would be worth the investment.</p> <p>Madison needs to be added to this corridor to make sense. Best location, near airport. It is terrible that Scott Walker killed our opportunity for high speed rail service. Almost free money...what a waste.</p> <p>In its place we got the Foxcon con job!!</p> <p>Decisions like this should never be put in the hands of a Republican legislature..</p>
33	3/20/2021	<p>We have Empire Builder and Hiawatha, it would be nice if this new train is called the Twin Cities 400.</p>
34	3/20/2021	<p>This is a fantastic idea and has been needed and necessary for years.</p>
35	3/20/2021	<p>While knowing the importance of this rail, my feedback would be to ensure that Madison can become a public stop, making transit to regional cities much more accessible.</p>
36	3/20/2021	<p>Yes please put this train in operation. It could haul passengers and mail and small packages underneath or in a separate car or two. We need an easier way to travel to these destinations. The highway is just getting to crowded and busy.</p>
37	3/20/2021	<p>Add Madison to route</p>
38	3/20/2021	<p>History has shown that cities/regions that invest in infrastructure for mass transit have by far and away benefitted the most economically. With migration patterns showing that the great lakes area is going to be a larger population hub in a few decades, investment into these kinds of transportation is the smartest move we can make.</p>
39	3/20/2021	<p>Long needed. Build it soon!</p>
40	3/20/2021	<p>Long needed. Build it soon!</p>
41	3/20/2021	<p>I'd be for the rail line and would use it, especially if a stop or station was made in Columbus or Watertown WI.</p>
42	3/20/2021	<p>Great Idea. It would be even better if the train stopped in Places like Dells/Portage/Tomah to!! I can work up at Fort McCoy, then. But stop for about as long as a Subway stops in NYC. Get on Get off and get going. Let's get this state to the 21st Century and cut down on Fossil fuels as well.</p>
43	3/20/2021	<p>Thanks for finally looking at this, it is loooooong overdue. Trains are an excellent option to get from here to there. I highly suggest including a Madison connection, or Sun Prairie or anywhere nearer to Madison, Madison is a pretty big stop not to take advantage of when you're already getting so close.</p>

44	3/20/2021	This is a much-needed enhancement to current transportation options. I do wish Madison were a stop, but I am pleased there will be alternative transport to the train.
45	3/20/2021	Like many senior citizens, I love to travel but don't like having to drive on 70mph interstates. When President Obama offered federal funding for a Madison to Milwaukee rail line I was overjoyed, but then, of course, the funding was rejected by the former governor. This intercity project would be a godsend to anyone who likes to move about without having to rely completely on automobiles. Europe is the role model for what a passenger rail system can do for its citizens. I would be delighted to visit towns and cities in Minnesota and points east and south into Illinois more frequently if this project happens. I am 100% in favor of this project.
46	3/20/2021	YES PLEASE!
47	3/20/2021	Think it would be awesome!
48	3/20/2021	I think it is a good Idea to connect the cities together via track. It would be a great idea as well to possibly put a station connecting into Janesville and up to Madison connecting the lines together up to the twin cities. I feel like it would create a lot of job opportunities and bring people to work from both states into IL, WI, and MN.
49	3/20/2021	Please make this happen! A stop in Madison would be ideal but even without, the state 1000% needs this. Adds great job mobility, boosts tourism economy, and better friend and family relations. It's worth a tax increase. Sincerely a Madison resident.
50	3/20/2021	I live in Madison and was just talking about how much we need this. I would be willing to drive to Columbus or Portage but ideally it should get a little closer to the Dane County Airport. I would use it both directions- to Minneapolis and to Milwaukee/Chicago.
51	3/20/2021	Is there any chance of moving the route through Madison, WI? The nearest stop on the line is a 45 minute haul, and if memory serves me, it has no long term parking options. Or, if a line through Madison isn't possible, what about a connection van that coordinates with the Columbus station?
52	3/20/2021	Please include Madison! It would add a huge number of passengers/income.
53	3/20/2021	Yes to more passenger rail.
54	3/20/2021	Wish there would be stops closer to Madison, would love another way to get to MN to see friends and family
55	3/20/2021	We would love this! We travel back and forth visiting my parents often and would definitely use this.
56	3/20/2021	Please expand service and add departures. Add departures and arrivals from Portage, WI and Madison, WI.
57	3/20/2021	Closer to Madison would be great. If not, a park and ride with bus service to Columbus or Portage would be nice.
58	3/20/2021	I would suggest going to the Eau Claire area before heading to Minneapolis, as well as stopping through Madison rather than Columbus. This might require building new stations/tracks but I think this is necessary to make a meaningful long distance passenger train. Would be even better if this could be a high speed rail project.

59	3/20/2021	Please improve passenger rail service between these cities! This is long overdue and would be a wonderful addition to our transportation options, relieving our roads and transporting many people at once rather than multiplying the number of polluting vehicles. I wish Madison could be connected, too.
60	3/20/2021	Yes please!
61	3/20/2021	I support this 100%. Please make this happen.
62	3/20/2021	Absolutely love this idea. However please consider rerouting so that it can make a stop in Madison, WI. How amazing would it be for UW madison students to be able to travel to chicago AND st paul.
63	3/20/2021	
64	3/20/2021	I would really like to see additional service along the corridor, as indicated in the proposal. A morning departure from La Crosse to the twin cities is especially desirable and would have a positive impact on the local economy.
65	3/20/2021	I love this idea! The US needs more transportation like this, similar to what they have in Europe and China.
66	3/20/2021	Yes, please invest resources into expanding passenger rail options for WI. Having two large metro areas on our doorstep, Wisconsin should be capitalizing on this busy corridor. Eventually linking the rail line to Madison should be seriously considered as well to link the region.
67	3/20/2021	This would be so awesome to have in Wisconsin
68	3/20/2021	Please get closer to Madison too
69	3/20/2021	We would love to see a way to depart from the Madison Wis area to get to these cities by train!
70	3/20/2021	Great conservative idea to improve the corridor between MSP and Chicago. Great idea to connect smaller towns to other places in and out of MN. I travel to Chicago from St Paul frequently and train is my preferred mode of travel: clean, comfortable, relaxing, can read or eat on the way, and basically use my time the way I want. Also more freedom- can move around the cabin and use restrooms anytime. Portage station is only 20 min away from another station- for rail that is very close and would suggest looking at shuttles instead.
71	3/20/2021	In favor! What an excellent way to connect these regions economically and accessibly.
72	3/21/2021	I am in favor of the additional service on the route. I have family in Milwaukee and LaCrosse that could use this service.
73	3/21/2021	Please include Madison
74	3/21/2021	I am all for this! Long overdue!
75	3/21/2021	A stop in Madison is a must!

76	3/21/2021	I fully support this. However, the schedule for the train going from Chicago (leaves at 2 pm) gets in to St. Paul at 10 pm needs to be changed. Who wants to be in downtown St. Paul at 10 pm at night? It is not very safe if you are by yourself. Need a train that leaves Chicago around 8 am and gets to St. Paul at 4 pm. Also, the Amtrak station should be right by a St. Paul/Minneapolis metro rail stop if it isn't already, so you can get off the Amtrak and get on the metro rail to go anywhere in the twin cities. Amtrak should stop in Minneapolis by the airport if possible. Same for Chicago, try to stop by ohare.
77	3/21/2021	I am strongly in support of adding these two extra train trips! I would love to have better options for getting from St Paul to Chicago and back for tourism. This will also be useful for business travelers and people traveling to see family, etc
78	3/21/2021	I am totally in favor of adding a second round trip along the TCMC corridor. I would also like to see the return of the plans for high speed rail to Madison as well.
79	3/21/2021	YES PLEASE. I would love bus service to Madison from the train stations too if possible but even just this would be spectacular.
80	3/21/2021	There won't be enough passengers to self support this. It will turn out to be another taxpayer subsidized mess: See California's rail project from hell. How many billions over budget; and year's behind schedule?
81	3/21/2021	More stops in La Crosse is very important as it is a college town with students and faculty traveling for conferences and access to airports in cities.
82	3/21/2021	Yes! I would love to see this. Would make seeing family in the cities a little easier
83	3/21/2021	Seems like traffic/utilization would improve if route altered to come through Madison
84	3/21/2021	I would like more modern stations, where we can purchase tickets and make travel plans locally. Thank You
85	3/21/2021	Columbus could use the route as a way to invite more business to the area. We need more outside income
86	3/21/2021	I absolutely LOVE this idea and would personally use it often. Love the Dells and Portage stops!
87	3/21/2021	I believe this would be a great asset to the city of Culunbus, Wi.
88	3/21/2021	Not having a stop in Madison seems like a dealbreaker
89	3/21/2021	All for it!!
90	3/21/2021	100% in favor
91	3/21/2021	yes finally
92	3/21/2021	Many (most?) people travel to and from Chicago to make connections to other trains. Currently, the Empire Builder arrives in Chicago long after all of the west-bound trains (Texas Eagle, Southwest Chief, and California Zephyr) have departed. Going the other way, the trains from the west arrive in Chicago too late to connect to the Empire Builder to get home. So this connection requires an overnight stay in Chicago going each way. The scheduling proposed for the additional train does not correct this problem.

93	3/21/2021	We need the Amtrak to go through Madison Wisconsin. This would add much more travel than the present Milwaukee st paul corridor.
94	3/21/2021	Madison should be included on this line. Columbus might need to be removed for it to make sense, but I don't understand why you would bypass the second largest city in the state.
95	3/21/2021	Thanks for the opportunity. Please add Amtrak Station stop serving communities west of Milwaukee. Waukesha, and Washington rural counties will not drive 45 minutes east to Milwaukee to use this route eventually going west to St Paul. The suburban and rural counties west of Milwaukee are underserved. Please add a station in Brookfield, Pewaukee, Watertown, Hartland or Oconomowoc. Further, please consider adding service to the Hiawatha using this route. The commuter times from Milwaukee to Chicago are very limited, and perhaps this proposal could aid the very profitable Hiawatha line in adding 7am and 6pm services during the commute. Finally, when are the improvements toward high speed rail going to be budgeted so we can keep up with Europe and China and this trip from Chicago to St Paul takes 4 hours not 7.5.
96	3/21/2021	Hi - for a \$53M dollar budget, why is Wisconsin DOT paying nearly the same amount and getting 1/4 of the total budget for improvements? This seems like a MN grant, and WI is not being allocated enough of the budget. Needs in WI not addressed in this proposal is the need for additional routes/times during high volume commute times from 4-7pm and 6-9am from Milwaukee to Chicago on the Hiawatha. Also, food service should be offered again during peak commute times on this as Hiawatha service. Adding another mid-day option does not help Wisconsin residents travelling to Chicago for work. A station should be added in Wisconsin west of Milwaukee and east of Columbia. There is a large service gap in this area and adding a station in this location is imperative. High speed rail upgrades needed in WI.
97	3/21/2021	Hi - with the increased traffic of 2 additional trains coming through my community in WI from MN and IL, I don't see any money allocated for WI to upgrade current switches in communities such as Brookfield, WI. The train whistles in our community will inly increase with this proposal and there is no money to update our current high density suburb train tracks. The train whistles will continue to add noise pollution for a train that does not even stop and service my community. Lake Forest IL has stopped additional Hiawatha trains from connecting Chicago to Milwaukee for similar reasons. Further, MN has been allocated the majority of this budget yet the majority of this train travels through WI. I think the higher use of WI rail lines has not been properly accounted for in the budget allocation for WI communities. It appears at the outset of this proposal that WI is a pass through for St. Paul to Chicago yet there are more stops, requiring more operational costs in Wisconsin than both IL and MN. To that end, the operational costs of running 10 plus station stops much less countless communities with existing tracks that will need improvements needs to be considered for this to move forward. Yet WI receives 1/4 the budget MN receives in this proposal. How does this help WI residents?

98	3/21/2021	I would love to see improved rail capacity linking the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago. I have taken the train numerous times to Milwaukee and Chicago from La Crosse. I have had wonderful rides but I have also had rides cancelled, shifted to buses or delayed by many hours. This lack of reliability can be improved by infusing the connection with increased capacity. I want a strong rail system in this country. It is good for America. Please make it happen.
99	3/21/2021	This would be an extremely convenient way to travel.
100	3/21/2021	Love this! I believe I would use this, as in non pandemic years I often travel to Milwaukee, LaCrosse and the Twin Cities several times a year. My husband and I bought a house in Columbus so a stop here in town would be ideal.
101	3/21/2021	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I use Amtrak to travel nationwide on business only flying when I absolutely have to. Living about 40 minutes south of Tomah it makes it very convenient to park there and pick up the train. Unfortunately, making connections in Chicago is not always possible with just one train schedule per day. Sometimes that means I can't travel by rail and sometimes it means I have to drive down to Chicago to catch a train.</p> <p>I fully support adding a second train per day.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Mark Kastel</p>
102	3/21/2021	Stop wasting our tax dollars!!
103	3/21/2021	I would love additional station options. There is nothing between Columbus and Milwaukee. A station in Waukesha county would be nice.
104	3/21/2021	I think this would be a great addition to our State
105	3/21/2021	
106	3/21/2021	I would love that additional time from Milwaukee/Brookfield to St. Paul-Minn. I recently complained that there has only been one specific time for coming and going. Would love the Brookfield station re-opened!
107	3/21/2021	This will cost the state of Wisconsin millions of dollars a year. There is already a great highway system in place along this route that has seen many improvements over the last few years. I have taken the train to Minneapolis many times and driving is way easier and faster.
108	3/21/2021	I'd be happier if it had a stop closer to madison. I like to visit my friends there and I live in Kenosha at the moment.
109	3/21/2021	Our entire family would utilize this to travel between twin cities and chicago. It would remove traffic from the interstate and increase families to visit our cities more often. Please do
110	3/21/2021	This absolute needs to be done.

111	3/21/2021	We live in La Crosse, WI and value the train service to Chicago and Minneapolis very much. We have used the service many times in the past. The biggest issues has been the unreliability of the train coming from the West, as we cannot guarantee when we will arrive in Chicago. A dedicated schedule would make this a much more attractive option. We have been using proximity to the Amtrak line as a factor in deciding on a retirement community as we see our usage increasing as we get older. Traffic on the interstates gets worse every year, making the train more attractive and magnifying the impact of taking cars off of the road by people taking the train.
112	3/21/2021	Very much In favor of finally having significant public transportation!!
113	3/21/2021	I love this plan! However, I do hope the route will pass through or much closer to Madison some day. A significant number of students in particular would travel between Minneapolis and Madison, and beyond that, a connection between Chicago and Milwaukee would then invite additional passengers from there to MSN and MN. Please keep expanding passenger rail in Wisconsin!!!
114	3/21/2021	This sounds great but would appreciate a stop near Madison, WI.
115	3/21/2021	Depending on the timing, this might make it possible to go to the city and back in the same day, or with only 1 overnight instead of 2.
116	3/21/2021	I love this idea. Not only would it be for jobs but more vacationers and weekend trippers as well. Those of us in small towns can ride to the big cities without the hassle of traffic and parking. Please pass this extra service!
117	3/21/2021	Please do this project I live in Winona and all my kids live in Chicago. I would take this train once a month if you did this
118	3/21/2021	Please do this I live in Winona and would take the train to the cities if I could get a ride home the same day
119	3/21/2021	I definitely support this project and would happily use such a method for visiting both Minneapolis and Chicago.....and points in-between. Such a proposal was made many years ago and was summarily dismissed by a different administration. I believe that such a connection would benefit both states in terms of tourist dollars and support for local businesses. Thank you for re-visiting this worthwhile project.
120	3/21/2021	Great!!!
121	3/21/2021	A second train on the Chicago-St Paul route would be a huge plus for business travel, as well as adding flexibility for leisure travelers. I take the Empire Builder many times a year, both for business and to visit family in St Paul and Chicago. I see how vital train service is to older people, families with squirmy small children, college students, the Amish community, and anyone who can't or doesn't want to drive.

122	3/21/2021	I strongly support the second train for economic reasons. Young adults favor trains because 1)you can work on a train, not wasting valuable work time driving; 2)trains are safer than cars; 3)trains save the environment; and 4)trains cost the taxpayer less than highways. Right now, in River Falls, I am unable to do business in Madison or Milwaukee because the days spent driving cost my business too much in lost revenue to make those trips feasible. With trains, I lose zero work time traveling. Let's stop Wisconsin's brain drain and keep more educated and skilled young people working and paying taxes in our state.
123	3/21/2021	When I travel through the small towns/rural areas, husband has so many historical stories to tell of trains and their great value to the people. Sadly, these trains are all gone, now. My husband once gave a presentation on the history of passenger trains in a particular small town. He received many comments and there were many discussions/memories from the folks that rode these trains and used them for economic benefits also. So, yes, I think a second train could be of great value and would be well-used. One train with limited service is just that: limited!
124	3/21/2021	We need at least two daily trains between St. Paul and Chicago, with stops along the way in Hudson, Menomonie, and Eau Claire. Western WI needs this service. Include WiFi (of course).
125	3/21/2021	I strongly support the addition of two daily trains between Minneapolis and Chicago. Please consider adding them, along with advocating for additional scheduled daily trains.
126	3/21/2021	The schedule for Amtrak between Lacrosse and the twin cities right now is very impractical. I can't tell you how many times I would have liked to take the train there but because it arrives in the twin cities so late very little restaurants are open and you can't do any business so you have to go the day before which means an extra night lodging. Plus on top of it, the train departs early the next morning which prevents anything being done the following day which then of course requires another night's lodging. If I want to go to a larger city whether for business or pleasure practically speaking Milwaukee and Chicago are my choices. And they're much further than the twin cities. So if there is a better schedule to the twin cities that would be great! Hopefully they are adding another train round trip between the twin cities and Chicago. I'm wondering what the new schedule might be like. Would it be 12 hours later than the first train?
127	3/21/2021	I own a pub downtown lacrosse and think if there is a better schedule between the lacrosse and the twin cities that we would see an increase in business.
128	3/21/2021	I am in favor of expanding passenger rail service because environmentally train travel is less of a polluter than other forms of travel. So many other countries have highly efficient passenger rail service and America is lacking in that respect. Traveling by train is an adventure and you can see so much of the country as you do it.
129	3/21/2021	As a small businesses owner and eventual farmer, I am all for improving rail infrastructure for better access to the rural community. In addition, I hope the state invests in ultra high speed rail.

130	3/21/2021	Love the idea of this, would also love to see Madison stop included/connecting Minneapolis/Madison/Milwaukee/Chicago
131	3/21/2021	this is just what we need . get it done
132	3/21/2021	A second daily round-trip is long overdue. The Empire Builder is typically on-time through much of Wisconsin westbound, but can be way behind eastbound. This offers not only regularity in on-time performance, but a second option for riding. Let's hope too that improved track speed is also a big part of this effort as well. Our daughter takes the train regularly to and from UMN in the Twin Cities and westbound is always great, but eastbound is our last choice owing to delays. Any thought to extending the service to Duluth?
133	3/21/2021	Yes please! This would be a wonderful way to expose more people to Amtrak and for more day trips along this route. My family takes an Amtrak trip each year (minus 2020) and would take multiples if there was this route. Our home station is MSP.
134	3/21/2021	Would appreciate having a second daily train between Chicago and St Paul. We board in the Dells and would travel by train more often if such service existed. Current schedule makes it difficult.
135	3/21/2021	I would love to see this come to fruition. As an Amtrak fan, I have taken this route multiple times, so I would greatly welcome both the expansion and the added flexibility of riding the rails from Chicago to St. Paul. This proposal also enhances the reliability of the train, since eastbound departures can get delayed for hours. The eastbound train originates in Seattle, so the chances for delay are ripe. Having the train leave straight from St. Paul means better reliability and thus a more favorable opinion for travelers when deciding how to get from point A to point B. I support this proposal!
136	3/21/2021	The economic benefit to the entire Amtrak corridor between Chicago & St Paul will benefit. I am a long time, regular Amtrak traveler. More people are becoming interested in traveling by train for environmental reasons. The long-term benefit of additional service is worth the investment.
137	3/21/2021	I support the second train from St. Paul to Chicago!
138	3/21/2021	In favor of second daily route
139	3/21/2021	I strongly support a second roundtrip between Chicago and the Twin Cities. Our sons live in the Twin Cities and Champaign, respectively, and I've used the Empire Builder boarding at Columbus to visit both. Kind of limiting when you have only one train a day in each direction, though, and the timing does not always work well. Also, because of delays west of Minneapolis, you can no longer count on the eastbound to make connections in Chicago. It would be nice to have a second train that would be more reliable and dedicated to regional service (as opposed to long distance). I would certainly use it.

140	3/21/2021	The TCMC addition to this route is an important first step to begin to bring Wisconsin's passenger rail infrastructure even close to the levels of service offered in our neighboring states specifically Illinois and Michigan. It is long past time for Wisconsin to get serious about improving the level of Amtrak service offered to its residents. The Madison area which has been without rail service since the early 70s, which is puzzling given areas significantly less densely populated support successful passenger rail routes and our high rate of students that live in other Midwestern cities served by Amtrak. If Madison and in turn Wisconsin would like to continue to attract talent to jobs in the booming tech sector and be a national player we need to be linked to Amtrak like our competing regions are. The TCMC train, though not directly passing through Madison, will benefit the areas citizens and economy in the absence of our own station through the Columbus stop which has a lot of untapped potential to serve as a more formal Madison stop. Through the proposed shuttle and a strong marketing effort this project would be bolstered significantly in ridership and in turn revenue by including targeting riders in Madison along with the other cities along the route. The biggest barrier to ridership in Columbus from the rest of the Madison area is lack of awareness, the train is a much more comfortable, efficient and even less expensive way to access Downtown Chicago and would also be an attractive alternative to driving to other cities along the TCMC corridor. It's a shame this issue has become political because at face value a strong passenger rail program in our cities benefits all stakeholders in our state, this should be an easy bi-partisan win.
141	3/22/2021	If there is enough usage to justify adding a second train I say go for it and I support the idea. The more rail usage we can utilize the better.
142	3/22/2021	This route is a busy one, selling out often, an increase in frequency will pay-off and with the needed relief from burning fossil fuels, we need an alternative mode of transportation along this route.
143	3/22/2021	This would addition would be so beneficial. I would increase my number of trips each year and could likely get family in SE Minnesota to ride more often.
144	3/22/2021	While increased service is certainly necessary, and moreover long overdue, to continue to bypass Madison is a gross misstep. Connection service is NOT the same.
145	3/22/2021	I support this wholeheartedly.
146	3/22/2021	I support this project. We use the current service from Portage to St. Paul multiple times a year to visit family. Family uses it from St. Paul to Portage multiple times each year. Another train would make it much more convenient.
147	3/22/2021	Add Madison, WI to the route
148	3/22/2021	This would be a huge win for Wisconsin and surrounding states. Please do it!
149	3/22/2021	This is amazing!!! So excited for the prospect of rail being utilized across Wisconsin, especially to Minneapolis. Such a smart and sustainable way. I hate driving and cars are a huge waste of money. Columbus is great to tie in with existing service. Would be better closer to Madison but understand that infrastructure is already in place.

150	3/22/2021	I would love a second daily route because I live in La Crosse and I like traveling to Chicago and the Twin Cities. Train travel in the US could be so much better (I know that you all do your best) and it would be wonderful to be able to have an upgrade.
151	3/22/2021	I support rail and improvements to rail infrastructure. The public and government should continue investing in rail.
152	3/22/2021	Wonderful Idea totally in favor! Please include Madison, WI. It's pointless if you don't.
153	3/22/2021	It should be closer to Madison, if only because Madison is a much more major city than that closest listed on the map, Columbus.
154	3/22/2021	I would love for this to happen
155	3/22/2021	Make it high speed. Include Madison as a stop.
156	3/22/2021	I totally support this project.
157	3/22/2021	I am in favor of this proposal, since it helps to reduce autos off the interstate along with greenhouse emissions. I would like to see the numbers of stops increased if possible to add some of the suburbs west of Milwaukee. Depending upon the schedule of the train it may be possible to add some commuter passengers.
158	3/22/2021	Long overdue, need even more than 2X daily
159	3/22/2021	Please make this happen. We are long overdue for rail infrastructure projects in the upper Midwest.
160	3/22/2021	A second daily train is a great idea. But why not run it over the corridor between St Paul/Green Bay/Oshkosh/Milwaukee instead, adding passenger rail access to more of the state? Those traveling between Chicago and MSP would still get there twice a day, and you would be potentially linking several branches of the University system and returning access to a part of the state that used to have twice daily service (albeit more than fifty years ago). Another possibility is to tap into the corridor through Appleton and Stevens Point. A last mile link to CWA and the Wausau/Marshfield/Stevens Point triangle would be amazing. There used to be a weekend ski train from Chicago/Milwaukee to Rib Mountain that was popular.
161	3/22/2021	I would definitely use the train more and prefer it to driving. I travel from River Falls (Red Wing Train Station) to Chicago. I used to use the train often but stopped because the times are unreliable. Having a train beginning in St Paul would convince me to start using it again.
162	3/22/2021	The route should include Madison as a stop as well.
163	3/22/2021	More space for Bicycles as roll-on/roll-off would appeal to more people than just me.Sparta stop(Elroy-Sparta bike trail).

		<p>This passenger rail addition is needed because:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. US demographics show that the fastest segment of our population growth going forward is age 65 and above; this age group is the most likely to need alternate forms of transportation beyond personal cars and air travel. 2. I have been on the current Empire Builder many times, and it runs full; marketing studies on the additional train demonstrate that the potential ridership is there and plentiful. 3. There are numerous studies that show that doubling the passenger rail capacity does much more than double the ridership; in reality, the point to point ridership is more like triple because it introduces greater trip and return time options 4. There are many colleges and universities along the route both within Wisconsin and MN; college students love to get back and forth on the train; they have the time, they don't need a car, and they can read or do studies enroute. The present Empire Builder train is always full of students. 5. Looking forward, population growth will require additional transportation capacity; it is not likely that new interstate highways will be built, nor new lanes added to present highways. These personal auto roadways are about maxed out. Passenger railroad is the next option to expand and we should realize this and get moving on it. 6. Commercial airlines have ceded the 400-mile trip range to other modes; they no longer want to serve that trip length category, and are only too happy to leave it to highways and trains. Happily, it turns out that passenger train service is ideal for servicing the 400-mile range segment, and the TCMC addition fits that bill perfectly.
164	3/22/2021	
165	3/22/2021	Would highly support a second daily train.
166	3/22/2021	YES!! Please complete ASAP.
167	3/22/2021	I am all for this! Frankly, this is long overdue and will only improve the ability to travel not only around the states but with our neighbors as well.
168	3/22/2021	Full support for this project as a second route and improvements are much needed. However, I think every effort should be made to reroute this through Madison. Spare no expense. The fact that Wisconsin's second-largest and fastest growing city does not have rail service but Columbus and Portage do is simply non-sensical. You would exponentially increase passenger traffic with a Milwaukee-Madison link. Drain the highway fund if you have to. Linking Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago through Madison would be the most important infrastructure project undertaken in this state in decades.
169	3/22/2021	I am in favor
170	3/22/2021	In favor of this!
171	3/22/2021	I am in favor of this 100% and wish it would have been in action years ago.
172	3/22/2021	<p>This project is long overdue. Construction ought to have been begun under the early Walker admin and it'd be in service by now.</p> <p>Wisconsin deserves to have passenger rail between our major cities and neighboring major metros Chicago and TwinCities. This is good sense for our businesses, citizens and environment.</p> <p>Is there a plan to add a spur to/from Madison?</p>

173	3/22/2021	<p>This project is long overdue and I fully support it. The current departure time from St. Paul is often too early and the train runs into delays due to the long route from the west coast. A second train to provide more flexibility with times and greater reliability is much needed.</p> <p>One day, I hope to see this route upgraded with faster times and even more round-trips, although I understand this is beyond the current scope of the project. No expense should be spared to upgrade this route and to one day route it through Madison instead of missing that key city in the middle of the route.</p>
174	3/22/2021	I think this a a wonderful start. the 2 lines are necessary and will expand the use of the rail system in my opinion. I wish there would be consideration and funding for high speed rail as well.
175	3/22/2021	I believe a competitive and efficient rail link between Chicago-Milwaukee-Minneapolis would be a welcomed option to passengers. Economies being what they are there will be more consolidations in airlines and coach travel.
176	3/22/2021	Stop closer to Madison would be optimal for commuting between MKE and Madison. In saying this, this upgrade would be greatly appreciated!
177	3/22/2021	<p>This is long overdue. Please make this happen!</p> <p>Madison should be included as a stop. I also think Eau Claire should be included.</p>
178	3/22/2021	ALL forms of public transit and rail transit need to be significantly expanded in not only WI, but the entire country. Connecting major economic and population centers across the Great Lakes region is necessary.
179	3/22/2021	I fully support this!! Thank you Secretary Thompson and staff
180	3/22/2021	<p>This second train between St. Paul and Chicago has been badly needed for some time. Speaking for my wife and I, there have been many times when we traveled to Milwaukee or La Crosse and would have loved to take Amtrak, but the inconvenience of getting to Union Station in St. Paul very early in the morning has deterred us. Consequently we ended up driving, which is not as pleasant an experience. A second train would also reduce the burning of fossil fuels by taking cars off the road and reduce the number of people flying between the Twin Cities and Chicago, another big plus for the environment. Also, people in the younger generations are less likely to own cars and some seniors can no longer drive, so this train would provide another desirable option for those people, and it would serve a large population of college students in Winona, La Crosse, Milwaukee and the Chicago area.</p>
181	3/22/2021	<p>Passenger rail is desperately needed to return to northern Wisconsin and the twin ports of Duluth MN and Superior WI for the same reasons.</p> <p>Until then, please consider more than just one additional round trip for the Empire Builder. The one trip I've had on it was PACKED, I had no opportunity for a window seat as I was moved by personnel due to more people packing in at each stop. The overall trip was fine, but it needs to truly accommodate a very large passenger demand.</p>

182	3/22/2021	12 years too late, but better Kate than never. This still leaves the central part of Wisconsin without any meaningful mass transit. Would it really be so difficult to also run a rail along the eastern edge of the state to Green Bay and then west through the Chippewa Valley and over to the twin cities?
183	3/22/2021	You need to make a line that goes through Madison, too.
184	3/22/2021	Would prefer an early morning north/westbound / early afternoon south/eastbound. A Watertown stop would also add usefulness to a lot more people. From Watertown/Oconomowoc/Lake Country if you're heading to Chicago and must first drive to Milwaukee you may as well keep driving.
185	3/22/2021	This needs to be routed through Madison.
186	3/22/2021	In favor
187	3/22/2021	There needs to be service that runs to Eau Claire as well. Omitting a metro area that has a large commuting population is a egregious oversight.
188	3/22/2021	What considerations are being made to include service to the Madison metro area?
189	3/22/2021	We would use it more often if we had more trains each day. We live near Portage WI
190	3/22/2021	Just thrilled these new services will be provided. I look forward to riding the train from St. Paul to Chicago and back. Will the train go through Hudson and Eau Claire, WI? Thank you!
191	3/22/2021	Since covid started, I don't ever plan to take mass transit again. I am too afraid of getting sick being in close contact with other people. The CDC states to not have close contact with people because of the possibility of getting infected. Mass transit is a stupid idea and is a total waste of money that our state and country does not have. Quite the stupidity of such ideas.
192	3/22/2021	I fully support this project. I do think this project should at least consider going through Madison and think the passenger counts would go up as a result. Long term, I think the goal of this route should be to make this a true HSR corridor akin to European rail service and speeds, which would make it more attractive than flying. Obviously it will be very hard to match exact flight times, but making the route a HSR route would make it very attractive counting TSA, check-in, and travel to and from airport times.
193	3/22/2021	As long as accessibility is actively considered in improvements that would allow for all Amtrak riders to fully benefit from this new investment, I'm in full support of the proposal. Grateful there's a transit connector that may make sense to expand benefits (esp Madison) access to this route. Side note: It is regrettable that Madison couldn't be a direct part of the rail line as well to connect Minneapolis to MKE to Chicago as well for mega-region development. I hope that this also has a future phase that may enable increased affordability for high speed or more regular routes and ridership for access to jobs in other metro areas as well. This could accomplish the regional high speed rail goals of the past KRM and bygone idea of MKE to Madison high speed.
194	3/22/2021	I would use this Portage to the twin cities or to Chicago.

195	3/22/2021	I really support and urge the MN DOT and the WI DOT to come together to support this important infrastructure option. Public transportation is a necessary investment to make. Moreover, I really want you to consider a way to include Eau Claire in the route, as well.
196	3/22/2021	I fully support passenger rail service between St. Paul and Chicago and wish there was more of it! We need to make sure it gets proper funding.
197	3/22/2021	Please please please please make every improvement you can towards this line. I'm only 30. I expect to live roughly another 70 years. I don't want to be dealing with cars that entire time so please, please, please do everything you can to make this rail line valuable and accessible to everyone. It would be so amazing to lark off to Chicago for the weekend without worrying about cars. Please also consider high speed commuter rail. We really should have had it years ago, to be honest.
198	3/22/2021	If you build add a second train, I will use it between Chicago and Red Wing. Please make it easy for me to bring my bicycle on-board. I would also use a Columbus / Madison shuttle.
199	3/22/2021	I frequently have a need to travel MKE-MSP, and detest the waste of time that is required to drive or to wait in multiple places at the airport and then get to and from the airport. The worker/executive productivity that would be gained by making train travel possible would be a substantial gain for Wisconsin business, since it is possible to work in a train in a way that is not possible in automobile or plane travel. In fact I would take more opportunities to travel MKE-MSP if there were two trains per day.
200	3/22/2021	This is good news. To bad though that the second route couldn't be routed through Eau Claire Wisconsin. Is this a possibility? We rode AMTRAC to Chicago 2 years ago and it is inconvenient to go to Tomah or another location to get on the train.
201	3/22/2021	Please consider how to open rail connectivity to Madison. It is a huge shame there is no train connectivity from Madison to Any of these locations. Generally, I am very supportive of this project.
202	3/22/2021	I strongly support the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail Project. I believe projects like these would attract people and businesses to move to the Midwest. I would further like to see intracity rail development within the city of Milwaukee and throughout the county to aid in regional cooperation and economic development of the region.
203	3/22/2021	Sending the route through the largest city in central WI only makes sense. You need to get the route through Dane County and close enough to Madison so it will gain the traffic that is there. I would love to use it to get to Chicago and the Twin Cities as I am sure many will.
204	3/22/2021	Could the passenger rail service go through Madison, or at least a suburb like Sun Prairie?

205	3/22/2021	The train should also include a Madison stop. Having the second largest city in the state connected to the train only by potential bus service will greatly reduce the number of people in Madison and the surrounding suburbs that would otherwise likely use the train for transportation. Not having a Madison stop will have an even greater negative impact on people who would otherwise use the train regularly to commute between Madison and Milwaukee.
206	3/22/2021	I think this is a fantastic and overdue upgrade to service. Driving from Milwaukee to the Twin Cities is long and arduous. I also expect that the new line will be more reliable than the Empire Builder which is often delayed due to events far to the west. It also never seems to have seats available. I would definitely use the proposed service. It will bring Milwaukee and the Twin Cities closer together.
207	3/22/2021	We have needed this because it should have been the plan already back over 10 years ago when the state was looking at high speed rail and short sided politicians stopped the project and the extension of the METRA to Milwaukee. Train is an efficient way to travel. Takes pressure off making more roads which constantly needs help. Environmentally it is better then lots of cars. It allows seniors to travel with much safer options. I have taken the Hiawatha for many, many years when doing business or meeting friends socially in Chicago. I would always get so much work done or have fun conversing with friends during my ride. When you compared paying tolls and parking let along the hassle of driving in a big city, the train is perfect. To have a safe ride to Minneapolis sounds great. Along with the TCMC rail, finish adding the extension of the METRA up to Milwaukee Intermodal station. Stop building roads.
208	3/22/2021	Restore the route between the Twin Cities and Eau Claire and Black River Falls that was discontinued in 1963, with a station in Menomonie, WI included. Many college students from River Falls, Stout, and Eau Claire would use the trains going home to the Twin Cities and Milwaukee. I would use the train to visit my family in St. Paul.
209	3/22/2021	This is a great idea. Please move forward with it!
210	3/22/2021	I am in strong support of this project. I rely on Amtrak to commute from Milwaukee to Saint Paul fairly regularly, and more options in service times would be very convenient.
211	3/22/2021	Please can we limit the train horns at crossing that have arms/lights to stop traffic?? If not all the time, perhaps between the hours of 9pm and 6am. It seems excessive for the train to be blowing their horns in residential areas all hours of the night, when the crossings have arms that come down to prevent traffic. Please stop the unnecessary horns.
212	3/23/2021	The trains do not appear to move through the area at consistent times. Residents should be able to easily find a published schedule and those times be consistent from day to day.
213	3/23/2021	Approve.

214	3/23/2021	Hello, I just wanted to express that I feel that adding the second round trip (and potentially more in the future) is a key piece of increasing mobility. I look forward to development on the corridor!
215	3/23/2021	Would be nice if we could act like the 58th ranked gdp in the world for a change. Denmark at 59th rank is able to afford great public transit. Seems like we have no excuse.
216	3/23/2021	I love traveling Amtrak, but the limited schedule and eastbound delays make it difficult to justify. A second route originating in St. Paul paired with one leaving Chicago in the morning would double our travel options and make rail travel more feasible for me and my family. Being in an Amtrak-served city, the proposed stop should, in theory, allow us to take a train straight to Mitchell Airport rather than drive to Madison or Milwaukee or hope the timing works out with a Hiawatha train. That said, with the proposed schedule resulting in late-day arrivals and early-morning departures at Mitchell, consider allowing the Empire Builder to stop for eastboard dropoffs and westbound pickups at the airport, similar to the Milwaukee and Glenview stops, to accommodate flyers throughout Wisconsin.
217	3/23/2021	Although increased train business is good our neighborhood noise level is not. Can you pursue a quiet zone at Springdale RD crossing in Brookfield?
218	3/23/2021	This is something that has been needed for a long time and will have far reaching impact and benefits. I strongly urge you to move forward with this project. I was born and raised in Madison WI and currently work and live in St Paul. There are many familial and job market overlaps between these states and improving their connections will yield great results. Passenger rail is a needed solution to modern population and environmental impact concerns. I believe they are a great use of funding and hope to see a project like this finally come to fruition.
219	3/23/2021	This is a slam dunk. 50 million for more reliable regional transportation? Must do it. Heck, maybe you can even get the feds to upgrade to high speed rail while you're at it!
220	3/23/2021	Fully in favor of this. I do not own a car and do not plan on doing so; limited timing options is the main reason I am unable to travel by rail and I will far more likely to do so to visit family and simply to travel for leisure if there are multiple trips each day.
221	3/23/2021	I reside in Ashland County, Wisconsin. I support investment to improve passenger rail services. I have taken the train from St. Paul to Chicago quite often and further to Washington DC, several times. I would travel on rail lines more often if I resided near rail service.
222	3/23/2021	Why on earth would you skip Dane County to go through portage and the Dells seriously?

223	3/23/2021	Overall I support increased train service. There is significant demand to visit the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago for weekend trips. However, I'm disappointed that the train route continues to bypass Madison. Madison is the state capital, the 2nd largest city in the state, and has close to 10% of the state's population. Including Madison on the route would greatly increase passenger load and cut down on interstate highway traffic. I myself have only visited the 3 cities fewer than a combined 5 times in 10 years due to the lack of transportation options when I don't own a car.
224	3/23/2021	We need fast rail, not twice as many.
225	3/23/2021	Please try to add a railway connection to Madison, WI if possible.
226	3/23/2021	Please yes the question is how fast can we get this. We need safe public transportation between these cities -- it is unconscionable that it doesn't exist already.
227	3/23/2021	Great idea!
228	3/23/2021	Great idea! Our region will benefit from further connectivity.
229	3/23/2021	Please add rail!!!!
230	3/23/2021	I support the enhancement of Amtrak services. Long overdue. Something needs to be done, however, to improve schedules between Chicago and Denver. Currently, a person wanting to travel from Tomah, Wisconsin to Denver has to go to Chicago, and then backtrack from there to Denver. The connection does not match up. That person would have to stay overnight in Chicago at expense. Get it? Travel in the wrong direction, pay for a Chicago hotel, and actually starting moving towards Denver the next day. That has got to change.
231	3/23/2021	This is absolutely needed to bolster future growth, and a useful option for many regional travelers. I would like to see some form of food/beverage service available onboard (which Hiawatha currently lacks), if only vending machines.
232	3/23/2021	I am in full support of this project. It should be much easier to travel by train within our region and between our metro areas. Good for business and tourism.
233	3/23/2021	I would love a rail line connecting these cities, including Madison. High speed would be even better for commuters and could easily make day trips.
234	3/23/2021	I think this is an excellent idea. More passenger rail available in WI and MN. My question is, just what equipment will be used? Will it be the same as the Hiawatha equipment?
235	3/23/2021	This is a great idea and will certainly bring good jobs and improve the economy for all areas involved.
236	3/23/2021	Amtrak needs to address timeliness of its schedule. It should also do a better job of posting trips and with return so work schedules can work. Lastly cost compared to vehicular is just wrong.
237	3/23/2021	This project seems outstanding. I'd personally love to see it stop in Madison then loop up to The Dells.
238	3/23/2021	I have taken this line many times over the years. It provides an essential service to the public in MN and WI that is efficient, affordable, comfortable, and good for the natural environment. I endorse this project.

239	3/23/2021	Yes! I support this second train initiative!
240	3/23/2021	There are better ways the DOT can help the state of Wisconsin right now. Just in Madison right now, the beltline needs to be revamped and improved as Madison has way outgrown the beltline, 14 connecting Oregon to Madison has been outgrown and no longer meets driving demands, and the Interstate surrounding the Madison area is a mess and a death machine right now. A train isn't an answer right now, fixing our major roads should be.
241	3/23/2021	
242	3/23/2021	100% for the addition of this rail service. I believe it would be competitive with local air travel, and perhaps more affordable. It would also have the advantage of business Travelers being able to work remotely on the road between the three major Midwest business hubs. In addition, it is no secret that the Empire Builder has a notorious problem of running late on its eastbound journey to Chicago, causing lots of passengers in the Minnesota and Wisconsin area not to choose the train when traveling to Chicago. This would eliminate the timeliness issues.
243	3/23/2021	I am in favor of adding a second service trip. I travel often between Madison and St Paul but the current schedule is not convenient
244	3/23/2021	I am in favor.
245	3/23/2021	Please expand to a second run! I live in Seattle, grew up in Michigan, and have used this route multiple times from Seattle to Michigan (passing through WI) and to visit friends and family in the Twin Cities and Milwaukee when in Michigan. More train service is the way to go!
246	3/23/2021	
247	3/23/2021	This would be well received. In favor
248	3/23/2021	This is an excellent plan. I am fully in support of it, it's not quite as good as the high speed rail would have been but it is long overdue
249	3/23/2021	I think this would be a great idea and help to connect the cultures and economies of MN and WI
250	3/23/2021	I strongly support more rail service!
251	3/23/2021	The project should be stopped. It is a huge waste of money for Wisconsinites.
252	3/23/2021	I am a Milwaukee resident and I support the TCMC Intercity Passenger Rail Project. Adding more passenger service and alleviating the need for trucks with improved freight speeds are worthy goals and I am pleased to see both Minnesota's and Wisconsin's departments of transportation working together to address these issues. I would like to see high-speed rail become an option in the future.
253	3/23/2021	PLEASE DO THIS NOW!! We have been awaiting this to be done for years. Please tell us what more we can do to support. Also, please consider upgrading depots like Columbus, WI - a place that enjoys much business. Finally, please continue to pursue high speed rail!
254	3/23/2021	Adds valuable additional travel options. We would especially take advantage of the shuttle from Eau Claire.
255	3/23/2021	I would very much like to see passenger service go through Eau Claire. We are already taking a shuttle to St. Paul to catch a train.

256	3/23/2021	This will be a wonderful convenience for businesses or overnight business in the communities along the corridor, and for communities near the rail stops along the route. It makes ecological sense to capitalize on existing routes, and perhaps flatten or lower traffic into the cities served by the trains. Rail travel is highly efficient, and potentially could also reduce several 'over-the-road trucks hauling materials into the cities. This project should have been started and completed over a decade ago when funding was offered. We need to step up and make travel more convenient into and out of these large mid-western cities, cut some emissions in the process and 'fit' the travel needs of businesses and leisure travelers young and old. Air travel is wonderful, but does not fit 'all' types of travel. It also does not directly serve the downtown districts of the major communities along the travel routes. Continue with improvements to major station stops. Add the additional round-trip passenger rail along the Empire Builder route as soon as possible. It is needed. It will be heavily used. and the time is right to do it now.
257	3/23/2021	I'm completely in favor of the development of the tcml! I eagerly await the 2022 start date and hope that one day Green Bay will be a priority connection to the route as well
258	3/23/2021	THIS IS A GREAT IDEA PLEASE MAKE IT HAPPEN. I JUST WISH IT WENT THROUGH MADISON
259	3/23/2021	I am very much in favor of this and will use it regularly! My wife, myself, and my kids have ridden the Empire Builder numerous times between Minneapolis (where we live now), Milwaukee (where I have family) and Chicago (where she has family). COVID interrupted this, but we will ride roundtrip about 2-4 times per year EACH once we are vaccinated and feeling safer, and when daily service resumes. This will be hugely successful!
260	3/23/2021	Hello, I think this would be an excellent idea. My wife's brother moved to the Twin Cities last year from Milwaukee, and does not drive. This would allow us to see him 4-5 times a year.
261	3/23/2021	Columbus has a beautiful depo and we have four major state roads going through our town. We would be able to help fill this train not to mention the boost it would give Columbus
262	3/23/2021	Yes, PLEASE! My main problem with taking the train from Winona to either Chicago or M/SP is the inflexibility of return options. While the proposed second train schedule is slightly underwhelming in that regard, it's better than being locked into a dawn departure from Union/St Paul or that slightly awkward 2:30 pm from Chicago.
263	3/23/2021	I hope the service could start even sooner !
264	3/23/2021	I think a second daily train between MSP and Chicago has been needed for some time. Now just put in a bike trail along side so I can ride my bike to Chicago and take the train back. That would be a multi-day ride with overnight stays at hotels along the way. I'm sure I could get several people to ride with me.
265	3/23/2021	I would find it very convenient to have an additional train between Chicago and St. Paul.

266	3/23/2021	<p>I think this train is a wonderful essential service that will enhance life across the state of Wisconsin, and increase connectivity to Chicago and Saint Paul, along with all the places in between. It has been an inconvenience to me for many years that there is so little reliable and regular train service connecting precisely these cities. One train per day is not enough for weekend trips I've wanted to take, business meetings in Chicago and Milwaukee, I've needed to attend, nor for spontaneously visiting my family in Madison.</p> <p>On top of that, new riders will bring about \$47.7M in direct & indirect economic benefits (tourism spending, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, state & local taxes, etc) for the region. The service will attract an estimated 155,500 new passengers per year based on a conservative estimate based on 2017 ridership data.</p> <p>Furthermore, the two daily round-trips between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul will mean more convenient departure times. The new train will garner a diverse ridership by diverting trips from already overcrowded regional roads & highways. The best part is that most diverted trips will be from cars, with a small fraction diverting from buses! And if that weren't enough, an additional fourteen thousand trips each year will come from induced demand, i.e., trips that would not otherwise have been taken</p> <p>Saving the three states over \$30M in associated highway maintenance costs.</p> <p>This is ABSOLUTELY the right decision for Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. As a born and bred Milwaukeean, I am excited to see this proposal and believe the State of Wisconsin and WISDOT should do everything within its power to make it happen.</p>
267	3/23/2021	<p>I think it's an excellent idea to add a second train between Chicago and the Twin Cities. I would be very likely to use it between Milwaukee and the La Crosse and/or the Twin Cities. It would be nice to have an option that arrived at those cities at a different time of day than the Empire Builder.</p>
268	3/23/2021	<p>I have family living in central Wisconsin, whom I do not see as often as I would like, because of the lack of public transportation to their area from Chicago. A 2nd daily passenger train would bring me and other family members to central Wisconsin much more frequently!</p>
269	3/23/2021	<p>I have family in central Wisconsin which I do not get to visit very often because of very limited public transportation to the area. A 2nd daily passenger train to central Wisconsin from/to Chicago would greatly increase my family and my visits to family in that area.</p>

270	3/23/2021	<p>Over several years, now, we have utilized the TCMC component of the Empire Builder, mostly to travel from Red Wing to Milwaukee or have one of our grandchildren travel to Red Wing to be with us. The convenience, the comfort, and no need to drive literally hours on the often congested Interstate system from Maiden Rock to Milwaukee area is a real pleasure and relief. Were a second train to/from the Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago been instituted and were nearing 'high speed' runs would be beyond appreciated, it is, without question, very likely to be a very positive economic booster along that entire route. Notably, while we drive to the Twin Cities to be with family members who live there, being able to hop on a train from Red Wing to the Twin Cities would be a very, very positive thing. We now have chosen to travel, in and outside the US, via Minneapolis Air Port, though we have also used O'Hare, many times, too. Thus, we are strong supporter of the plans to expand rail service via the TCMC corridor. We have been fans and users of highspeed rail services in Europe and Japan, and can attest to the use of such, despite the cost, as being well beyond 'worth it'. They are amazing trains and are usually heavily utilized.</p>
271	3/23/2021	<p>As a resident of Beaver Dam, WI I've made numerous trips to Chicago and St. Paul via our nearby Columbus, WI train station. We've also had relatives use this to visit us from Chicago. A second train would really improve the reliability of the line and allow us to use it and recommend it to others more frequently. For instance, if we want to take a weekend trip to enjoy the Twin Cities, we have to leave Friday evening at 5 pm and get into St. Paul at 10 at night or so. Then to return before work on Monday, you have to leave quite early from Minneapolis on Sunday morning. The end result is really one day (Saturday) is your only option, and you've spent nearly as much time on the train as you have awake in the Twin Cities. The second train would make this all make much more sense. The same would be true of travel to and from Chicago. Also, you don't have to worry that your train ride home might have been stuck in North Dakota 24 hours ago. It just really makes sense and would clearly make the train an environmentally friendly option and bring more money and visitors to rural communities along the route.</p>
272	3/23/2021	
273	3/23/2021	<p>This is a great idea! I don't know what else to say. Improved rail travel is always beneficial and it would be nice to see one out to Madison also.</p>
274	3/23/2021	<p>Adding a second daily train to the Chicago-St. Paul route will greatly enhance the attractiveness and convenience of using this route. The big disadvantage of the current Empire Builder is its one, inconvenient time of departing Chicago in the afternoon and arriving very late evening in St. Paul. The reverse trip is equally disadvantageous with an early morning departure from St. Paul and late afternoon arrival in Chicago. Adding a second train will greatly improve the departure and arrival times.</p>
275	3/23/2021	<p>Make it FAST RAIL. Only three stops between Msp and Chicago. Fast meaning 200 mph!!!</p>

276	3/23/2021	Yes, I would love to see more high speed rail in Wisconsin and would personally use it, despite living out in Appleton. Upgrading our rail infrastructure is long overdue. I wish to see the passenger rail network expand and relieve some of the congestion on our highways.
277	3/23/2021	Rail service between MSP and Milwaukee and Chicago is extremely important to me and my wife. We use the train frequently to visit friends and relatives in Milwaukee and around the Dell, as well as in Chicago and south in Illinois. I myself use the service to reach Woodside Ranch in Mauston (via Tomah or the Dells) where I stay multiple days at least twice a year. We would so appreciate the extra flexibility and RELIABILITY which a second frequency would assure. We would appreciate an overnite train. Also, it would be nice to have direct or thru service to Green Bay and Madison as well, tho I know this is not currently being considered. As regards amenities, we would enjoy reasonably good cafe service, hopefully with some good local options. Also, a Business Class offering would be of great benefit.
278	3/23/2021	Perfect. Should have happened years ago. This will take more pressure off driving. This will open more family trips to the northwest.
279	3/23/2021	Add a stop in Madison, WI
280	3/23/2021	I think this is a great idea. My family uses this line. Thank you Mike
281	3/23/2021	
282	3/23/2021	I would very much like improved rail service between Madison, and both Chicago and the Twin Cities. There are many things to do and see in these larger cities that are not available in Madison. I for one would be using such a train service many times a year. Columbus is close by the east side of Madison, and is an excellent place to catch the train.
283	3/23/2021	Now that there is a MLS team in the Twin Cities I plan to ride Amtrak each time the Chicago Fire soccer team has a game there. Rode the train with a group of fans in 2019 and the trip was great. With an additional train the trip is going to be more convenient. Looking forward to riding the second train.
284	3/23/2021	The respective morning and mid-day departures would be congruent with convenient service extended to Fargo, ND (Moorehead, MN) to better serve the Twin Cities and be relevant to more of Minnesota. Alternatively, service should be extended to the North Star Target Center station. I'm happy a stop at Milwaukee Airport is proposed for train to plane service from Central Wisconsin.
285	3/23/2021	My family and I would travel that route much more if the frequency was more and the service was more consistent.
286	3/23/2021	We enjoy traveling with family to the Minneapolis area for sightseeing and shopping. By car this is a 5 hour trip. We would like to travel by train but arrival time after 10pm and a scheduled departure time of 8am makes this type of travel inconvenient and expensive. A second train on a shorter route, better on time performance, and more convenient times would be very attractive to travel by train.

287	3/23/2021	YES, we need speedy and reliable on-time daily service between these major cities as alternative to the hassles of flying. Also, it needs to connect easily to renewed passenger rail between Twin Cities and Duluth, MN.
288	3/23/2021	<p>I strongly urge you to support a second daily round trip passenger rail on the Empire Builder route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New riders will bring about \$47.7M in direct & indirect economic benefits (tourism spending, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, state & local taxes, etc) for the region. - The service will attract an estimated 155,500 new passengers per year - Two daily round-trips between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul will mean more convenient departure times - The new trip will divert trips from already overcrowded regional roads & highways. Saving the three states over \$30M in associated highway maintenance costs - An additional fourteen thousand trips each year will come from induced demand, i.e., trips that would not otherwise have been taken
289	3/23/2021	Twice-daily service between Chicago-Milwaukee-St. Paul is the bare minimum needed. Reduction of road congestion, maintenance costs, and casualties from road crashes more than justify the cost. There are additional environmental and economic benefits, and it offers greater travel opportunity to BIPOC.
290	3/23/2021	<p>Sirs: New riders will bring about \$47.7M in direct & indirect economic benefits (tourism spending, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, state & local taxes, etc) for the region.</p> <p>The service will attract an estimated 155,500 new passengers per year</p> <p>A conservative estimate based on 2017 ridership data</p> <p>Two daily round-trips between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul will mean more convenient departure times</p> <p>The new train will garner a diverse ridership by diverting trips from already overcrowded regional roads & highways</p> <p>Most diverted trips will be from cars, with a small fraction diverting from buses</p> <p>An additional fourteen thousand trips each year will come from induced demand, i.e., trips that would not otherwise have been taken</p> <p>Saving the three states over \$30M in associated highway maintenance costs</p>
291	3/23/2021	
292	3/23/2021	Certainly an important current addition to regional rail travel and access. However, planning should include one round trip to go ultimately via Madison, and to plan for physical improvements on that rail segment, ultimately to offer higher speed rail travel between Milwaukee, Madison, and the Twin Cities. This planning should include a Madison station site which has access to public transport in the city.
293	3/23/2021	Run it through Madison!!
294	3/23/2021	Really makes no sense for there to be no station in Madison. We would use this regularly if there were a stop in Madison.
295	3/23/2021	This is a wonderful idea! We should encourage any improvement to passenger rail service as we switch to more sustainable modes of transportation

296	3/23/2021	I'm very excited about this project, I frequently travel by train and having additional service between Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities would be great.
297	3/23/2021	Great project. I support this!
298	3/23/2021	This is long overdue! More rail now!
299	3/23/2021	I heartily encourage the advancement of the TCMC Intercity Passenger Rail Project. Although Governor Walker killed the high speed rail plan linking these cities, this is a useful alternative.
300	3/23/2021	Faster, reliable and economical mass transit is what we need, thank you!
301	3/23/2021	Please do all you can to support more frequent rail service between Chicago and the Cities. The current schedule is only convenient to a point. Making a weekend getaway to the Cities to Chicago or vice-versa would be amazing. Thank you! I am confident it would be heavily used, relieve traffic on the interstates, and be much safer.
302	3/23/2021	Not only will this benefit passenger service, it will benefit freight rail and lower congestion. I am for the projects.
303	3/23/2021	
304	3/23/2021	I am so excited about this possibility! We live in Madison and love visiting Milwaukee, Chicago and Minneapolis. Would love to relax on the train and enjoy the trip, and reducing road traffic also a big bonus. Wish it was right in Madison of course but driving to Columbus is better then driving to the big cities!
305	3/23/2021	I would really like to see Eau Claire, and other cities eventually added with a new route expansion.
306	3/23/2021	I am strongly in favor of expanded passenger rail in Wisconsin. I love this plan! My one qualification is that it continues to skip over our state's capital and second largest city, Madison. It would be foolish to continue to invest in a route that doubles-down this oversight.
307	3/23/2021	I think this is a much needed infrastructure improvement for this area. I have used the Amtrak out of Tomah depot for business travel in the past, and having an additional daily trip each way would provide improved ability to connect with other trains in Chicago. I would be able to utilize rail travel much more conveniently and reduce my business driving.
308	3/23/2021	This is great! But PLEASE reroute it through Madison! Madison's population has grown significantly since this route was designed. Passenger traffic between Madison and Milwaukee would likely far outstrip traffic from Minneapolis to Milwaukee. Speeds should also be increased to at least Acela-level along this corridor to make it an attractive commuter option. I live in Minnesota but have family in Madison. This project would likely help my family's travel.
309	3/23/2021	I think adding more service would increase tourism for both states, I know it would for me.
310	3/23/2021	Skipping over Madison feels like a mistake.
311	3/23/2021	I'm in support.

312	3/23/2021	This is a great idea! Please consider getting input from major businesses or tourist industry that will benefit from this additional service. Also, please include a coordinated marketing campaign to get people who live along the corridor interested in visiting the many recreation and cultural attractions along the way -- from the big cities to the small towns. Please consider options for connections to Madison.
313	3/23/2021	My dad was a railroad chef, so I grew up riding trains. My childhood love affair with trains was recalled as I recently traveled across Italy on high-speed rail (Rome to Florence; then Florence to Venice) in half the time it would take to drive. So efficient, so smooth, as passengers read, visited, played games, without the hassle of driving and parking. Besides saving time, this could create jobs and clear the air!
314	3/23/2021	Great idea
315	3/23/2021	Please consider routing to Madison. A 30 mile trip to columbus means a major reduction in number of passengers
316	3/23/2021	Sounds good!
317	3/23/2021	I live in Milwaukee and would absolutely use this service for work and pleasure travel. Please continue to expand rail service between Chicago and Saint Paul.
318	3/23/2021	Pre-pandemic, I was using the existing Amtrak EmpireBuilder for travel between St Paul and Chicago for semi-annual work-meetings, and doing so allowed me to avoid flying. I both enjoy and prefer the train-ride, and it reduces my carbon-footprint over making these trips via flights! We also have friends who live in Madison, WI whom we like to visit and taking the train for such trips is often a nice alternative to driving ourselves. We would love to have a second daily train on this route!
319	3/23/2021	The only true way that reliable travel and on-time performance will happen, is if the train is not running on the freight lines, but on dedicated passenger rail lines. The freight trains take precedent, and the passenger trains are always second priority. That being said, I encourage a 2nd train in both directions. There are many opportunities with our rail system. One would be special occasional 3rd trains to accommodate people wanting to attend baseball, hockey or football games in Milwaukee, Chicago or Minneapolis, but not wanting to spend the night in the city. Perhaps that could be a train on specified weekends.
320	3/23/2021	Great idea. More service, the now use it will get.. Wish It came to Madison, it would get a lot more riders. Maybe a rapid bus service to Columbus from Madison would help.
321	3/23/2021	I'm a wisconsin resident with friends living in both Chicago and the twin cities. This railway would make it much easier to travel to the twin cities. I fully support this project.
322	3/23/2021	Definitely move ahead with this development
323	3/23/2021	Stop downtown Madison, Wisconsin.
324	3/23/2021	Please fund a second train from St. Paul to Chicago. This would provide more opportunity for people to travel. It would help the cities along the way with tourism.

325	3/23/2021	This is a fabulous initiative! It will allow me to more easily visit my son in the Twin Cities from Milwaukee. In addition to personally benefit, it gives lots of flexibility to those who live along the way. I love the idea of the improvements that will upgrade switches and signalling to reduce times.
326	3/23/2021	I would love to have this as an option for travel, I live in Janesville WI (would there ever be an option to get closer to Janesville WI) and would love to not have to drive to relatives in the Twin Cities, or to not fight traffic in Milwaukee to have a fun weekend
327	3/23/2021	We need to make train travel practical rather than exotic in the Midwest and throughout the country. These upgrades don't go far enough, but are certainly welcome. Traveling by train means greater safety, better economy for some, lower emissions from car travel, and reduced need for parking in city centers where space is limited. Please do this upgrade and meanwhile plan for next generation mass transportation. It needs to be faster, more efficient, and reach more users. Trains should =never= cross roads at grade.
328	3/23/2021	PLEASE include Madison in this route!
329	3/23/2021	Please make this happen!
330	3/23/2021	I welcome this project as an alternative to highway driving and flying. As a La Crosse resident with relatives in the Twin Cities and Chicago, I welcome this project as a better way to travel routes I usually have to drive.
331	3/23/2021	I would love this! We have kids in Chicago and LaCrosse and this would make those trips a lot easier. I would look to get on in Wisconsin Dells, 20 minutes from home. Get it done, please.
332	3/23/2021	I support the idea of a local railway between the Twin Cities and Milwaukee. I would like the rail to go through Madison but either way I support the idea. Please make it high speed and run off green energy.
333	3/23/2021	Could you get that to run through Madison. People here are likely to use it regularly...especially if there's easy access.
334	3/23/2021	This would be great! Being able to pick up family and friends who took the train from Chicago on the way up North would be fantastic.
335	3/23/2021	I am strongly in favor of this intercity rail project. I would use it! Just wish there was a stop in Madison. I hope it becomes a reality! Thank you
336	3/23/2021	I am strongly in support of more train service from Wisconsin to the Twin Cities. Would love to have it in Madison. I know that's not likely.
337	3/24/2021	Increased service along the route would alleviate automobile traffic and result in the saving of many lives. Automobiles are the source of multiple deaths and serious injuries; Passenger trains are rarely involved in crashes or derailments. There would be multiple economic benefits for all three states, including reduced expenditures on road maintenance; increased sales tax revenue; increased hotel use and many others.

338	3/24/2021	I support this project. It will increase access to destinations including the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, Chicago and the Wisconsin Dells. Train travel is safe, convenient and affordable, and I look forward to more options for Wisconsin, Minnesota and Illinois residents.
339	3/24/2021	Include a stop in Madison, WI
340	3/24/2021	Please don't waste tax dollars on an unnecessary rail project. Our roads are dismal and in need of repairs. Any dollars should be put towards road improvements.
341	3/24/2021	I would love to improve rail access in our area, but I ask you to please consider including a stop in Madison. It's the site of a major university and the state capital. Why not route through Madison instead of the much smaller communities of Portage and Columbus? The poor Amtrak access in my area is the only reason I don't travel by train already.
342	3/24/2021	Quick and inexpensive mass transit access from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago opens up a whole new world of options for residents of Minnesota. It is so crucial to invest in these projects so future generations can be more connected by more than technology.
343	3/24/2021	I live in Mpls and I would WELCOME the opportunity to have 2 trains per day between Mpls and Chicago. I love riding the train and I HATE driving in Chicago. Having a more comfortable travel option would be terrific!
344	3/24/2021	This is a common sense project as it would for more convenient service along the route and expanding day-tripping opportunities. The Wisconsin Dells could be more accessible to major markets.
345	3/24/2021	Hello, I currently live in Waukesha, Wisconsin and travel to Milwaukee for work. I used to live in Germany and ride the trains all the time. I would LOVE to see this project go through as America has too much reliance on automobiles. This train ride itself would increase the economic activity along the way and end up being a tourist attraction. As long as it is built environmentally sustainably I think it is a great idea and decision. My car has been broken down for a week and having this option to travel around would be an awesome option.
346	3/24/2021	I think this is a great movement of tax dollars. More flexibility to get to the Twin Cities encourage a first time visit by train as well as more options to get to Chicago.
347	3/24/2021	This is a fantastic idea
348	3/24/2021	as a lifelong wisconsinite, I think this is a great idea. I love how it hits smaller towns along the route
349	3/24/2021	Madison should be included in the route, as one of the largest cities in the state. To have it go right by and not stop is extremely frustrating.
350	3/24/2021	I would use this particular light rail service on a regular monthly basis. Since this Great Lakes Metro region will be my home til my demise, I wish to explore its urban destinations thoroughly. I have money to spend and tim eto burn. Sign me up!
351	3/24/2021	This is a great idea!
352	3/24/2021	What is the projected loss of the project? What is the projected cost? What percentage of paying capacity is projected?
353	3/24/2021	Two round trips would be better than one. Additional station stops should also be considered for the [quote]Baby Builder.[quote]

354	3/24/2021	Are there any thoughts to branching additional services north to go through Green Bay, Stevens Point, Wausau and Eau Claire as a route between Chicago and Minneapolis? It would allow connection between more college towns.
355	3/24/2021	Empire Builder service today is rarely sold out day to day from Chicago to Minneapolis on the daily. If that service is not sold out what is the market driver to support the cost of adding an additional route? If the service will be provided on the existing rail infrastructure vs upgrade to higher speed rail service it's not a cost or time effective alternative to flying or driving. If you aren't connecting Ohare, Mitchell, and the Minneapolis airports directly to this rail service with stops at the airports it has even less value to a commercial business traveller such as myself. If I need a car when I arrive I might as well take my own, and it's way cheaper and such as fast as the existing Amtrak line.
356	3/24/2021	This project is a much needed addition to the state and would expand potential options between cities for business and leisure. I would fully support the project as the potential for increased revenue for the state . Also showing that Wisconsin is easily connected and with other major cities and in step with an eye towards the future while not always residing in the past.
357	3/24/2021	This is needed. Simple as that. This will give better access to northwestern Wisconsin via connection buses
358	3/24/2021	Do it!!! As someone who hates to fly, I'd love to see more train traffic. Would gladly have taxes go to something like this. Maybe add a connecting line to Madison as well.
359	3/24/2021	I don't care what it costs, or how much taxes have to go up to fund it. Do it. Get this done. Then work on high-speed rail between Chicago and Saint Paul.
360	3/24/2021	Would love to see this come closer to Eau Claire. It makes no sense as to why the rail goes through lacrosse when feasibly I-94 is major highway from Madison to MPLS/St Paul. Train station years ago used to run via EC. My family has rode Embire Builder west several times and this could be a source for people to get to cities for jobs and travel either by rail or to airport via shuttle.
361	3/24/2021	ADD MADISON TO ROUTE
362	3/24/2021	We should be excited to be improving mass transit between population centers today. In a short amount of time relative to mass transit development time scales we expect to be seeing autonomous vehicles present and growing in availability. Having a system to move people in bulk between population centers where then autonomous vehicles can take over for innercity movement will be a major lever we can play for reducing VMT.

363	3/24/2021	<p>I highly favor proceeding with this project considering two daily round-trips between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul will mean more convenient departure times. The new train will garner a diverse ridership by diverting trips from already overcrowded regional roads & highways. Most diverted trips will be from cars, with a small fraction diverting from buses</p> <p>An additional fourteen thousand trips each year will come from induced demand, i.e., trips that would not otherwise have been taken, saving the three states over \$30M in associated highway maintenance costs.</p>
364	3/24/2021	<p>Yes yes yes please do this. Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis are hubs of the Midwest. Connecting them would connect culture and jobs. Creating this rail would generate so many jobs. I live in Milwaukee and visit Chicago once a month for fun and culture (museums, restaurants, concerts). I would absolutely utilize this rail to go to Minneapolis. And it is much more eco friendly compared to a flight. I am fully supportive!</p>
365	3/24/2021	<p>As a frequent under 35yr old traveler from Madison to Minneapolis, I never consider the train because it is a pain to get to Columbus and is expensive. A shuttle will still make it inconvenient and slow. My generation won't use the train unless it is fast, convenient, and economical. A better use of funds is to expand interstate 94 to 3 lanes and plan for autonomous vehicles.</p>
366	3/24/2021	<p>This project delivers service improvements that are essential to the competitiveness of intercity rail in the Twin Cities and Wisconsin. The ability to travel between these cities (and to and from intermediate stations as well) will link the Upper Midwest with Amtrak's largest national hub, providing efficient and affordable travel options for those who are unable to drive or fly. Make true intercity rail a reality!</p>
367	3/24/2021	<p>The track is already in place adding additional service should be done by the operator of the tracks. Funding needs to be self sufficient. Additional rail should be added to Madison, Fond du Lac, Fox Cities and Green Bay. Another phase of adding Wisconsin rapids, Stevens Point, and Wausau.</p>
368	3/24/2021	<p>Do it, but add Madison</p>
369	3/24/2021	<p>I would very much like to see improved rail service in this corridor, and I support its funding. It would make it much easier for me to visit family in La Crosse and the Twin Cities. I am getting too old to make the long drive from Baraboo.</p>
370	3/24/2021	<p>This is a fantastic project for a variety of reasons. It would be a welcome use of taxpayer funds in my opinion. It would make this travel corridor more accessible to many, reduce wear on roads, reduce emissions, and provide many jobs along the way.</p>
371	3/24/2021	<p>When this project is built, the Columbus Station will most likely see very high volumes of traffic from the Madison area. Considering how small that station is, it would make sense to upsize and renovate the station.</p>
372	3/24/2021	<p>Very strongly in favor! Route seems reasonable, although including Madison would be useful. I would use it regularly and I love public infrastructure projects <3</p>
373	3/24/2021	
374	3/24/2021	<p>As a taxpayer, I have no interest in this project nor being forced (by taxation) participating in funding for this project.</p>
375	3/24/2021	<p>I do not support spending my tax money on this project.</p>

376	3/24/2021	I can't wait to have train service from Milwaukee to the Dells and to LaCrosse and to Minneapolis. How awesome!
377	3/24/2021	Full support for the idea. A stop in Madison or close to Madison would be more ideal than a stop in Columbus.
378	3/24/2021	<p>I want to start by saying I am strongly in support of expanding passenger rail service between Chicago and MSP going through Milwaukee. I think a branch line running between Portage, Madison, and Columbus should be strongly considered. Madison is a large enough community and has enough demand for direct passenger rail service to support a branch line here.</p> <p>Madison was once considered for a hub for a Midwest high speed rail project with strong bipartisan support prior to 2008. Championing this high speed rail project was none other than former Governor Tommy Thompson, a Republican. Congress approved funding for a high speed rail project in Wisconsin during the first few years of President Obama's term. However, the short sightedness of the hyper-partisan former Governor Scott Walker caused the project to be cancelled at great expense to Wisconsin taxpayers, turning a once bipartisan and popular government project into a partisan football played for political gain.</p> <p>I recognize that a shuttle service between Madison and Columbus is part of this proposal. However, shuttle services often do not feature the same level of service as a passenger train, and they are often not as convenient for long distance travel. That is why I ask that a branch line that connects Portage and Columbus to Madison be seriously considered as part of the TCMC project.</p>
379	3/24/2021	I fully support it. It would be fantastic for Milwaukee to have more transit/ travel options.
380	3/24/2021	WI roads are in horrible condition. That needs attention before spending money on rail. MKE is pothole city. Example: 107th/Granville road should have been repaved 10 years ago. It is too tore up to fix any longer by patching. Spend 700 dollars for a new rim and tire in the last year.
381	3/24/2021	This needs to stop in Madison. It's the second largest population in Wisconsin and there is clearly a desire from a commuter perspective.
382	3/24/2021	Great idea! While it would take us 3 hours to get to the nearest station, our grandchildren live in Chicago and we are tired of driving and fighting traffic to visit them. We would definitely drive to the Tomah station to ride the train to Chicago from there.
383	3/24/2021	The timing of the current schedule between Chicago and the Twin Cities isn't very helpful. A second train between the two cities would be great and allow us to visit friends who live in St. Paul (we live in Chicago).
384	3/24/2021	The second Twin Cities train should not be an extension of a Hiawatha trip between Chicago and Milwaukee. The new twin cities trip should be an additional trip added to the Chicago to Milwaukee corridor. It's better service and would be a better use of equipment.

385	3/24/2021	I support any increase in rail passenger service to support public demand. Chicago - Milwaukee- St Paul /Minneapolis is a very popular corridor. A second set of daily round trips will help people get their cars off the road! I live in Chicago .
386	3/24/2021	I strongly support the proposed project. Having taken the Amtrak route that will be improved, I believe the proposed improvements will increase accessibility and improve the travel experience for passengers.
387	3/24/2021	Please let this project become a reality. With family living in the Twin cities, it will make life better for us and much more likely to tour. Let's pick up we're Walker failed. What is the probability of adding Madison?
388	3/24/2021	
389	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison! Climate change is a major issue and airfare is a large contributor to that fact. People in Madison are incredibly climate conscious and want a way to travel to other cities to avoid multi-city air trips and for weekend getaways. As someone who moved from the west coast and used the train to travel from Seattle to Portland and Vancouver many times, I was really disappointed that the same infrastructure didn't exist here. I am looking forward to the days when I can take a train again.
390	3/24/2021	I strongly support this proposed rail project connecting Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and St. Paul. We need affordable public transit options for this heavily traveled corridor. Please don't shelve this project and miss the opportunity for another decade or more.
391	3/24/2021	100% support this. Let's also revive the high speed rail project between Milwaukee and Madison that was killed over a decade ago.
392	3/24/2021	The proposed train line would be an excellent alternative transportation option for the state.
393	3/24/2021	<p>Why is Madison not a stop for the project? Madison is a huge part of Wisconsin's economy and would likely attract people from all of these destinations.</p> <p>The fact that the closest place to get on the train is a forty minute drive from Madison means the project is not even attempting to include the city it seems.</p> <p>I understand that including Madison may slow down total travel time between cities, but as the second largest city in the state and the capitol, it feels foolish to have stops in Columbus and the Dells over Madison.</p> <p>I also understand the shuttles may shorten the drive to the train, but this would better serve everyone and benefit the most people if Madison were on the route. How are you going to build a train and miss the second most populous city in a state by some twenty miles? That feels like a silly oversight.</p>
394	3/24/2021	I think this is a great idea and I would use it multiple times a year! Especially in the winter I'd prefer this over driving across the state to Minnesota!

395	3/24/2021	This project needs to connect Madison to Milwaukee and Wisconsin Dells. There is no reason to bypass the second largest population center in the state.
396	3/24/2021	It is my belief that planners should consider a route that includes Madison, rather than following the existing Amtrak route. The current mass transit options from Madison to St. Paul and to Chicago are woefully underdeveloped, and fast travel to/from Madison is the most likely to draw tourism, business and academic travelers to Wisconsin from Chicago and St. Paul.
397	3/24/2021	It would be terrific to improve rail service through Wisconsin to MSP. I would also like to see a MKE--Madison rail extension.
398	3/24/2021	Add stop in Madison
399	3/24/2021	I am in support of finally adding trains as a public transportation option in Wisconsin but I have some concerns about the service area. There are no stops in Madison, Eau Claire, Kenosha, or Green Bay on this route and a majority of Wisconsinites would still have to commute a significant distance and produce carbon emissions in their cars to get to a station. The efficiency of this map should be improved to meet actual service needs.
400	3/24/2021	<p>ANOTHER TRAIN????</p> <p>This present poor education system that teaches everything is free is unsustainable. Case in point; we have a very poorly run, Taxpayer heavily subsidized system and now you want to double down on it. This is absurd! There are many major issues that need resolved prior to even consider something so irresponsible as now adding a State funded train.</p> <p>Doesn't Make Money;</p> <p>Since inception in 1971 Amtrak has lost nearly \$1 Billion dollars annually. The most recent year 2020 Amtrak lost \$800 million including a \$1.5 Billion dollar Fed Gov subsidy! Additionally, needs 30 to 40 Billion dollars in infrastructure investment. Needs to show profitability prior to further investment.</p> <p>Serious safety Issues;</p> <p>Rail is involved in more than 5,800 crashes annually that results in the loss of 600 lives and the injury of 2,300. Increase speeds from the existing to 79 MPH will increase this danger exponentially! There are over 20 uncontrolled crossings families cross daily between Winona and Lacrescent!</p> <p>All crossings must be controlled increasing safety and reducing noise</p> <p>Emissions</p> <p>Never does a day pass without hearing about global warming, yet Winona's leaders only post a warning sign when TRAINKATO is blocked by a train. Yes, Trains emit fewer pollutants per ton mile than the average car, however we fail to take into account all of the emissions from automobiles waiting at blocked crossings in addition to the lost productivity of stranded drivers.</p> <p>Studies have found rail diesel emissions; "Pose cancer risk greater than that of any</p>
401	3/24/2021	Wisconsin desperately needs more and efficient passenger relations options. Expansion of service on the Minneapolis-Milwaukee-Chicago line would be a step in the right direction.

402	3/24/2021	Please increase public transit in this area!
403	3/24/2021	Please consider having the train stop in Madison!
404	3/24/2021	I've been traveling from the Twin Cities to Chicago for decades. I love to take the train so I don't need a car in Chicago, and don't have to pay for parking. It's also a more environmentally friendly way to travel. The train is usually very crowded. It would be nice if it was a faster trip, as my family won't travel with me because of the time. I've traveled by train through Europe and Asia, and would love to see rail service improved in the U.S. I would go to Chicago a couple times a year if I had more options. Also, the trains need internet - that's one reason my husband won't travel by train anymore. Please add a second train to the Chicago/Mpls route.
405	3/24/2021	The more train travel the better. Oh that we were talking about high-speed options like in so many other countries. I wish it came via Madison.
406	3/24/2021	This needs to happen. I would also like to see Racine get a stop for the Metra
407	3/24/2021	I would use it regularly to go to both Milwaukee and Chicago if it went through Madison
408	3/24/2021	It would be really nice to include madison wisconsin.
409	3/24/2021	Rail service is a waste of money in Wisconsin. There should not be a dime of DOT money, or any State or Federal tax money spent on any railroad project in the state of Wisconsin, until every bridge is brought standards, and every road is fixed and smooth. A project like this would benefit a very small portion of the population.
410	3/24/2021	There should be a stop in Madison as well. It's a major stop for students traveling back to MN. Most students don't have a car, so a stop needs to be close and convenient to the city vs a rural town outside of Madison.
411	3/24/2021	I'd love to see this option come to our states. I'd also like Wisconsin to invest in transit from the green bay area to Milwaukee to meet up with this currently suggested path.
412	3/24/2021	Would be great to have a Madison stop please
413	3/24/2021	This project should have happened years ago, as in 2011. The US is far behind Europe and Japan in the use of trains for passenger transportation. Increasing intercity transportation choices between Chicago and the Twin Cities will benefit all of the Wisconsin cities in between, as well as the terminal cities. I wish the route included Madison, but perhaps a route from the station in Columbus to Madison will happen in the future.
414	3/24/2021	I want this railway. I commute to Chicago often. Like 3-4 times each week. The driving is tiring and in winter it's dangerous. I will love a fast affordable public transport like train. This route will help me with my business and livelihood. Thank you.
415	3/24/2021	Yes, yes, yes! This is so needed! I would go to Chicago and Twin Cities on a regular basis for cultural events, classes, visiting relatives and friends and just plain old ADVENTURE!
416	3/24/2021	We need this so badly! My family would definitely use this train service. My son lives in Minneapolis and takes the train here. It would be great to have more trains!
417	3/24/2021	This route should go through Madison, WI.

418	3/24/2021	<p>New riders will bring about \$47.7M in direct & indirect economic benefits (tourism spending, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, state & local taxes, etc) for the region. The service will attract an estimated 155,500 new passengers per year A conservative estimate based on 2017 ridership data Two daily round-trips between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul will mean more convenient departure times The new train will garner a diverse ridership by diverting trips from already overcrowded regional roads & highways Most diverted trips will be from cars, with a small fraction diverting from buses An additional fourteen thousand trips each year will come from induced demand, i.e., trips that would not otherwise have been taken Saves the three states over \$30M in associated highway maintenance costs</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
419	3/24/2021	<p>I completely support this - there needs to be better transportation and having this access will enable people to get around the state and to different cities and create more economic opportunities.</p>
420	3/24/2021	<p>I would be a regular user of rail service to Milwaukee, Chicago and the Twin Cities if it connected to Madison with improved speed.</p>
421	3/24/2021	<p>Big fan of the project. Only thought would be: would it be feasible to go through Madison? The Badger Bus is a very popular form of transportation from Milwaukee to Madison, and I think this train system could be utilized in a similar fashion.</p> <p>I really like the idea of being able to take a quick train ride to the Twin Cities from Milwaukee!</p>
422	3/24/2021	<p>We absolutely 100% need more trains! Expect we should make it a fast train, the Amtrak is too slow. How feasible is a bullet train?</p> <p>Maybe we actually need less stops. Use the current route to stop in all of these places then have a business route that makes half the stops! The current train takes 8 hours, which seems very slow compared to the 6 hour drive.</p> <p>I'd love to see any data on people who use the stops in the middle, those seem like you could have just those once a day then use this improved route/upgrades to improve the journey. In order to improve our use of trains in this country the train needs to be as fast/faster than driving, easier, and more comfortable/cheaper than flying. Curious what demand increase is expected with this new train? And how can we use this project to make the train a better option for commuters?</p>
423	3/24/2021	<p>This is a great idea! We need more transit options and this would be a great route.</p>
424	3/24/2021	<p>I think it's a missed opportunity not to have this line stop in/near Madison. Madison is a city that's growing rapidly--much more so than Milwaukee--and a new passenger rail line is an investment over decades.</p>

425	3/24/2021	Yes! Yes! Yes!
426	3/24/2021	Having lived in Australia for 26 years, I saw how passenger rail is essential for rural economic development. Communities along the rail network thrive. Wisconsin can't afford not to do this.
427	3/24/2021	Please add Madison. These are the three most common places for me and many others in the area to go and it would be a humongous boon to the city and the state as a whole.
428	3/24/2021	Please make this route through Madison, with a Madison station.
429	3/24/2021	Please do not skip Madison! It has a major regional airport and this would help further establish it as a hub. Madison is expected to grow quite a bit and we shouldn't leave the residents out of public transport.
430	3/24/2021	This route suffers because it misses Madison. Rerouting through the population centers makes sense and I strongly encourage a Madison station.
431	3/24/2021	I am excited about this project but would be even more excited if it went through Madison
432	3/24/2021	I think it's a great idea to add a second daily round trip. The one change I'd like to see to make it even better would be a new stop in Madison, either replacing Columbus or just a Madison stop added before it. While I would certainly use it to travel to the Twin Cities, I feel like a Madison stop would bring more passenger usage because of the convenience if being in Madison.
433	3/24/2021	This would be a great asset to have. I wish it went through Madison and connected to the airport. For weekends to Milwaukee or Chicago or Minneapolis this would be great. Make sure there is affordable long term parking at all the small stations. Also, improve the Amtrak website for easier booking and understanding time tables.
434	3/24/2021	I am very much in favor of the TCMC. It would be useful to know how affordable it would be and how fast it would travel
435	3/24/2021	As a transportation engineer in training, I think the potential for a high speed rail would be beneficial and a stop in Madison would help this project meet its potential.
436	3/24/2021	This is a fantastic project that is sorely needed. Although I'm disappointed that the Empire Builder route doesn't go directly through Madison, this will be a superb improvement to passenger rail's utility in Wisconsin! It's also a great start for bigger and better things, like more connectivity to Madison and even higher frequencies.
437	3/24/2021	Please add a stop for Madison.
438	3/24/2021	I would use this! We need to upgrade and provide more opportunities for rail travel. Less pollution, relaxing ride!
439	3/24/2021	Madison needs to be added to the rail system!
440	3/24/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison, WI. I see lots of benefit to having a passenger rail service that makes a stop in Wisconsin's Capital city when the railroad connects to major midwestern hubs like this.
441	3/24/2021	For the love of God please do this project.
442	3/24/2021	I believe that adding a stop in/closer to the Madison area would better serve the citizens of the three states, as it would increase interstate travel from the Madison area.

443	3/24/2021	Yes please! Do it! This is a slam dunk. Between the reciprocity for state universities and the major employment hubs on either end this is a no-brainer and frankly puzzling that it's not already a well established transportation offering.
444	3/24/2021	Love it. I have concerns about the budget being too small. Also faster would be nice.
445	3/24/2021	Bring passenger train service to Madison. Scott Walker is gone now; we can do this. Portage and Columbus stations are not accessible for most people in the Madison area, especially those who would use mass/public transit.
446	3/24/2021	It would be great if this plan included a stop in Madison.
447	3/24/2021	Add Madison to the route!
448	3/24/2021	If this system stopped in Madison I can think of so many cases I would use it regularly. Please consider a stop in Madison, if at all possible! To be able to visit the surrounding major cities with this system would be so beneficial to myself and so many folks I know here.
449	3/24/2021	Please make a stop in Madison!
450	3/24/2021	PLEASE PLEASE link Madison on this route. It makes no sense to exclude the state Capitol. Madison to MKE or Chicago ridership would be huge. Please include us!
451	3/24/2021	Please have this stop in Madison WI. There are already train tracks there and having a stop connecting Madison to the other cities by rail would be a great addition!
452	3/24/2021	There is already service along this route but no service to between the Madison-Eau Claire-Minneapolis corridor. Instead of increasing a limited route, access should be expanded to other areas.
453	3/24/2021	Please add a stop for Madison, WI. Skipping a major hub in Wisconsin does a disservice to the usability of the rail system. A stop in Madison could promote more economic activity, aid tourism, and even let students and workers travel between major cities.
454	3/24/2021	Don't skip Madison, makes no sense. The Columbus station is way too far. Also Eau Claire should be considered more.
455	3/24/2021	Stop in Madison!
456	3/24/2021	Who is paying for this.
457	3/24/2021	Having lived in Wisconsin for a long time, this is an excellent idea. We need to do all we can to encourage passenger railway use.
458	3/24/2021	Please don't have this skip Madison, it would be detrimental to the future of the city.
459	3/24/2021	This is welcome progress. But the route should be restored to pass through Madison, which is the second largest metro area in Wisconsin, and the fastest growing. It will become the state's primary hub in relatively few years, and has a perfect rider base. This is essential to our necessary transition to a carbon-free economy and society.

460	3/24/2021	<p>This is a great project and I fully support it. This route will allow for better connections between key Midwestern cities, which will make it easier for people to get to work, to visit people, and to access entertainment.</p> <p>However, I believe that this project should just be the start of rail in Wisconsin. Next steps should be planned to include a route that goes through Madison to Iowa and a Milwaukee to Green Bay route.</p>
461	3/24/2021	If significant work/upgrades of the tracks are required than it seem worth considering a route that includes Madison and maybe connects with the Dane County Regional Airport
462	3/24/2021	Please put a stop in Madison. As Wisconsin's fastest growing city it should be connected to the hubs of Milwaukee, MSP, and Chicago. Its not that far out of the way of the proposed track.
463	3/24/2021	Please detour to Madison, WI! I cannot tell you how often I would use this, and I imagine that lawmakers and others who need to get to the capital city would appreciate it, too.
464	3/24/2021	I believe that this rail system should go through madison. Connect st. Paul, madison, milwaukee, and chicago. I could help with travel for both business and leisure
465	3/24/2021	Please please please have this stop in Madison. So much opportunity for revenue and to generate income.
466	3/24/2021	I would find it extremely useful if it was possible to have a stop in Madison.
467	3/24/2021	It was such a missed opportunity in the last two gubernatorial administrations by not building a railway of this magnitude. Please see this through, it will be nothing but a boon to all three states.
468	3/24/2021	This should happen! Great way to improve tourism between the Midwest's greatest metros.
469	3/24/2021	This project is pointless if it doesn't stop in Madison.
470	3/24/2021	This would be a game changer for the region and would create a lot of jobs not on the project and from development. Also it would be more affordable than driving.
471	3/24/2021	I think it should stop in Madison as well seeing as it's by far the second most populous city in the state as well as the state capitol.
472	3/24/2021	Yes. Please approve this. Please approve all expansions and improvements to passenger rail.
473	3/24/2021	Please add a stop on Madison, WI. Would be heavily used.
474	3/24/2021	<p>If you're already going through Watertown, I'd love a stop there so I could see my mom. Also, why not go through densely populated Madison? Lots of people want to go there. Including me because my grandparents live there.</p> <p>Still support the project regardless though, because my partner lives in Minneapolis and this is a great way to get to see her</p>
475	3/24/2021	Great idea! Plus consider publicizing the idea by tacking on the Milwaukee Road's slogan for the trip back in railroading's heydays: [quote]Route of the 400,[quote] after the 6 hours, 20 minutes or 400 minutes it took to make the trip.

476	3/24/2021	With the current bus options from Madison WI to Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Chicago, a shuttle to this line from Madison would unlikely see much use. It wouldn't save much time or be worth the cost for Madison area residents unless the train went through the city. It would be a huge missed opportunity for all of these cities, along with all the towns along the route, to not add a Madison stop.
477	3/24/2021	This rail line would be a major boost to Wisconsin. Not only would it open up easier tourist travel, but it would lessen the stress on metropolitan housing markets as workers could live further from their places of employment.
478	3/24/2021	Please include a stop in or very near to Madison, WI.
479	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison!!
480	3/24/2021	I support this project and would likely use it occasionally. We live approximately midway between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities. It would be wonderful to have the option to travel to either of these metro areas and be able to return the same day. Thank you.
481	3/24/2021	
482	3/24/2021	I would highly support this new train and faster operations of this and the Empire Builder between Chicago, Milwaukee and St Paul. The key is a convenient and logical schedule for the four trains so that it is easier for people along the line to commute in either direction for business and leisure. I don't know if an overnight train makes any sense in either direction or if trains should operate more during daylight hours. I would like to know more about train schedules before this service is initiated.
483	3/24/2021	Please don't skip Madison. I support the overall project, I think that intercity rail is a great investment. But don't do it without including the City of Madison on the route. Including Madison will increase overall usage of the rail service, and it's the second largest city in the state, as well as being the capital of Wisconsin. It even has a large university and an airport. Columbus, Portage, and Wisconsin Dells are all nice places, but they have a fraction of the population of Madison.
484	3/24/2021	I vote NO! Ridiculous amount of money for the return. Put the money towards improving roads which are in much more dire need of repair!
485	3/24/2021	This...doesn't go through Madison? How is this even a possibility? I probably shouldn't be surprised at this point.
486	3/24/2021	Adding additional travel at further reduced cost is super important! A stop(or a transit point) that connects Madison would also be EXCELLENT! Tax corporations to afford the cost & provide funding.
487	3/24/2021	Would love a stop in Madison. It would be unfortunate to pass over such a vital economic, social, and government hub.
488	3/24/2021	This route must include a stop in Madison. I would love to be able to take a train to Chicago.
489	3/24/2021	Passenger rail is essential for everyone and needs investment!
490	3/24/2021	Madison has to be connected in a meaningful way. If a direct path isn't on the docket, then free shuttle service to Columbus should be. People without means should not be penalized for a lack of planning in the past. Additionally, the Fox Cities should be connected somehow.

491	3/24/2021	I am in favor of the proposal and support it with hopes of the shuttle route from Rochester and improved services at the Red Wing depot
492	3/24/2021	Any chance you could bring this train through Appleton and Green Bay?
493	3/24/2021	I'd love to have a stop in madison on this rail line; a lot of people I know commute back and forth frequently among the proposed destinations, and several small businesses in the area have prospective customers along the line.
494	3/24/2021	Please make a stop in Madison, WI.
495	3/24/2021	The capital improvements described are reasonable. My concern is that exactly overlaying the existing Empire Builder route does not move us toward the ultimate goal of bringing the route to Madison. I'm certain there are valid engineering and economic reasons that a change of this magnitude is not feasible in a small project like this, but avoiding central Dane County's 500k potential riders makes this initiative difficult to support politically. To be clear - the long goal out to be Chicago-Milwaukee-Madison-MSP with no connections. I worry that additional daily stops in Columbus only serve to further entrench this, which is ultimately economically inviable.
496	3/24/2021	This is nice, but why isn't there a stop/connection in Madison? That would be super useful.
497	3/24/2021	I approve of the proposed changes. What if there was a stop in Madison? It's a major destination and becoming a tech/startup hub.
498	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison, WI!
499	3/24/2021	Please have this go through/near Madison. It's unfortunate how far people in the capital and at the university have to go take the train. Imagine connecting UW to UM and Chicago! It would be great for scholars and students.
500	3/24/2021	We need a line that goes to green bay
501	3/24/2021	I support the addition of a second TCMC Intercity Passenger Rail service. I have taken Amtrak between Milwaukee and Chicago numerous times on the Hiawatha Rail and I was reluctant to take the rail between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities because of the limited service on the Empire Builder. If the TCMC Intercity Rail service were expanded, I definitely would take the rail to Chicago and the Twin Cities more often. I have lived in both the Twin Cities and Milwaukee and I would like to travel for pleasure to the Twin Cities more conveniently through the new rail service.
502	3/24/2021	I think this is a great idea, would love to see train run from the upper peninsula to Chicago next
503	3/24/2021	Go to Madison!
504	3/24/2021	
505	3/24/2021	
506	3/24/2021	
507	3/24/2021	
508	3/24/2021	
509	3/24/2021	It would be a great idea for this to stop in madison as well. Such a large group of people and I know many could benefit from this including myself.

510	3/24/2021	You should include Madison since the increase in usage from our city would be immense.
511	3/24/2021	I would love if this would stop in Madison. I would use the train all the time to get to Minneapolis if I didn't have to drive to Columbus or Portage to catch the Amtrak and then pay a ton for a round trip ticket. It's a little disappointing we need to drive so far from the state Capitol to catch a train. With direct flights being \$800, it'd be super awesome to have a better option to travel to MN or Chicago without a car. As it is I drive there all the time, but if there was a convenient train stop in Madison I'd have my company pay for it in a second.
512	3/24/2021	I absolutely support rail development in Wisconsin and hope there's an Eau Claire route eventually.
513	3/24/2021	It SHOULD pass through Madison. That is all.
514	3/24/2021	It is irresponsible to consider any increase in tri-state train travel without first establishing a proper route. Train travel needs to connect the twin cities to a hub that connects Madison-Milwaukee-Chicago. So any route increase that does not include Madison seems as short sided as not including Madison in the original Empire Builder route. Putting a route through Madison appears to be a much better option than moving the entire city of Madison to the existing route.
515	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison! We absolutely would benefit from easy rail to the other big cities, and wouldn't it only make sense to have one of the stops be the state's capital? Plus I imagine Epic and the other pharma/tech companies around Madison would love an easier way to get between big cities, it'd be a win-win for sharing talent and tourism.
516	3/24/2021	Will there be any plan to link this to the Madison metro area? It currently seems like the plan skips past Madison, despite the large population and general support/desire for mass transit among the population.
517	3/24/2021	It would be very beneficial to me if this stopped in Madison. I would use it very frequently.
518	3/24/2021	It would be beneficial for there to be a stop in Madison, Wisconsin. We already have a lot of tracks in place and putting a stop here shouldn't be too difficult.
519	3/24/2021	Yes - Please build! Currently drive on I-94 between Waukesha and Minneapolis many times a year - would rather take a train.
520	3/24/2021	A station needs to be added in Madison, and the route changed to accommodate. There is a perfect spot at 1st Street in Madison to have a station. Madison is too large of a city to just skip. Ridership would increase with a Madison station.
521	3/24/2021	This sounds fantastic! I am totally in favor of this rail project! This would be a very useful, convenient and important service.
522	3/24/2021	Please add Madison to the route!
523	3/24/2021	Fantastic idea! I would love to see this happen as soon as possible.

		I appreciate the work of the Wisconsin DOT and Minnesota DOT for presenting this information to the public. I wholeheartedly support this initiative. I am not a frequent traveler between Chicago and the Twin Cities, but I understand how important improved rail infrastructure will be to the communities along this corridor for improving mobility, boosting local economies, and providing better access to work, school, and home. The American Public Transportation Association has conducted several studies on the economic impact of public transportation, and they have found access to such a service can provide a 4:1 economic return on investment. While adding just one more round trip may not be an economic powerhouse, the increased mobility for residents and visitors of MN, IL, and WI will be a boon for the region.
524	3/24/2021	Thank you for your time.
525	3/24/2021	Please consider putting a stop closer to or in Madison!
526	3/24/2021	There needs to be a stop in Madison, WI. That is an important growing hub in the area and being closer to Madison would be advantageous.
527	3/24/2021	Add madison please!!
528	3/24/2021	might make this trip for the family
529	3/24/2021	Great idea. We need to have other forms of efficient transportation
530	3/24/2021	This project sounds great, although it should definitely stop in Madison.
531	3/24/2021	I think this is a great idea to help better the community of Wisconsin and our neighbors. As a resident of Madison, I like that there is a stop nearby to make for easier access to Milwaukee and Chicago
532	3/24/2021	Please do this, it is greatly needed & would be fantastic & such an improvement for travel between our state & IL & MN.
533	3/24/2021	Madison is Wisconsin's fastest growing city. It wouldn't make sense to leave it out of future rail development.
534	3/24/2021	Please add a stop to Madison! Passenger rail is such an important aspect of public transport. It needs to be accessible.
535	3/24/2021	Always disappointing that the second largest city in the state still has no rail access. This was Walker's poor decision making at its finest, but it would be great to add access to Madison if the opportunity arises again to capitalize on any new federal funding.
536	3/24/2021	Madison to Milwaukee traffic is heavy throughout the day, many accidents, so much pollution! UW Madison staff and students would use train to Chicago, please include second largest populated city, otherwise will require more car use to get to train, secured parking for long periods.
537	3/24/2021	I think it's a good idea
538	3/24/2021	Yes. We need mass transit. I live in Washburn, Wisconsin and there is NO way for people to travel to other parts of the lower state if you do not have a car. I know people who have never left their rural towns because there is no mass transit. We do not even have motor coach bus come through the area for pick up. Please have a rail system from the small towns to at least one major town like LaX or Eau Claire. People need to see beyond their own homes.
539	3/24/2021	This would be an excellent addition to Amtrak services. The more options for intercity rail the better!
540	3/24/2021	My support for this would be much greater with a stop in madison

541	3/24/2021	Add a Madison stop!
542	3/24/2021	I think it is a fantastic idea. We need more transportation across Wisconsin.
543	3/24/2021	I would like a stop added to Madison
544	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison.
545	3/24/2021	I would be very interested in using the rail if it passed through Madison, WI.
546	3/24/2021	Yes! Strongly approve of this passenger rail project.
547	3/24/2021	Great idea! It is something we've always wanted to see in the Madison area.
548	3/24/2021	Please make passenger service more available and more affordable between these cities. And if possible, please find a way to integrate Madison, whether by rail or dedicated bus replacement service to another station.
549	3/24/2021	Please include Madison on this route. Thanks
550	3/24/2021	I can't imagine any benefit from this project. It is a solution to a problem that doesn't exist. This is a guaranteed money vacuum.
551	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison! I would take this frequently as well as my daughter attending college at U of Minn.
552	3/24/2021	It would be awesome if you included a stop in Madison
553	3/24/2021	Love this! The only issue is the train needs to have a stop in Madison.
554	3/24/2021	With the state capital, university, and hospital system in Madison, the train route should include a Madison stop.
555	3/24/2021	This should also stop in Madison - another major metropolitan hub
556	3/24/2021	This is definitely needed and I'm in support of it. I think it's unfortunate that a stop in Madison isn't a part of the route, as it should be!
557	3/24/2021	There should be a stop in Madison. This rail is critical infrastructure and can help a lot of those in need of transportation.
558	3/24/2021	I think this is a fantastic project. It allows people to see new places even if they can't afford a car or plane ticket. And it's much more comfortable than a bus.
559	3/24/2021	Please stop in Madison wi
560	3/24/2021	Would love for this to be connected to Madison as well.
561	3/24/2021	Thank you for adding service. I have taken the train from Chicago to the Twin Cities before. My experience was that the trains are old/dirty/smelly. Also, the trip takes as long and costs more than driving a car. Since I own a car, I have no reason to ride the Amtrak. Can some of the smaller stops be eliminated? Wouldn't that save more time for everyone? The train has effectively three stops for the Milwaukee area and Madison area. This makes no sense. I suggest keeping stops in only Milwaukee, Madison, LaCrosse and that's it. Has there been a cost benefit analysis for each of the smaller stations on the route? Is there a way to have one train be an 'express' train, and one that is the 'local'? Until the trains are faster and more comfortable than a car people won't actually use the trains, which is a shame.
562	3/24/2021	I'd like this to stop in Madison
563	3/24/2021	The route should pass through or closer to Madison. I make the Madison-Chicago trip via public transit regularly, and would like to take this route to visit Milwaukee and the Twin Cities as well, but I wouldn't be able to if there is not a stop in Madison.

564	3/24/2021	This is exciting to see! I would love to see Madison included on the route, as well.
565	3/24/2021	I would love a Green Bay stop. I would ride it multiple times a month.
566	3/24/2021	Definitely in favor o these improvements! PLEASE add Eau Claire as a pick-up option. Thanks!
567	3/24/2021	You would need it to go thru Madison also.
568	3/24/2021	Yes please but add a smaller line from janesville that goes through Madison before linking up at one of the main lines stations. I loved the way the train lines worked in Japan. Made not driving a heck of a lot easier.
569	3/24/2021	The Amtrak route does not pass through Madison or Eau Claire. It would be a mistake not to include these cities in this project. You would get more commuter traffic between Eau Claire and the twin cities than travellers the twin cities and Chicago.
570	3/24/2021	I fully support this proposal! While realignment to Madison would be great, columbus is great, too. We've wanted to take the EB to Minneapolis many times, but the schedule isn't ideal (especially eastbound)
571	3/24/2021	I think it would be much more valuable to have a railway to connect northern Wisconsin and Milwaukee/Chicago. Why do we need to ride a bus to the Milwaukee train station? I am generally in favor of increasing passenger train options.
572	3/24/2021	I think this is an excellent project that is long overdue. This is a sensible use of public tax dollars that will reduce highway traffic and provide a safer and less expensive means of transportation for many others. I plan on using the new service myself. Please go forward with this project immediately.
573	3/24/2021	I support this project, although I would primarily use it for leisure. I would be more interested in rail service between Milwaukee and Madison. That is a route I would use often.
574	3/24/2021	It would be great if there was a stop in Madison. We would use it often to visit family in Chicago and Minnesota
575	3/24/2021	I would love a stop in Madison, I have family in Minneapolis.
576	3/24/2021	Please stop in Madison!
577	3/24/2021	I love the proposed idea, with the exception that I strongly believe there should be a stop in Madison, WI.
578	3/24/2021	Strongly support. In addition to this proposal I would like to see overnight sleeper service from Chicago/Milwaukee to St. Paul. This would not require dining service, just prepackaged snacks and drinks. A coach for low cost tickets should be provided.
579	3/24/2021	Stop the route in Madison. If I have to drive to Columbus it's not worth taking the train.
580	3/24/2021	This would be an incredible opportunity for our local economies. I support this. This is also a great step toward better climate change response.

581	3/24/2021	I would think adding a second round trip only increased capacity, and convenience for those already along the proposed route. I would encourage a split route sending one train on the current route and sending the second train on a route more northerly to Eau Claire before turning south to Tomah. This can expand ridership by giving access to an unserved area of the state. There will be little difference for end to end users, but the access to the system will be increased to new geographic areas expanding possible ridership.
582	3/24/2021	It would be convenient for this route to stop in Madison. Would make many people's commutes and daily lives easier.
583	3/24/2021	This is a wonderful project but I would like to request a Madison stop be added to the plans. This would benefit many individuals, including students as well as assist with traffic congestion between Madison and Milwaukee
584	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison Wi. This would generate much more revenue than any other stop in Wi (other than Milwaukee) thus assisting more people.
585	3/24/2021	I would love this project if it had a rail stop in Madison. Without that, I'm unlikely to use it.
586	3/24/2021	PLEASE stop in Madison!!! The fact we are so close to Chicago without rail access is shameful. Imagine how many cars could be taken off the road each day if a rail system were in place.
587	3/24/2021	This project leaves out the fastest growing city and county in the state of Wisconsin-- what about Madison and Dane County?
588	3/24/2021	Connecting Madison through this passenger rail line seems like a no-brainer - Madison is a quickly growing business center, the state's capitol, a university town, and an important cultural hub in the state. Connecting it to the other 3 large cities as a part of this route could capitalize on the momentum of growth of the northern midwestern business and information exchange already present.
589	3/24/2021	I would love to see rail expanded and improved throughout the midwest. I want to see the current rail system expanded to include Madison, WI as well.
590	3/24/2021	Please include Madison. I live in Milwaukee and would use this if it stopped in Madison.
591	3/24/2021	I am very much in favor of a service expansion. I have previously taken Amtrak from St. Paul to Chicago and feel that having additional departure time options would be helpful in making connections. A trip directly from St. Paul would also likely be more reliable which would also be more helpful in making connections to other Amtrak lines. The last trip I took departed a few hours late out of Union Depot and was further delayed en route to Chicago.
592	3/24/2021	It would be great if the route included a stop in Madison! I love trains and would absolutely use this if there was a stop in my city.
593	3/24/2021	Please consider adding a stop in Madison. My family would definitely use this to travel to both the twin cities and Chicago regularly to visit extended family.

594	3/24/2021	Please support train transportation, in addition to the Chicago-St Paul route, please reconsider the Madison- MWKY train. Trains are safer than autos and when well utilized (by offering desired services) train transportation is gentler on our planet. It would be great if we could enjoy the same transportation options as those in other countries.
595	3/24/2021	It would be great if the train could make a stop in Madison. You'll probably get a good amount of traffic from students (and their families, for graduation) coming from the nearby airports.
596	3/24/2021	I am fully supportive of adding a second daily passenger rail service trip between the Twin Cities and Chicago. As our nation confronts the challenge of climate change, efficient and sustainable modes of transportation are necessary. Increased frequency and reliability of rail service will make train travel a more convenient option and displace trips from more emission-intensive forms of travel such as airplanes. I see this project as a great first step towards building a national rail network that is fast, convenient, frequent, and sustainable, and that can replace many short-haul airline flights.
597	3/24/2021	I am fully supportive of adding a second daily passenger rail service trip between the Twin Cities and Chicago. As our nation confronts the challenge of climate change, efficient and sustainable modes of transportation are necessary. Increased frequency and reliability of rail service will make train travel a more convenient option and displace trips from more emission-intensive forms of travel such as airplanes. I see this project as a great first step towards building a national rail network that is fast, convenient, frequent, and sustainable, and that can replace many short-haul airline flights.
598	3/24/2021	Please stop in Madison!
599	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison. Having a stop between Sun Prairie and Madison would be much more valuable than a stop in Columbus.
600	3/24/2021	This is a fantastic idea. Railways are severely underutilized in the United States, and with better infrastructure and routes we can cut our carbon emissions while providing a safe and effective mode of transport. More and more people are forgoing licenses and cars altogether and we need to keep up.
601	3/24/2021	Passenger service should extend the line to include Madison, WI, it would be a great commuter option and open the Milwaukee job market up to Madison, as well as make transit between Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Chicago easier for many of us.
602	3/24/2021	Passenger service should extend the line to include Madison, WI, it would be a great commuter option and open the Milwaukee job market up to Madison, as well as make transit between Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Chicago easier for many of us.
603	3/24/2021	I support this, though I would love to see Madison included in on it ideally. I do realize that may not be feasible, but I had to say it.
604	3/24/2021	This only makes sense if it has a stop in Madison. Adding Madison adds potential 300,000+ more riders.

605	3/24/2021	It's been almost several decades of my dreams that when wisconsin state going to implement rail transportation projects where it increases the state business as well as employment. Less traffic on roads eventually less emission of CO2. Less accident so many benefits. But pls make sure there should be stop on Madison. Since Madison is d capital city of Wisconsin state so to make city better and successful.
606	3/24/2021	I am all for improvements in public transportation, especially when it connects so many major cities. But I wish we were investing in something other than Amtrak. Amtrak is expensive which makes it less accessible to everyone in the community and has less benefit to the overall community than if we installed a cheaper system.
607	3/24/2021	Two daily round-trips between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul will mean more convenient departure times and provide more options to make more trip purposes. Adding a seco d round-trip is a small step toward addressing our ongoing climate crisis.
608	3/24/2021	This is an important small improvement. Strategic, long-term investment in regional and local mass transit is needed. When I return from work travel and vacations where this basic public service is evident (e.g., NYC, Boston, Chicago, across Europe, and in Melbourne, Australia) I'm reminded of our antiquated and unproductive situation in Wisconsin. To serve its citizens, and be competitive in the economic market for talent and tourism, it's critical our region have highly accessible and affordable public mass transit, including solutions involving rail.
609	3/24/2021	I am excited by this proposal because the resulting reduction of carbon footprint and the service it would provide for people without reliable transportation.
610	3/24/2021	We live in Chicago and have a vacation condo north of Wisconsin Dells. We would use the train regularly as an alternative to driving.
611	3/24/2021	Please make a stop in madison, WI.
612	3/24/2021	I am writing in support of this project. Highways between Milwaukee and Chicago are so congested, and the more transit options that exist, especially convenient ones, will mean fewer cars on the road and less congestion. Milwaukee and Madison would both benefit greatly by being connected via rail as well.
613	3/24/2021	Having a train route from Chicago to St Paul that does not take an eternity to travel between cities would be wonderful. Presently it is faster to drive which makes no sense.
614	3/24/2021	It is about time that this important rail line is opened. I am for it.
615	3/24/2021	Please create a stop in Madison!
616	3/24/2021	I support this! I hope this will lead eventually to high speed routes!
617	3/24/2021	Please include a stop in Madison, WI on this rail.
618	3/24/2021	Very excited about this! Please consider going through Madison (or closer to Madison) so that it's connected to Milwaukee over the Wisconsin dells/portage area. I have been hoping for this for years, Huge benefit for college students and city goers alike.
619	3/24/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison! Myself and many of my friends and family would absolutely use this train if it came through Madison.

620	3/24/2021	Always a fan of the expansion of our public transit systems! However, as someone living in Madison, I'd love to know why there isn't more of a focus on serving our city by train. I realize that's not the direct focus of this proposal, but feel it's odd that while you're looking to expand our rail network, you're also ignoring a major metropolitan area that's just barely being missed by the existing tracks.
621	3/24/2021	I think the project is a great idea overall, although I would love to see the route run closer to and/or through Madison, WI.
622	3/24/2021	This should stop through Madison
623	3/24/2021	I fully support this project, but the Columbus station is not close to Madison, and we should not pretend that people are going to get on a 40 min shuttle to Columbus from Madison. None of the stations between Milwaukee and LaCrosse are convenient for people who already face transportation issues (like owning a car). If I already own a car, and wanted to go to Chicago from Madison, which I do -- it would be a major inconvenience to go to Columbus first and would not save me any more time, and likely cost me more money anyway. In summary, I am in favor of the project, but as someone who would like to benefit from a project like this -- there don't seem to be any benefits for me to be had.
624	3/24/2021	As a city planner and former Wisconsin resident, I strongly support this proposal. This is a fantastic opportunity for Wisconsin. Investment in passenger rail infrastructure is long overdue and this project will provide much needed alternative transportation options and economic development opportunities to the communities along the route. This project has been well researched, is able to utilize and improve existing infrastructure and take advantage of federal funding. Full steam ahead!
625	3/24/2021	Let's build it! I am looking forward to this project. Leisure travel between MSP and CHI will be so much easier. Tourism in Wisconsin should see an increase as well.
626	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in our nearby Madison as part of this project or a future project
627	3/24/2021	Just spend the money to get a stop closer to Madison.
628	3/24/2021	Please build this rail project through Madison, WI too. Madison has seen a major population boom in the past couple decades and will need quick and efficient access to other major cities like Milwaukee, Chicago, and the Twin Cities.
629	3/24/2021	I love the Idea of rail transportation! I would love it if passenger rail came to the Eau Claire area, not just a shuttle service.
630	3/24/2021	Seems weird to not pass through Madison. I am all for expansion of public transportation either way though.
631	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison
632	3/24/2021	I would love to see this happen. I go to Chicago somewhat routinely, but the limited runs make the Empire Builder an unattractive option. Also, cost is often near the cost of a plane ticket. If ticket cost is controlled, I would love to take the train more often

633	3/24/2021	I'm very excited about this. We need solid consistent routes to make this viable. Even if it doesn't make for a stop in Madison, this makes progress and helps reduce reliance on cars. Thanks!
634	3/24/2021	I would love to see a stop in Madison! The I94 corridor from Milwaukee to Madison would really improve if there was a competing rail service.
635	3/24/2021	Too far north. Should stop in Madison as well as near Lake Geneva. So many college kids in Madison without cars who would use this as a resource. Although I did not grow up in Wisconsin and lived in Illinois and Missouri previously I heavily used the rail system for public transport despite owning a car. This has not been available in Wisconsin. I have a toddler and would love to sit and play next to her on a commute to Milwaukee or Chicago vs waiting until she naps to attempt to drive.
636	3/24/2021	Yes, yes, yes!! We need options to autos. Train rides are relaxing and enjoyable. I believe a shuttle from Columbus to the Dane County airport would be very beneficial. Trains must connect with other transportation services.
637	3/24/2021	Going through La Crosse ignores the fastest growing part of the State. As such, I believe it would be better to run this rail service through Eau Claire, River Falls/Hudson.
638	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison.
639	3/24/2021	This project should stop in Madison. There is definitely the rider demand for it!
640	3/24/2021	I am fully in support of improved public rail and would love to see the Midwest lead the nation on this front. However, the current route does not include Madison, which puzzles and disappoints me. Madison has long needed to be connected to Milwaukee via rail. Connecting Wisconsin's capital to the rest of the Midwest would accelerate the growth of Madison as a new tech hub.
641	3/24/2021	I completely support this action. We need to use our trains more often and efficiently.
642	3/24/2021	I fully support this project. Myself and family members would utilize monthly. Please work on making the shuttle services connecting those nearby communities not located directly on the rail line.
643	3/24/2021	I would love to take the train to Minneapolis from Madison, but if it doesn't go through Madison, then there isn't any point for me. If I have to drive to Portage and wait for the train, then it's faster to just drive to Minneapolis.
644	3/24/2021	More rail would open commerce between the cities, potentially reducing 18 wheeler truck traffic and accidents, reduce air pollution, and open up cultural enjoyment and visitors to museums, sporting events, concerts and plays to name a few. My father lived in Minneapolis and I drove 94 from Milwaukee hundreds of times before he died last March. How wonderful it would have been to have had more options than the nighttime train to MPLS. I would have been so much less stressed, and better rested. College students would certainly use this line going both ways. I dated my husband while I lived in Philadelphia and he lived in Raleigh, NC. I had no car, so my options were limited, but the fares were reasonable and I could work/sleep on the train each way. I have had family in Milwaukee for many generations, but now live in Cincinnati.

645	3/24/2021	Fully in support of this !! Long overdue to have something like this. A station fairly close to Madison (Columbus area in this case) is extremely beneficial as there's a lot of people in the neighboring Dane County / Madison area that I know that would take advantage of this. Please upgrade our transportation options and move forward with this project!
646	3/24/2021	Madison is too essential to leave out. I get that this route focuses on underserved areas, but remember Madison has an airport + tens of thousands of students at UW, Edgewood, etc. also a better corridor to la crosse, is it possible to have two lines??
647	3/24/2021	Please please please make this happen. Swinging up to Appleton or down to Madison would be great, but something is better than nothing!
648	3/24/2021	It would be a huge asset for this line to pass through the Madison/Dane County area. We missed a major opportunity in 2010 when we did not take advantage of federal dollars.
649	3/24/2021	HELL YES! LET'S GET SOME MORE FUCKING TRAINS! 🚆🚆🚆
650	3/24/2021	I feel that this is a great idea. People from La Crosse can get to MSP or CHI more feasibly
651	3/24/2021	I think that a passenger rail between these two metro areas is a fantastic idea, but skipping over the second largest city in Wisconsin is a missed opportunity. This line will see far more use if it was routed through Madison. Any plan that connects Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities, should also include Madison. Which although it is not nearly as large as those other cities, it is still a rapidly growing, economically vibrant, capital city. We would all benefit from being connected by transit other than highways.
652	3/24/2021	Yes! While I would prefer a station also in Madison I strongly support a train from MN to Wisconsin. I have friends and family that I would love to see more often and a Train would make that more accessible compared to a long drive in the car.
653	3/24/2021	It seems like a Madison stop would make a lot of sense, there is a lot of traffic to and from Madison to other destinations on this line.
654	3/24/2021	Rail should be routed through Eau Claire. So much traffic goes between EC and the twin cities metro. I would definitely use it. It would also create more job opportunities for my husband whose current employer has their corporate office in St Paul and he would want to use the rail service for his commute.

655	3/24/2021	<p>This route needs a stop in Madison, WI, preferably at or near the airport.</p> <p>1. The flights from Madison to ORD or MSP are expensive, always cancelled or very delayed, and the best long term solution for both travelers and for the environment would be to use a train to bridge this distance.</p> <p>2. Getting to Columbus from Madison negates almost all benefit to using the train. Most of the demand for the train in this region is from Madison, and given that difficulty getting to Columbus, if a stop in Madison is not possible, then the stop in Columbus might as well be removed to speed up the travel between ORD, MKE, and MSP.</p> <p>My recommendation is to replace the Portage and Columbus stops with a stop near the MSN airport.</p>
656	3/24/2021	I highly agree with this! We definitely need more public transportation in the state/county. Would even agree with making one further north!
657	3/24/2021	I live in Madison, WI and would be ecstatic if a stop was added here. It would be incredible for traveling to Milwaukee/Chicago and the Twin Cities from Madison.
658	3/24/2021	<p>I fully support this. This rail corridor badly needs additional rail service – one daily train is not competitive, useful frequency within the region. Additional frequencies will surely increase the utility of the existing service and see ridership increase.</p> <p>Please add service to Madison as well, either in this phase or a future phase. The additional ridership coming from the Madison catchment will undoubtedly boost ridership, utility to passengers, and the long-term viability of the service.</p>
659	3/24/2021	Please stop in Madison, WI.
660	3/24/2021	This should be going though Eau Claire not LaCrosse!!!
661	3/24/2021	I have been looking forward to this for a long time. How smart to increase our methods of public transportation. My family and I support this and will use this. I wish it was already built as my niece will be going to school in Minneapolis next year and we live near Milwaukee. I'd be happy for my tax dollars to go towards this!!
662	3/24/2021	They should build this with a stop in Madison, WI
663	3/24/2021	Not including Eau Claire in the route seems odd and inadequate. It's larger than many of the cities included, quickly growing, with a great deal of development and a shuttle would not suffice.
664	3/24/2021	Needs spurs from Milwaukee-Fond Du Lac-Green Bay, Tomah-Eau Claire-Minneapolis, Red Wing-Rochester and Minneapolis-Duluth.
665	3/24/2021	<p>This sounds great, I want more rail in Wisconsin and I would use it.</p> <p>I would also like to see the rail edge closer to Madison and think there would be a lot of extra traffic departing from there.</p>

666	3/24/2021	<p>I fully support having a second train between St. Paul and Chicago - it would definitely be used and cut down on car trips between the cities. If it's successful, even more service should be looked at. What would the train be called? Would it be an extension of the Hiawatha or would it get its own name?</p> <p>Separately from that, I think a downtown Madison, WI station should be studied again. I think the ridership is there and it would cut down on even more car trips.</p>
667	3/24/2021	<p>I am in favor of this project and any public infrastructure and public transportation projects. In the future I would love for WI to move forward with a project to connect Milwaukee and Madison together as well as the Fox Cities to Milwaukee with high speed rail.</p>
668	3/24/2021	<p>They need to add Madison as a stop. There is so much traffic between Milwaukee and Madison, that it makes too much sense to add this as a stop.</p>
669	3/24/2021	<p>I am very excited about the prospect of this project as it will make transportation between several Midwest cities very practical and environmentally conscious. Often when traveling to these cities it is only me in my vehicle which is tiresome, lonesome, and not environmentally friendly. I think many people feel similarly to me as well. My one request would be potentially looping Madison into the route. There is not an easy way to travel from Chicago to Madison besides I-90.</p>
670	3/24/2021	<p>Please include a stop in Eau Claire in your passenger rail project. In general, I think all college towns should be included.</p>
671	3/24/2021	<p>What a wonderful way to travel through our state and keep pollution down. I for one will be traveling by rail to the La Crosse area.</p>
672	3/24/2021	<p>It would be even better if this could include a stop in Madison, WI.</p>
673	3/24/2021	<p>The route is a good plan. Get another line that runs from Madison to Baraboo too. I want to visit Minneapolis more often but I hate the drive.</p>
674	3/24/2021	<p>Would love more frequent service thru the Dells. I like taking train to Chicago and did so more often when I lived in Milwaukee since there were multiple times available. Also have family in the Cities and would consider the train if there was a better schedule.</p>
675	3/24/2021	<p>Why doesn't this pass through Madison? It seems like a *lot* of Madisonians would be likely to use this service, but they are also far less likely to own a car than residents of Columbus, Portage, or Wisconsin Dells. So for many Madison residents, getting themselves to one of these stations would involve a very pricey cab ride, at best, or would be impossible at worst. I would expect that more people who live in Columbus could drive to Madison, than Madison residents that could drive to Columbus. This is sort of like deciding to pass through Grafton instead of Milwaukee, and telling Milwaukeeans without cars that they're out of luck.</p>
676	3/24/2021	<p>We desperately need better intercity rail service along this corridor. It would be a game changer for folks who regularly do long-distance commuting in Wisconsin and the Twin Cities. It would also ease the burden on Wisconsin's aging freeway system and set up a more environmentally sustainable transit option in the region.</p>

677	3/24/2021	This would be great for all communities involved. It's the busiest stretch of station stops for the Empire Builder already, so more service on this corridor is much needed. Canadian Pacific is a great host railroad and this extra service shouldn't affect their freight traffic. I'm biased as an Amtrak employee, but I see this as a win-win for Wisconsin and Minnesota!
678	3/24/2021	Yes, please. For the love of god, yes.
679	3/24/2021	Great idea. Would be even better if it went through Madison WI. (Or some short transfer line to get from Madison to this one).
680	3/24/2021	Love the idea of expanding public rail! Any chance to add a second route to include Eau Claire. I94 from Eau Claire to the Cities is extremely busy most of the time and it would be great to be able to go to a concert or a game or play and not have the traffic stress getting there or coming back. Would be great to expand on this
681	3/24/2021	I support the expansion of additional intercity service on this important corridor. It is a very small step, but it's better than nothing. In the future, I would like to see additional service (at least 1 train per hour), as well as passenger rail service serving Madison. In the meantime, offering a shuttle between the station in Columbus and Madison would be great. I live in Madison and do not own a car, and so using the train is basically impossible for me.
682	3/24/2021	Great idea! Alice Sponholz 7063334151 alicejelich20@yahoo.com. I used to live in WI, have relatives in MN. 😊
683	3/24/2021	Please go through Madison. It doesn't make sense to avoid the area. Portage is too far north and has little there compared to Madison. Even moving it to Deforest or Waunakee would make things much more accessible. IT also seems more equitable to have a bus line that would run to the station - how would a carless person make it from Madison to a station?
684	3/24/2021	Just want to express my utmost support for any and all improvements to the Amtrak system. As a young professional who seeks more sustainable forms of transportation and has spent most of his life without access to a car, train service is very important.
685	3/24/2021	I fully support this project, it's about time! I think you have the right number of stations, not too many stops but enough for people to get to easily. It will be wonderful to have the connector to Chicago that doesn't make too many stops, a real appeal to people that do business in the cities. Let's get more cars off the roads
686	3/24/2021	Please include Eau Claire on the route. We have so many workers who commute daily, and many of us would use commuter rail to go to entertainment & sports events.
687	3/24/2021	I'm in support of the project. It will be bring a value to the region. Pre-pandemic I would use the service from Milwaukee to St. Paul recreationally a few times a year.
688	3/24/2021	Please consider offering service in Madison. It just makes sense to connect this metro area to the other planned connections.
689	3/24/2021	Please have it stop in Madison!!! So many students would use this!!!

690	3/24/2021	PLEASE send this train through Madison. Why would you exclude a city of 250K? Madison residents deserve to be included in this route and I imagine would be extremely frequent users of it. Also please make it high speed!
691	3/24/2021	Make it happen! A thousand times yes. It would be nice if a station could be added between Milwaukee and Columbus.
692	3/24/2021	Would love to see this route go through Madison. I travel there for work frequently from Milwaukee and would prefer to take the train. Columbus and Portage aren't close enough.
693	3/24/2021	Yes, yes, yes to proposed Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago passenger rail project! And routes including Green Bay and the Fox Valley as well!
694	3/24/2021	Would be great!
695	3/24/2021	It's hard to be in favor of a project that excludes Madison. This needs to come closer to madison for a better chance at wider adoption by people from all cities involved. Tons of people without cars live on the madison isthmus, and tons of people in MSP and MKE aren't going to take the train to Columbus to go to Madison. Not pretending like this would come downtown, but it *should* be able to be ride-shared to without breaking the bank if we want people to actually use it.
696	3/24/2021	As a Madison resident, please route the train through the city of Madison. My family and I would use this extensively to visit family and friends in Milwaukee, Chicago, and Minneapolis.
697	3/24/2021	I'm for any increase in the frequency of passenger transport, especially along the Empire Builder line. I however am disappointed that we are not going to make it high speed, and through our state's capital.
698	3/24/2021	I'd love to see high speed rail service between Chicago and Mpls; however, I believe a stop in Madison is required as well. There are so many people that travel Mpls/StPaul-Madison or Madison-MKE or Madison-Chicago, I don't understand why Madison is skipped. Thank you!
699	3/24/2021	I'd love to see high speed rail service between Chicago and Mpls; however, I believe a stop in Madison is required as well. There are so many people that travel Mpls/StPaul-Madison or Madison-MKE or Madison-Chicago, I don't understand why Madison is skipped. Thank you!
700	3/24/2021	
701	3/24/2021	As a rider of the Empire Builder a couple of times a year from Wi. Dells to Chicago, I'm very much in favor of approving this addition.

702	3/24/2021	Finally a sign of moving into the modern era by providing efficient transportation that is not continually hampered by minor weather variations that slow or stop automobiles and aircraft. Please calculate just how many tax supported traffic lanes or flights that would be required without this service. EVERY form of transportation is subsidized by the citizens of this nation right down to the city sidewalks and park trails, automobiles, rail, and air travel. It is time we put some money into a form of transportation that lends itself to automation and flexible, high volume capacity. Fully support this funding and much more.
703	3/24/2021	I no longer live in Wisconsin, but I travel back multiple times a year to visit family in Minneapolis, Madison, and Chicago. I would use this line every time I came back home if it were available to me. In addition, I'm certain my family in Madison would use this line to visit home now that they have a young baby at home. It makes great sense to me that we should connect the two capitals if these states
704	3/24/2021	Please add routes and trains in the tri state areas! Please get high speed rail back on the table! We went BACKWARDS when Walker killed that wonderful project...will increase passenger use and business interests immensely!
705	3/24/2021	The TCMC rail project would connect our state with two other metropolitan areas encouraging the tourism that Milwaukee both deserves and needs. We are a place with natural resources like the Lake and this would encourage folks to travel here!
706	3/24/2021	This would be incredibly beneficial for me personally as well as the community. This is an extremely popular route and service that needs additional capacity and improvements to keep it running safely. Thank you for considering this project.
707	3/24/2021	Let's do this! Long time coming and so needed!
708	3/24/2021	As a Wisconsin native living in Minnesota who goes to Madison and Milwaukee a few times a year for sporting events and to visit friends, I would LOVE train like this. Would be much more beneficial if it went through Madison though! Would also be nice if it could be a high speed train like most of the rest of the world has.
709	3/24/2021	Routing through Madison would be a boon, college students could really use it as bus selection is week to Minneapolis and Chicago.
710	3/24/2021	I would like a stop in Madison.
711	3/24/2021	The line should run through Eau Claire, Wisconsin. The Northern half of our state is always severely overlooked and this proposed route is just the most recent example of this. This would do nothing to serve the Northern part of our state as proposed. I am in 100% support of a passenger rail to connect Chicago and the Twin Cities, however, it needs to serve our whole state rather than just the Southern half.
712	3/24/2021	I think it would be much more useful to have a high speed rail line connecting Milwaukee and Madison. I travel across the state for work, most frequently between Milwaukee and Madison, and it would be so helpful to have a high speed rail connection. Is there any way this route can go south from Portage and connect to Madison?

713	3/24/2021	Hi, I think it would be of great benefit to have the proposed route go through Madison proper and then over to the Milwaukee region.
714	3/24/2021	Minneapolis to Eau Claire (and vice versa) sees much more traffic than Minneapolis to La Crosse. The rail would reach more people and eliminate more car travel (and traffic) if the rail went through Eau Claire instead.
715	3/24/2021	This is a great idea. We would definitely make use of with with friends in the Twin Cities and family and friends in Madison and Chicago. I hope it happens. Would love it. From Milwaukee, WI.
716	3/24/2021	Additional rail service would be something my family would support and use several times yearly. We would like additional options to also include Madison either for a future rail stop or with the optional shuttle service. Future expansion allowing shuttle service to and from Janesville would greatly improve our use case.
717	3/24/2021	Why doesn't this rail stop in Madison? Connecting the capitol to the large cities seems necessary and excluding it is a mistake.
718	3/24/2021	I fully support the improvements outlined in this document. I love taking trips via Amtrak and feel the addition of another departure time would be great! It would allow for more convenient connections in Chicago which would open up all sorts of options for us. Improving the crew accommodations would also be a plus for Amtrak passengers as it would only raise the already high level of professionalism that I have observed in the behaviors and service of the employees. I would also like to see a high speed option at some point in the future.
719	3/24/2021	This would be amazing! Please do it and consider making it as high speed as possible!
720	3/24/2021	Yes! This is long overdue! I fully support this!
721	3/24/2021	Integrating Madison into the route MUST be a priority.
722	3/24/2021	A stop in Madison instead of Portage or Columbus should significantly increase ridership. The shuttle would be more of a deterrent for those in the Madison area intending to use the line for convenience.
723	3/24/2021	A large portion of individuals would find adding a stop in Madison beneficial. Many large companies have ties in Chicago, Milwaukee, the twin cities and Madison. Not to mention, many students that attend UW-Madison live on some of those urban areas and would be able to get home easier.
724	3/24/2021	This route needs to go through Madison. It would get a lot more use to include the capital city and cater to all the Madison to Milwaukee commuters.
725	3/24/2021	We need improved and more far reaching public transportation!! The train is key to this goal!! Connections between Milwaukee and Minneapolis!! So glad you are working on this!
726	3/24/2021	This would be nice to have as someone who travels between Madison and Minneapolis. I would like to see a train that is faster between the two cities with less stops, like the bus has.
727	3/24/2021	Hello, please include a stop in Madison. It will increase ridership and make a big impact on the long term viability of this line.

728	3/24/2021	I fully support this project. Passenger rail service is vital and will help the state continue to grow economically.
729	3/24/2021	No, historically light rail in the United States runs over cost, behind schedule, and never has a passenger load to justify the cost. Thos rail will be exclusively used by people living along the rail line, but be paid for by the tax payers of the whole state.
730	3/24/2021	I expect that using the existing Empire Builder route serves as a simple template for expansion, but I urge WisDOT to at least try to think creatively and incorporate madison into further passenger service expansion. Madisonians have an appetite for rail travel and the urban density to justify it.
731	3/24/2021	Yes! Improving and increasing rail transit is a great idea. Thank you!
732	3/24/2021	Why is no proposal considering Madison as a stop in the system? Unless a cost-benefit analysis has ruled it out, some proposals should at least make the case for it to be aproved. Madison is the second largest city in Wisconsin and the capitol, having a stop that connects it to the Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago would be greatly beneficial for the state.
733	3/24/2021	Would love to see a stop in or near Madison, WI as well.
734	3/24/2021	We would absolutely make use of this type of rail service, both to reach Twin Cities, but also for the stops in Portage and the Dells.
735	3/24/2021	Leaving Madison off the route from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee would strike me as being a major missed opportunity. Wisconsin's second-most populous city which contains the state capitol and the state's flagship university should absolutely be on this route.
736	3/24/2021	I am in full support of adding a second, daily round trip service. We need more viable transportation options to Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago. I have previously researched taking the train but the times never worked for me. Having additional schedule options would be fantastic. I'm very disappointed however that there is no plan to connect Madison to this route. I see this as a big miss.
737	3/24/2021	This would bring about great economic advantages to our region. I would recommend tying it in with a bus connection to Rochester to assist elderly travelers who would prefer not to drive to Mayo. Please bring this up with your Minnesota counterparts.
738	3/24/2021	This is an awesome project, but I would love to have it stop in Madison WI or closer to Madison as well. Many Madison residents would use it but as-is the route would not be an option for many.
739	3/24/2021	I wish this would happen. I live in Milwaukee and sometimes drive to the Twin Cities. If I could catch a train, I'd do it more often. It feels like a long drive but if I could ride instead, I could do some reading, writing, making plans for the trip etc. Maybe a stop in Madison?
740	3/24/2021	It would be a huge boon for Green Bay as a tourist location and as an employer if we had a line run up to us as well. The benefits for GB, the Valley, and Door County would well out perform the costs.
741	3/24/2021	I realize there are of course logistical challenges, but it. certain seems that this should not be skipping Madison - or at least have a. future connection plan (but why not do that from the beginning?). Note - in favor of project as a whole, but think the route should be altered.

742	3/24/2021	Absolutely support a train route along this path, but would request the inclusion of Madison Wi along the path as well. It would be a great opportunity to include Madison, and a huge development opportunity along the entire corridor.
743	3/24/2021	Add a Madison stop
744	3/24/2021	Not having a stop in Madison is very disappointing. It isn't trivial for those living in the city/western suburbs to get to the Portage or Columbus stations. More rail transit is great, but bypassing the state's second largest city seems like a big missed opportunity.
745	3/24/2021	I highly support expansion and improvements of passenger rail services between Chicago and Minneapolis.
746	3/24/2021	Please add additional stops in Madison and Green Bay. This would increase revenue and usage as students at UW-Madison or UW-Green Bay, as well as Packer fans, could use the train to get to and from their homes to their destination.
747	3/24/2021	Although my main wish is to see a train come through Madison (it is ridiculous we have to bike or drive 30 miles to catch one), I highly approve of adding another daily train on this route.
748	3/24/2021	Madison desperately needs to better railway connectivity. We have so many goods trains passing through and not a single decent train route connecting us to our neighbours in the midwest
749	3/24/2021	I think this would be a great service and I would use it often.
750	3/24/2021	I m stronOgly in favor of this project. Anytime I want to east of Chicago by car, I get caught in the I-94, I-294, I-80 and so many other converging interstate highways at the Illinois/Indiana Line that it makes driving an absolute nightmare. Making train connections to all points south and east of Chicago from Chicago makes a lot of sense and probably relieves the need for new/more lanes of traffic in both Chicago and Milwaukee.
751	3/24/2021	I am in support of any steps to get more passenger rail in the US. It is sorely needed. Hopefully this will lead to more and faster rail options in the future.
752	3/24/2021	I would like the train to pass directly through Madison. I think this makes more sense to connect three of the upper Mid-west's three major cities - Milwaukee, Madison, and the Twin Cities.
753	3/24/2021	The updating and establishing of light rail/high-speed rail systems throughout the US, not just Wisconsin to the Twin Cities, or Wisconsin to Chicago, is a must. These types of projects will spur local economies, reduce automobile traffic, thereby reducing greenhouse emissions, and allow for ease of travel for those who might not otherwise be able to afford it. Reducing automobile traffic will also reduce highway fatalities and reduce the cost of increasing and maintaining interstate highways. All of the above provide several of the countless reasons like real/high speed rail are great ideas for states in the US.
754	3/24/2021	This is a fantastic idea. I would personally use the train going to Red Wing Minnesota and Chicago Illinois. I also think service should be expanded to Madison Wisconsin and Green Bay Wisconsin.

755	3/24/2021	Please add a Madison stop as it is a major hub of activity in the state
756	3/24/2021	I think this would be a great improvement for taking the burden off of our highways. Especially on Friday and Sunday for tourist traffic. Spur to Madison in the future or a light rail/bus option from Columbus would be helpful too.
757	3/24/2021	While I very much support the addition of an additional daily trip on the Empire Builder route, I also want to strongly advocate for how much use, value, and utility would be added if spur rail routes and stations were added from the Twin Cities to Rochester and from Madison to Milwaukee (particularly because Rochester and Madison are two of the fastest growing communities in the entire Midwest). In the interim I also strongly support the potential addition of a bus shuttle service between those communities and existing rail stations mentioned in the plan documents.
758	3/24/2021	This is needed. I 100% support it.
759	3/24/2021	I strongly support this plan for its ability to reduce the number of automobile trips between the cities and increase commerce along this important corridor!
760	3/24/2021	Oh, my, YES! Would also like a Madison connection to Chicago, to O'HARE and other stops. Thank you!
761	3/24/2021	This is a fabulous idea! This service is long overdue!
762	3/24/2021	This is great but useless for all of us up farther north. I live in Oshkosh and would love rail traffic to Milwaukee and Chicago. If I have to drive to Milwaukee to get a train, I might as well just drive where I want to go. Any additional Amtrack is an improvement but tired of only transportation to major cities.
763	3/24/2021	Looks wonderful. Less traffic easy ride
764	3/24/2021	Hyperloop TT has proposed a hyperloop route from Chicago to Cleveland to Pittsburg. I suggest connecting with Hyperloop TT and developing a route from Chicago to Milwaukee to Madison to the Twin Cities. Hyperloop TT is a new technology and a lot better for the environment. It also travels at over 500 mph cutting traveling times down. There are a lot of pros for the hyperloop I suggest looking at there website. https://www.hyperlooptt.com Also boring under ground has become a lot more popular in todays world. Instead of buying ROW land why not bore a tunnel under I-94 and I-90 and have underground trains. You already own the land and you don't have to worry about maintaining a structure above ground. I am a student at UW Platteville and have done some research on this and I would really like to talk to someone at WISDOT and share my ideas.
765	3/24/2021	Looking forward to hearing from you,
765	3/24/2021	I would like to see this project to go forward, along with additional passenger rail expansions in the upper-midwest. I believe the long term benefits of additional rail transportation is worth its costs.
766	3/24/2021	Do it!

767	3/24/2021	I agree with this plan.
768	3/24/2021	Great idea, please do this, I would use it to travel to Winona.
769	3/24/2021	Not stopping in Madison is a huge missed opportunity.
770	3/24/2021	I'm really excited for the prospect of getting to go to Chicago or Milwaukee from where I live easily. My only concern is making sure the station and trains are accessible to those with mobility issues (wheelchair users, those with crutches, canes, braces and prosthetics) and sensory issues like Autistic individuals. Please hire a disability advocate to give advice on how to make stations and trains disability friendly. Too many stations in other areas are not and overlook disabled citizens travel needs which puts us at a huge disadvantage and can lead to us being harmed in these spaces, stranded and/or unable to use the trains at all. Do better than basic ADA compliance.
771	3/24/2021	How can we get Madison on this route?
772	3/24/2021	Why would this not go through Madison, instead of much smaller cities/towns in Wisconsin? Even if it stay in the same track as proposed, I'm REALLY excited for this to move forward. Ideally, I would love to see it come through Madison, and again - I'm 100% on board for rail.
773	3/24/2021	I would love to see an additional route to Green Bay. As a former resident of both Milwaukee and Chicago and a user of the Hiawatha (amtrack). During spring, summer and fall I-94 is packed for sports events at miller park, and fall and winter I-43 is the same during football season. Green bay is and will be a considerable draw for sports enthusiasts from Chicagoland and the mero areas of Minneapolis. Although foxcon and the technology incubator projects may not have panned out in Green Bay, there is a great potential to grow the brain trust if Green Bay if there is a reasonable transportation connection to the higher taxed and and more expensive lake side city in illinois. Additnally it would connect UW-GB and closely (UW-Madison) and the states largest population center. Additnally Door county and other NE WI communities could benifit greatly from out of state travel.
774	3/24/2021	Of course there should be a rail! So many people commute daily between these cities. Highly energy efficient, cost efficient; it would be a great benefit to the midwest. Fewer wheels on the ground means less carbon emission. More jobs created, and the list goes on.
775	3/24/2021	If the train had wifi I could work and stay connected with family and friends between Chicago and MN. How awesome!

776	3/24/2021	<p>It's ridiculous to repeat the mistake of not going through Madison (connecting at the Dane County airport, with regular bus shuttle service to downtown.)</p> <p>Also, the focus should be on developing networks of regional commuter rail systems for Milwaukee and Dane counties, Green Bay-Fox Valley, Central Wisconsin (Portage-Wausau, eventually expanding to Hurley, Ashland, Superior, Duluth), and then connecting these networks with faster, long distance service.</p> <p>The goal should be reducing auto (and semi truck!) mileage (and its CO2 pollution), rather than focusing on high-speed. We need more people (and heavy freight) back on rails, and fewer roads and highway lanes.</p>
777	3/24/2021	<p>What are you going to do for the Northern part of Wisconsin. Remember up here, above Hwy 8?</p>
778	3/24/2021	<p>This is a wonderful idea! Yes, please! Please increase our train routes and availability. One idea for the future would be to also build a Madison to Milwaukee route.</p>
779	3/24/2021	<p>I wholeheartedly support adding this rail service. I especially endorse it as a more environmentally friendly option than air travel or auto.</p>
780	3/24/2021	<p>Absolutely needed....and it will provide fun for families, too....and for us older folk who used to ride trains as a means of getting from one place to another. It is not a luxury...</p> <p>The route is quite useful...but it needs a connection or to go directly to/thru Madison....</p>
781	3/24/2021	<p>The TCMC corridor is an integral part of the Midwest's economy. Indeed, these three cities account for the majority of the economic output of the three states. Particularly as we recover from the COVID-19 recession, we must invest in our economy.</p> <p>New riders will bring about \$47.7M in direct & indirect economic benefits (tourism spending, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, state & local taxes, etc) for the region.</p> <p>Additionally, as congestion worsens, we must make smart transportation investments to increase the mobility in our region. The service will attract an estimated 155,500 new passengers per year, a conservative estimate based on 2017 ridership data. Two daily round-trips between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul will mean more convenient departure times, making existing options also more appealing. The new train will garner a diverse ridership by diverting trips from already overcrowded regional roads & highways. Most diverted trips will be from cars, with a small fraction diverting from buses. This will further help the region meet its climate goals. An additional fourteen thousand trips each year will come from induced demand, i.e., trips that would not otherwise have been taken. This investment will save the three states over \$30M in associated highway maintenance costs.</p> <p>This is a smart investment for us to make.</p>

782	3/24/2021	As a senior citizen and long-time Amtrak rider, a second train to the Twin Cities is really needed. I live in Milwaukee and have had trouble getting long-distance seats on the Empire Builder because space was sold out between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities but available west of the Twin Cities. In summer I have found a lack of seating between Chicago & the Twin Cities and a second train would help relieve that congestion. This is a very good proposal and should be adopted. Thank You for the opportunity to make a comment.
783	3/24/2021	I think this route would be a great addition and a service that would be widely used for commuting and weekend travel. It would be much MORE valuable if Madison was included in the route.
784	3/24/2021	Yes, fully support this! I would use this.
785	3/24/2021	If a second RT trip is added, please consider dedicated bus routes between other cities to the nearest Amtrak station. Reasonable bus routes include: Appleton/Fond du Lac to Columbus, Madison to Columbus/Portage/WI Dells, Wausau to Portage, Rochester to Winona/ Red Wing. This would increase patronage and allow more people to use Amtrak services.
786	3/24/2021	Love the idea! Would definitely use and could see myself visiting some of these cities more often. Any chance a stop could be placed in Madison, WI?
787	3/24/2021	I believe this route should drop further South to include Madison in place of the Wisconsin Dells, Portage, and Columbus Stations. Given the number of students across the country and world attending the University of Wisconsin Madison, having direct rail access from major international airports city of Milwaukee and Chicago makes sense. Additionally, given the larger population of Madison, the rail service would be more fiscally feasible with this change.
788	3/24/2021	I am in favor of increasing routes and trips for rail travel in WI! Also do not expand i94. #fixat6
789	3/24/2021	Please add Madison, WI to this route.
790	3/24/2021	If at all possible, the rail should include the Capital of Wisconsin, Madison. In the event there is no direct rail, it would make a heck a ton of sense to construct one. It seems really odd that it is not included given that ...[spoiler alert] Madison is the Capital of Wisconsin. It has a world class university (Go Badgers!!! - I am Class of 1991), it is becoming a more significant hub of innovation and progress than Milwaukee and, given the looming climate crises, high speed rail will be more efficient and earth friendly than the friggin Van Galder...
791	3/24/2021	Please include Madison WI as a stop. It's ridiculous that a passenger rail option would skip over the second most populous area in the state
792	3/24/2021	I would like a stop in Madison, WI, instead of the current Columbus station. It makes sense to go to a major metro area like Madison.
793	3/24/2021	Rail service must go to Madison for all the right reasons. Unless you are building a rapid transit line to Madison in this project.
794	3/24/2021	Why skip Madison? If anything you'll need to connect it via lightrail, which seems more cost prohibitive than skipping it on this route. Not connecting the two largest cities in the state will reduce usage and profit.

795	3/24/2021	Yes - excellent idea!
796	3/24/2021	I strongly support this project ...the cost of keeping highways updated and maintained (esp freeways) is crazy expensive (ala Marquette and Zoo interchanges)
797	3/24/2021	This train is such a great idea but not going through Madison is a huge missed opportunity. Think of all the people that would take the train from Madison to Milwaukee and/or the Twin Cities. In case you forgot, Madison is home to the flagship state university. Student traffic alone should justify routing through Madison. The combined population of Watertown, Columbus, Portage and Wisconsin Dells is something like 40,000. The population of Madison is 250,000+. People in Madison love public transportation -- I lived there for over 20 years. Route the train through Madison.
798	3/24/2021	It is a mistake not going through Madison. Otherwise I think this is a great benefit for public transport.
799	3/24/2021	This is such a good idea, environmentally and logistically. I do think Madison should be added as a stop and makes more sense than running thorough small towns
800	3/24/2021	Please include Madison in the route. It doesn't make sense to skip such a major city and would make it harder for a lot of us to take advantage of the rail.
801	3/24/2021	Include Madison and add a high-speed rail.
802	3/24/2021	<p>This is a great proposal and long overdue! It can aid in reducing congestion and increasing travel choice. It will increase business between Milwaukee, Madison, Minneapolis/St. Paul, as well as Chicago. It will open access to tourist destinations, such as Wisconsin Dells and other places. Passengers can relax and enjoy the ride, without having to worry about driver fatigue, drunk-driving, or other accidents on the roadways.</p> <p>I am originally from WI and travel back frequently to visit family and the sites. Would love the chance to take the train to MN, too. We have family and friends there and this would be a great option, instead of more driving. Also good for the environment.</p>
803	3/24/2021	Please consider including Madison as a stop. Myself and many I know would likely utilize a Madison <-> Milwaukee trip.

804	3/24/2021	<p>This route has to connect to Madison. Time to get the stop out of Columbus and bring it to the north or east side of madison with shuttle options within the metro area around Madison. Madison is a massively untapped market for travel to the cities and chicago (especially chicago due to the cost of parking, tolls, traffic, etc) but no one wants to drive northeast to Columbus, leave their car there to train down to Chicago. The service speed also needs to be increased in order to be able to reasonably compete with the convenience of driving. Taking a 40 min bus shuttle to Columbus (from west side Madison) to catch a train to Chicago seems silly when I can take a bus in under 3 hours (if no stops).</p> <p>I understand this proposal is for improvements to the existing line but improvements need to include new improvements in order to increase interest, ridership, and public support for spending the money. We lost out on a high speed rail project once and people are jaded by it.</p>
805	3/24/2021	<p>Please work to restore direct passenger service to Madison. I understand that is beyond the scope of this particular project, but Portage and Columbus are simply too far away to really benefit the Madison market. However, a passenger railway station in the City of Madison would be enthusiastically received, and would add thousands of regular riders to this route.</p>
806	3/24/2021	<p>I think it would be a great thing</p>
807	3/24/2021	<p>I think Eau Claire should be included in the route because of the growing business/high education connections with the Twin Cities, the demographics of the area leans toward high use of the service, and a better access point for the northeastern part of the state.</p>
808	3/24/2021	<p>Please bring it to Madison!</p>
809	3/24/2021	<p>This project will vastly improve the chance for travel to those along the route. I grew up between La Crosse and Winona and have family in that area that would use this regularly. Thank you!!</p>
810	3/24/2021	<p>I am in full support of improving public transit. I have traveled to many East coast cities which have established public transit and it really makes travel much less stressful. Additionally, I feel that I could pursue a doctoral degree if I had access to public transit so that I could use the commuting time for schoolwork and not miss out on as much family time. I live in Fond du lac and would like to see more public transit options starting from Fond du Lac and allowing access to Milwaukee or Madison. As far as I know, there is currently only one bus route a day to Milwaukee which is not sufficient.</p>
811	3/24/2021	<p>The route must go through Madison. Without going through Madison, the route is useless. Madison is the center of Wisconsin in terms of government, education, and significant employment. Getting the right of way through these areas is critical for planning and rail development in the future. This line through Columbus is malpractice in its planning, and all funds should be diverted for that purpose.</p>
812	3/24/2021	<p>I think routing it through Eau Claire is a better option for those of us in the northern half of the state and therefore offers more opportunity for more people.</p>

813	3/24/2021	Please make adjustments to the proposed route to include Madison. By not having a Madison area station, this route is missing out on an large potential audience. Not all of the people in the greater Madison area have cars to drive up to Portage, Columbus or the Dells to get on the train there.
814	3/24/2021	Please add a stop in Madison. Downtown or near east side would work wonderfully!
815	3/24/2021	Madison should be linked to the train route.
816	3/24/2021	I would support this if it had a stop in Madison, WI too!
817	3/24/2021	Would love to see Madison connected.
818	3/24/2021	I think this would be amazing. It would help with pollution, road congestion and a lot of tourism money coming in.
819	3/24/2021	Yes, please! This rail project would benefit community members, commerce, and the environment. I fully support it.
820	3/24/2021	This is a must-do project for the La Crosse area and others on the route from St. Paul and Chicago!!
821	3/24/2021	Any intercity rail expansion between the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago that does not include Madison will be a waste of taxpayer money and a failure to meet a demand for public transportation. This line would see great demand for commuters between Milwaukee and Madison, easing the traffic burden on I-94 and improving mobility between Madison and the Twin Cities area. Additionally, greater access to these metropolitan areas from Madison will reduce the brain drain occurring in Dane County, because recent graduates of UW-Madison seek the larger metropolitan areas of Chicago and Minneapolis but appreciate the lower cost of living in Madison.
822	3/24/2021	This needs to go through Madison it's the capital city.
823	3/24/2021	I think this project is a great idea. The US as a whole falls behind the rest of the world when it comes to high speed rail transportation, and this project, along with others proposed nationwide, would make traveling and visitation much more accessible to all age groups. I also think the route running twice daily is a great idea as it allows more people to access the rail. Finally, the fact that the rail runs through in state travel spots such as La Crosse and the Wisconsin Dells would make it possible for families to take trips without putting miles on their cars. Overall, this proposed project is a step in the right direction for getting the states more connected and enables easier travel for all.
824	3/24/2021	I wholly support this project, and I believe it will bring much-needed economic revitalization and infrastructure improvement to the state.
825	3/24/2021	I would like it a lot if it were to include Madison, Wisconsin, along the route. I think that the train would receive considerable ridership if it went through Madison. It is a shame that the 2010 funding was rejected, but this is a different time.
826	3/24/2021	A more northern route should be considered through Stevens Point and Eau Claire.
827	3/24/2021	This would be a very valuable project, we need more rail connectivity. It would be helpful if the speed along the route was higher as well.

828	3/24/2021	There needs to be a line from Green Bay through the Fox Valley to Milwaukee and Madison. Right to the airports. It would be great to have Milwaukee and Madison linked as well. It makes no sense that this plan doesn't include that.
829	3/24/2021	This would be extremely helpful! I would use this so much due to lack of transportation options for me! Please make this happen!
830	3/24/2021	I strongly support the expansion of this route and the addition of another train. I travelled between Minneapolis and Milwaukee frequently during my college years and Amtrak was rarely the most convenient route despite my desire to utilize it. I continue to travel between the two on a regular basis. Adding a second route will make this train more accessible for casual riders like me, plus those with limited car access and in rural areas. Again, I am 100% in support of this massive improvement in infrastructure.
831	3/24/2021	This would be a fantastic addition to the Wisconsin travel landscape, and a long time coming. It was so disappointing to have Gov. Walker reject the funding for a passenger rail line/improvements to existing lines several years ago. Wisconsin would greatly benefit by having daily routes traveling from Chicago to Minneapolis.
832	3/24/2021	I support this project, as it would greatly benefit all potential riders with more capacity, another departure/ arrival time, potential for better connections to other trains. Another train would especially help persons with disabilities and for people who do not like to fly. And, would help decrease highway and airport conjection.
833	3/24/2021	I think this should go through Madison, WI for sure!
834	3/24/2021	I'm very supportive of the addition of another daily route on this line. I'm only disappointed that Madison continues not to be connected in to rail service. But a little progress is better than none! Thank you.
835	3/24/2021	I think this is an excellent idea!
836	3/24/2021	This should include Madison and Green Bay.
837	3/24/2021	This would be amazing and my family would use it often.
838	3/24/2021	I fully support this. More sustainable than car travel. Increases access to resources in the bigger cities. Creates cohesion between 3 of the biggest Midwestern cities.
839	3/24/2021	Would it be possible to change the route to include Madison?
840	3/24/2021	I support the proposed service addition and would consider using it for personal trips to the Twin Cities and Chicago. It would be great if easier connecting options to Madison could be added in the future, but the current project seems worth undertaking.
841	3/24/2021	Obviously, Madison should be added to the cities included on the route.
842	3/24/2021	I think this is tremendously cool and good! I really hope that our country continues to improve upon our train transit system; I see nothing but benefits for improving and expanding train transit. I support this effort 100%!
843	3/24/2021	YEAH YEAH HELL YEAH!!!!
844	3/24/2021	As a Chicago area resident, this would provide me and my family great incentive to take TCMC to the Twin Cities more often!!

845	3/24/2021	Safer long-term parking at smaller stations would be helpful. I'm not comfortable leaving my vehicle for several days in the parking area near the Wisconsin Dells depot. It's not well defined or well monitored. There are no taxis or buses from my small neighboring town to the Dells, so I need to drive there. I would be more likely to utilize the train if there was more secure parking. Otherwise, your project is exciting!
846	3/24/2021	My wife and I would be very much in favor of another train on this route. We've been to Chicago a number of times on the Empire Builder and would appreciate the increase in choices for travel on this route.
847	3/24/2021	
848	3/24/2021	Great idea! Would be amazing if it could be connected to northern Wisconsin as well. Having a train go to or through Stevens Point so more of the state would be connected to get to Milwaukee
849	3/24/2021	Any successful project needs to stop in Madison rather than bypass it. Forcing people to go to Columbus makes it inconvenient. Don't leave Madison behind!
850	3/24/2021	Only those counties with stops in them should have tax increases to pay for this. This should NOT come out of general tax funds but only paid for by those counties that benefit.
851	3/24/2021	I was a frequent rider of the Empire Builder in 2018, 2019, and 2020, until COVID hit. I encourage you (decision-makers) not to make a decision based on past ridership. Not only has COVID of course impacted public transportation, so that recent numbers are artificially (temporarily) suppressed, but availability will drive increased ridership itself. The Midwest of the US is thriving. Post-COVID times will be full of an out-pouring of social experiences and embracing the value of public transport - values that ultimately tie into the Germanic, Norwegian, and many other cultural foundations of Midwest. Personally, the Empire builder route was an important part of my life - allowing my residence in Western Wisconsin, where my family owns a vacation business in the Driftless region, while allowing me a pleasant and productive commute to my job in Milwaukee. There are so many positive aspects of this route, and I am tremendously in favor of increasing the service. I noticed families that appeared to be vacationing, many Amish people during every trip, and a wide variety of persons across age, race, and social class lines. I sat with my laptop and did meaningful work, enjoying the scenery and the positive vibe of shared community. Train service is very important to people who cannot drive (e.g. Amish, disabled, elderly), and people like me who value the reduced stress from driving, and the increased productivity possible. The train service was further important to me because I have a chronic shoulder condition that is exacerbated by driving. Lastly, our society itself will benefit from the availability of a space that serves and gathers across racial, age, and economic boundaries. I ask you to do the right thing, and increase the availability of this wonderful resource.
852	3/24/2021	Please have the route go through Eau Claire!
853	3/24/2021	This looks great. It'd be nice to have a train route from Madison, but even without this, I support this fully and without reservation.

854	3/24/2021	It makes perfect sense and would save wear and tear on vehicles. I have customers in several of the cities and could take a Uber from each station . More flexibility is perfect
855	3/24/2021	I am for this improvement. I would frequently find use for Milwaukee to Tomah transit.
856	3/24/2021	I support the addition of a second departure daily on this route. I occasionally take the train from Red Wing to Chicago or Milwaukee and it is often crowded, sometimes difficult to book, and often does not connect well with other transportation or events. A second train choice per day would improve all of these issues.
857	3/24/2021	This is needed badly
858	3/24/2021	For decades we have seen Wisconsin--in fact, our whole nation--fall behind most of the rest of the world in transportation infrastructure. Wisconsin has a chance with this [quote]Baby Builder[quote] project to start to catch up--at savings in money, time, environmental harm and human lives! This project can help Wisconsin and encourage our United States escape from the trap of endless, expensive and futile refurbishing of interstate and US highways, rebuilds that are almost immediately inadequate and only increase reliance on dangerous and inefficient travel. Think of the boon to the tourism industry alone, with stops in Milwaukee and the Dells. Let's get 'er done!
859	3/24/2021	Would love to see this come closer to the Madison area. We live in Madison and our extended family lives in Chicago. Our oldest child is also looking at colleges in the Chicago would be hugely beneficial if it came closer to us. Is it possible for the WI DOT to look into an extension on the route? Is it possible to provide more runs?
860	3/24/2021	There needs to be a stop in Madison. Going thru Columbus is nonsensical for a Wisconsin route.
861	3/24/2021	Currently the Empire Builder east bound is late often enough that a reliable connection in Chicago cannot be made. A train originating in the Twin Cities would greatly diminish the possibility of a delay situation. As it stands today for us, boarding a train in Tomah or the Dells would be very convenient for making connections for the east coast or trains to the south were it not for the strong possibility of delay and missed connection. The option to visit the twin Cities (and perhaps Duluth) would also be enhanced with an additional train. I support this proposal and hope you do too.
862	3/24/2021	Yes. Yes. A thousand times YES. We need this. Thank you for coming to my Ted Talk.
863	3/24/2021	I would like to see a new stop IN Pleasant Prairie, WI. I would use this service to travel to both Chicago and Minnesota. This would be an invaluable service the the people of the midwest region.
864	3/24/2021	Such a necessary improvement. Added connectivity between Chicago - Milwaukee - The Twin Cities, will benefit the economy of the entire midwest.
865	3/24/2021	I am in favor because it would improve existing infrastructure and offer employment.

866	3/24/2021	Please include Madison, WI on the rail plans. Please offer subsidized access for low-income folks - or a sliding fee scale. Better yet, free fare!
867	3/24/2021	This is a wonderful idea that could be Utilized by many people and open up a lot of jobs, and mass transit. I'm not sure why we didn't do this when it was proposed almost 11 years ago. Thank you.
868	3/24/2021	I am a huge supporter of increased rail options and would love to see high speed rail if and where possible. I would urge that Madison be included as a station in this project as that would significantly increase connection of people of all ages, educational opportunities, jobs/ industry, and tourism. It would be a huge missed opportunity to not invest in that connection point and a huge loss to public benefit of this plan.
869	3/24/2021	I think this would be great! It would help encourage people to travel by train instead of driving and hopefully bring economic growth to the cities that the train stops at.
870	3/24/2021	I am 100% in favor of a second daily train between St Paul and Chicago. My husband prefer to travel by train when possible. A second train would be good for us and for thousands of others. It would enhance business in the Twin Cities, Chicago and so many smaller cities in between. Improved depots in Winona and La Crosse and other cities would attract more customers and allow those depots to operate more efficiently. I would LOVE a route change that would include Madison — it makes no sense to leave Madison out of the Empire Builder route. It is, after all, the capitol of Wisconsin and the state's 2nd-largest city. A train through Madison would attract LOTS of passengers. Track improvements are needed overall to enhance safety and improve comfort and speed. I remember the days of the "400" train — 400 minutes between St Paul and Chicago. We should aim for efficiency and comfort of that train that ran in the '50's.
871	3/24/2021	I am not in favor of this expense.
872	3/24/2021	While I would prefer a plan that included Madison as a stop of the train rather than connected via shuttle, I understand this proposal works with the existing Empire line. Using the existing line, an additional stop in/near Oconomowoc, WI would service the Waukesha county/Washington county areas (of the two, Waukesha Co. has the highest population) without requiring further travel to Milwaukee to access the train. This would also help decrease travel by car (a desirable outcome). However, even without the Lake Counties stop (but please do consider!) I fully support the plan to run an additional round trip on this line. The current state of public transportation in Wisconsin is ridiculous and the opportunities to better connect Minneapolis/Milwaukee/Chicago with additional train service are numerous and forward thinking.
873	3/24/2021	I would fully support this initiative.
874	3/24/2021	I am excited about this but PLEASE connect to or move closer to Madison, WI. With the state capitol and a large university there this is a real necessity. Columbus is the closest connection is not convenient.

875	3/24/2021	As a recent resident of Wisconsin and a frequent traveler to Illinois, Wisconsin and Minnesota - I say, [quote]Yes to this project![quote] This would allow us to travel more freely between Chicago and the Twin Cities regardless of our age, physical and mental abilities, and it would reduce the number of vehicles on our highways. Having lived in Europe a couple of times, I am longing for a time when the Midwest can provide reasonable and reliable rail transport to its citizens and visitors. Please do what you can to make this project and further improvements possible.
876	3/24/2021	Run a line to ROCHESTER MINN, as more people would rather use the MAYO Clinic, than visit the shit hole of Minn-St. Paul. No law enforcement in the Twin Cities, would never go by any means of transport. Rocjeter has existing rail service for freight.
877	3/24/2021	I fully support this project! I would use it almost monthly!
878	3/24/2021	I believe this would be a great addition to the public transportation of WI. Travel to the Twin Cities and the western part of WI could be done very easily. It would allow for people to get to and from the Twin Cities in a quick, efficient manner. I would utilize this line quite often.
879	3/24/2021	I favor the increase in service. For our family a morning departure from Madison arriving in Minneapolis in the afternoon would be most helpful. But any increase in service would make it possible for us to use the train.
880	3/24/2021	I think investing into and expanding our rail systems is a great idea and this to me seems well thought out and planned for. Fully support this.
881	3/24/2021	I am fully in favor of a train route, but please add a stop in Madison. The previous train plan scrapped by governor moron was great.
882	3/24/2021	This is great, but please, please, re-route it through Madison. A Milwaukee/Madison train would prevent the need for freeway expansion, plus be a great improvement for the business community. Many people travel the Milwaukee/Madison route for business on a regular basis. Please reach out to the business community in particular to get their take on the idea.
883	3/24/2021	HIGH SPEED RAIL OR NOTHING!! - - - TIME FOR A CHANGE!!! - - - GO TO EUROPE AND EXPERIENCE A MODERN TRANSPORTATION HUB BEFORE YOU MAKE DECISIONS THAT WILL LOCK US FOR 30 YEARS INTO THE PAST!! - - - WE AMERICANS AND WISCONSINITES DEMAND BETTER OF OUR POLITICIANS AND PUBLIC SERVANTS / EMPLOYEES! Embrace the future! - - - SCRAPE THE OLD TECHNOLOGY! - - - THE PASSAGE OF TIME EQUALS CHANGE - DO NOT START PROJECTS THAT LOCK US INTO A FOSSIL FUEL PAST!! . . . WAKE UP!!!
884	3/24/2021	YES! Projects like this are so important to future of transportation! If possible, please include Madison in future routes.
885	3/24/2021	What about a northern route that goes through Appleton; Laona (they already have a train station); Tomahawk; Eau Claire; Minneapolis? Even include Green Bay in that route. I would take regular trips to Green Bay. I would visit northern Wisconsin if I didn't have to take that long drive.

886	3/24/2021	The train route should go through Madison. Ridership would greatly improve. There should also be a Green Bay spur.
887	3/24/2021	Western Wisconsin has been robbed of effective passenger rail transportation for many years. I strongly encourage the project managers to include Eau Claire or Menomonie in this route. Doing so would include one of the highest populations in western Wisconsin. Please reconsider adding one of these cities to the route.
888	3/24/2021	Great improvement which benefit Wisconsin business between Minneapolis and Milwaukee. The ability to have two departures daily will enhance the opportunity to conduct business and still return the same day. More importantly it will allow those individuals who work remotely to attend infrequent in-person meetings.
889	3/24/2021	Fully support! I wish Minneapolis/twin cities would also connect to Appleton.
890	3/24/2021	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I have one question and one comment.</p> <p>Q: What will be the maximum speed of the TCMC passenger rail?</p> <p>C: If feasible, I believe the route through Madison (i.e. Milwaukee - Madison - Minneapolis) should be considered. I would think of this route as [quote]free advertising[quote]. In other words, if the route traveled along the interstate it could drum-up support for future upgrades (i.e. high speed rail). I imagine driving along the interstate and seeing a passenger rail overtaking me on its way to/from the Twin Cities and that having a feeling of envy wishing I would have taken the rail instead of driving. In addition, land acquisition would a non-issue for other rail lines. Very happy to hear funds are going towards this future infrastructure!</p>
891	3/24/2021	<p>I recently moved from St. Cloud MN to Lacrosse Wisconsin. I was a regular rider of the north star commuter line for traveling into the cities. It's one of the main things I miss from living in that community.</p> <p>These added times would make it accessible for me to travel into the cities for the weekend as well as make it more likely that I would use the train to connect to MSP rather than flying out of LSE airport.</p> <p>What plans are in place to connect to the UWL, Viterbo and Western tech campuses in Lacrosse.</p>
892	3/24/2021	Connecting large Midwestern hubs of commerce through regular and reliable rail service must be a priority if we are to remain in competition with the megacities on the East Coast that will continue to grow exponentially this century. I support this and all future investment in the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago corridor.

893	3/24/2021	Please make the train line go through Madison. Madison is the most population dense city in the state after Milwaukee, and skipping it means that people who don't have access to a car to get to Columbus could not benefit from this train line. We have a large community of color with ties to Chicago that could benefit from easier and faster transportation between Madison and Chicago.
894	3/24/2021	Please consider an option to this proposal that includes a stop in Madison, WI (in a location that is accessible by local public transportation infrastructure such as City of Madison Metro Bus). Having the second largest city and market in Wisconsin not have direct access to the train route makes no sense. Having to drive 45 minutes from Madison to Columbus or Portage really negates the point of having train as an alternative form of transportation to driving. (e.g. if a trip from Madison to Minneapolis/St. Paul is 4.5 hours by car, going by train will mean that 15% of that drive is still happening).
895	3/24/2021	Should go through Madison! Also Eau Claire may be better than La Crosse. Having a connection line to Fox Cities would be beneficial. Connection to Ohare Airport?
896	3/24/2021	I know this proposal uses existing track, and I think that's an excellent idea. However, the state needs to add new track to incorporate Madison, WI into the rail system. Please consider broadening this proposal to connect Madison to this network, with a station that is connected to Madison public transportation to allow for increased access. Thank you.
897	3/24/2021	I would be very supportive of this project if the route was adjusted to go through Madison, WI and if it updated to High Speed Rail.
898	3/24/2021	It will be great to be connected to the financial and technical power houses of Chicago and Minneapolis!
899	3/24/2021	You really need to consider Madison in this project (or Middleton), so there is more ridership., and therefore more revenue. There seems to be no point n driving so far to park and ride.
900	3/24/2021	I very much support adding trains to this route (1 is nice, more is better). My only complaint is that Madison does not have a stop. Please consider serving the states Capital via rail without requiring any of the quarter million people that live within the city to have to travel to Columbus or Portage. This should be a goal, if not with this project, perhaps another. Thank you

		<p>This project needs to happen, and it absolutely must be only the beginning. The era of personal gas-powered automobiles and concrete highways has been an environmental and social justice catastrophe. With climate change now an undeniable fact, passenger rail must be one of many strategies we as a society aggressively pursue to allow everyone to move around our communities and our country. For that reason alone this project needs to go forward.</p> <p>This project also needs to be a stepping stone to a larger rail network across the Midwest and the country as a whole. Once this line is in place it needs to connect via rail to Madison and Eau Claire right away, and eventually to Green Bay, Stevens Point, Wausau, etc. This line passes tantalizingly close to the #1 and #3 universities by size in the UW system, and making the line connect effortlessly to tens of thousands of students would exponentially increase the ridership and the usefulness of the line.</p>
901	3/24/2021	This is step 1, and it needs to happen.
902	3/24/2021	I think this is a great idea. I also think it should go to Milwaukee to Madison, especially being the second largest and largest city in Wisconsin. That is a very high traffic route. This line could continue to Dubuque or connect with the St Paul to Milwaukee line. I think Green Bay with a stop in Appleton and maybe other Fox Valley cities (Neenah/Menasha, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac) should be a high priority with eventually Green Bay to Wausau to Eau Claire/Menomonee to St Paul Minneapolis. These would all be areas that should be well served and have high traffic.
903	3/24/2021	
904	3/24/2021	I think that the intercity rail service would make for a wonderful trip and allow increased tourism between areas.
905	3/24/2021	This infrastructure improvement and added trip would be very useful to me and would open up opportunities to travel more. I am highly in favor of this project.
906	3/24/2021	PLEASE add Madison!
907	3/24/2021	I think that this is a great idea. I would eventually like to see even more frequent trains, high-speed trains, and maybe even the inclusion of Madison but I know that those things aren't in scope for this project. I look forward to being able to travel from Milwaukee to Wisconsin Dells by train, eventually.
908	3/24/2021	Please include Madison as well
909	3/24/2021	A route that stops in Madison would likely be more convenient and able to serve more commuters.
910	3/24/2021	I think it should also stop in Madison.
911	3/24/2021	This seems like a wonderful, expensive idea. I'm from Sauk City, now living in Chicago. When I didn't have a car I wished that this rail existed to get me home. Expanding the rail and encouraging tourism would likely be a boon for the Wisconsin Dells!

912	3/24/2021	I would be thrilled to have increased rail service between St. Paul and Chicago. I'm a St. Paul resident with family in both WI and IL, and we would benefit greatly from this increased availability of rail options. Please make this a reality!
913	3/24/2021	Incredibly short-sighted that the route does not go through Madison!
914	3/24/2021	would like stops in Rochester MN and Waukesha WI
915	3/24/2021	It makes SO much more sense for a train route to come directly through Madison, rather than needing a commuter bus route to get to the train stop. Madison is one of the biggest cities in WI and there should be a train stop in Dane County. Amtrak needs to be pushed to make this happen. Bussing people to the next county does not make sense and will discourage Dane County residents (and there's a lot of us...) from using this service. The Columbus station (the nearest station to Madison) is still quite a distance and would need significant upgrades to handle any uptick in traffic, particularly from Dane County.
916	3/24/2021	It makes SO much more sense for a train route to come directly through Madison, rather than needing a commuter bus route to get to the train stop. Madison is one of the biggest cities in WI and there should be a train stop in Dane County. Amtrak needs to be pushed to make this happen. Bussing people to the next county does not make sense and will discourage Dane County residents (and there's a lot of us...) from using this service. The Columbus station (the nearest station to Madison) is still quite a distance and would need significant upgrades to handle any uptick in traffic, particularly from Dane County.
917	3/24/2021	Madison is the second-largest city in Wisconsin and has a high population of undergrads (without cars) who would travel frequently between the metro areas this line connects. However, it looks like we're doing our best to avoid the biggest city near the middle of the line, thereby ignoring a large population potential of heavy users. This NEEDS to go through Madison and feels like a disaster without it.
918	3/24/2021	Yes! We need more transportation links available to the public. This will be very helpful.
919	3/24/2021	I'm fully supportive of more rail opportunities in Wisconsin, and I'll take them where I can get them even for this. It would be helpful to have good options for taking the train from my home in Milwaukee to see my parents in the twin cities. I already take the the Hiawatha to Chicago all the time. But the one route which I have driven or ridden the Badger Bus HUNDREDS of times is the route between MADISON and Milwaukee. There are also many thousands of students at UW-Madison from the greater Minneapolis/St Paul area who do not own a car. I'd use a train to get to the twin cities maybe once per year, but I'd take a train to Madison at least once/month for work and leisure. I am just concerned that if Madison is left out of this improvement, this will be another expense that will not bring about substantial ridership. It will become a whipping boy for the anti-train folks, and we'll never again see an opportunity in my life to connect the second biggest city and our state capitol to a train line.

920	3/24/2021	Overall I'm supportive of expanding train service in Wisconsin! I live in Madison, and I wish there was a stop in Madison. As proposed, I would not use the train, but I'm supportive of the project
921	3/24/2021	America made a big mistake choosing oil over electricity for public transportation. It's not too late to correct that mistake. This would benefit businesses and disenfranchised populations who wish to travel.
922	3/24/2021	Connecting these three major city's will bring so much revenue to Wisconsin. Students will be able to stay closer to home well being able to travel to some of the best colleges in the country. Connecting more workers to job stricken city's! I see very little cons to this project. Hopefully this is just the start to connecting Wisconsin to the rest of the country via railway.
923	3/24/2021	Hi! I currently live in Chicago, went to school in Madison. It would be awesome if there could be a Madison stop as well. thats all! love this idea.
924	3/24/2021	I would love to see this go through Madison!
925	3/24/2021	I do not understand why you chose To exclude Rochester and Madison. Make this a complete rail network!
926	3/24/2021	The Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail line should go thru MADISON !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Otherwise you will lose a large portion of potential ridership.
927	3/24/2021	I am in favor of increasing passenger rail capacity in Wisconsin.
928	3/24/2021	This is a tremendous opportunity for Wisconsin and will provide another public transportation option for rural Wisconsinites to the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago. The cost is minimal and benefits great. I see the costs benefiting additional round trips in the future.
929	3/24/2021	no
930	3/24/2021	I am very excited about this possibility! This needs to route through Madison though.
931	3/24/2021	I am in support of the second AMTRAK train being added to this route. I no longer prefer to fly because of cramped conditions on planes and in airports. I live in rural north-central Wisconsin and I have to drive to Milwaukee to take the train to Chicago because the Empire Builder provides limit times to connect to a train departing from Chicago. With a second train I could travel to a closer stop such as Portage to catch a train departing Chicago.
932	3/24/2021	I would love this! I would be making more trips to both Chicago and St Paul!
933	3/24/2021	Please include Madison on this route!

934	3/24/2021	<p>My comments are general and are favorable. My wife and I live in Alma, Wisconsin, convenient to the Winona station, and we have a daughter and grandchildren in Glenview, Illinois, near the Amtrak station and another daughter in Milwaukee, close to the Amtrak station there. Our family travels back and forth many times each year both ways.</p> <p>We use Amtrak as much as we can, but you can rely on using it much more often when better more reliable service is provided. I love the convenience of reliable train travel as opposed to driving. We lived in Milwaukee for 40 years, and when my work frequently required travel to Chicago, I most often took the train.</p> <p>The towns along the Mississippi River in our area near Alma are increasingly attracting tourism for their economic growth and additional train service will assist that growth on both sides of the river.</p>
935	3/24/2021	<p>The addition of a second daily round trip service between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities would be a benefit to the core of the Midwest region, and exponentially significant to the corridor that the rail runs along. Rail ought to have a preeminent role in the future of transportation in the U.S. The country lags significantly behind others around the world. The expansion of this service can be a small, but nonetheless important step, in the right direction towards the revitalization and reinvention of rail travel nationwide.</p> <p>It is a shame the the rail service can not be rerouted or extended in some sort of way to include Madison. Linking this city would appear to have even more potential upside given its place in the state of Wisconsin.</p>
936	3/24/2021	A stop in Madison would be ideal
937	3/24/2021	This would be much more valuable if it also went through Madison. Making the route more easily accessible to Madison (including the huge student population) would increase environmental and economic benefits of this route.
938	3/24/2021	I think this is a pretty cool idea. It doesn't look like the initial tax impact it too high. Plus, it would increase access to western Wisconsin.
939	3/24/2021	It can only improve trade and community. Please please go forward with the plan.
940	3/24/2021	Yes!!! We need this train route! From milw to St Paul ! Brilliant idea. About time.
941	3/24/2021	I think this is a great idea! Many of us are getting older, but still want to enjoy visits to larger cities. Driving is stressful. It would be nice to connect to Madison, too.
942	3/24/2021	I think this is a great idea! Many of us are getting older, but still want to enjoy visits to larger cities. Driving is stressful. It would be nice to connect to Madison, too.
943	3/24/2021	Why is Madison not on these route?
944	3/24/2021	I would love an expanded rail system in the state of Wisconsin as a way to connect major cities. I would hope that the fees to travel via this line would be reasonable. If I could make a request, it would be that the line passes through Eau Claire and following the I-94 corridor.

945	3/24/2021	It would make a lot more sense for the train to go through Madison instead of Portage, Columbus, etc., because a) it's a more common travel destination, b) those voters are the ones voting for this project, and c) it can more easily absorb the increase in traffic, visitors, need for car rental, etc.
946	3/24/2021	<p>This is a fantastic idea. As a Wisconsin taxpayer, I strongly agree in expanding not only this route, but also adding others.</p> <p>Twin Cities -> Hudson -> Menomonie -> Eau Claire/Chippewa Falls -> Wausau -> Green Bay</p> <p>Milwaukee -> Oshkosh -> Green Bay</p> <p>Eau Claire -> Trego -> Duluth/Superior</p> <p>The expansion of commuter routes, similar to the Virginia Railway Express or, more generally, the Amtrak lines on the East Coast, would greatly expand access and commerce throughout the state.</p>
947	3/24/2021	<p>I would like to have more transportation options beside my car. I support train service connecting IL to MN via major Wisconsin cities. Trains can provide an excellent alternative to vehicles and planes.</p> <p>I would prefer to have the train services connect thru Madison, WI.</p>
948	3/24/2021	Please bring the route up through Eau Claire and then west to the Twin Cities.
949	3/24/2021	I'm 100 %against this and all of my family members. We already have a huge amount of drugs going between Chicago and Minneapolis specifically heroin. This would only continue this with making stops. Also this is a huge amount of government money that is not needed.
950	3/24/2021	Sounds like a great plan!

951	3/24/2021	<p>one departing St. Paul and Chicago in the morning and one in the evening, that still limits the arrival times at the other end of the journey pretty severely. For a business trip, it could mean the difference between extending the trip two additional nights to account for travel or taking a 90 minute flight. Why stop at two and not offer three or four round trips per day? The improvements made to the station and interchanges will scale with the frequency of trains.</p> <p>I have a lot of logistical questions about the project, too, mostly for Amtrak, I suppose. They're primarily about the speed of the trains and cost of a ticket. Currently, a round trip to MSP for myself and my family costs almost \$1700. Travel time between the two cities is longer by two hours than if we were to drive the distance ourselves, where we'd have the added flexibility to drive directly to our ultimate destination. A similar flight takes 82 minutes and costs about \$500 less — even with a week-long car rental to get around the destination city, we likely come out ahead taking a flight and get more choice of when we depart and arrive. The convenience of being able to do other things while in transit that the train provides by not having to drive is balanced by the efficiency and overall cost of the journey. Will these improvements make this trip shorter or more affordable for our family?</p> <p>Secondarily, what connection to transit in the respective cities are there? Are there plans for a connecting with local transit authorities to provide riders with complimentary access to bus or rail connection to their final destination? Imagine, a business traveler from St. Paul takes the train to Chicago and already has an MTA ticket to get them to their hotel. If not complimentary, will there be easy access points at each station connecting the rider to the network and busses and trains that serve the station at or within 30 minutes of arrival? Ideally, expanding rail service between these three metro areas would also reduce dependency on car travel upon</p>
952	3/24/2021	<p>Amazing! Yes! About time!</p> <p>Please let this actually happen!!!</p>
953	3/24/2021	<p>I think this is a wonderful opportunity to connect out neighboring states and help to encourage more public transportation! This would also increase jobs and boost the economy in all 3 states. I really hope this happens.</p>
954	3/24/2021	<p>Would be nice to be able to get from Madison to Milwaukee, Chicago, or Minneapolis without having to take a bus, or rely on a car ride to the train station in Columbus. As well as it would be nice to have more train time options rather than just one train in each direction daily.</p>
955	3/24/2021	<p>We need intercity rail service through Madison! This will make this passenger route so much more economically viable if it is able to connect directly with the fastest growing metropolitan area in the state. I teach economics at Madison College and this issue of the lack of rail service to Madison has come up so many times among my students - especially for those who would rather not commute by car between Milwaukee and Madison. My parents live in MN in St. Cloud, so it would be so much more convenient for me to board a train in Madison to St. Paul and then onward to St. Cloud (or take the Northstar Commuter Rail to Big Lake - also wish that went to St. Cloud...) Please consider rerouting this through Madison!</p>

956	3/24/2021	Please add this second service!
957	3/24/2021	I understand the current route may be following an existing Amtrak station. However, to be truly useful, this system should travel thru Madison, the largest city in the center of the state and our capital. You would garner more users than using the station in Columbus or driving to Portage. I live in Sun Prairie and would rather use a station downtown Madison than the one in Columbus as there are more food and shopping options were I to need to wait for a ride. Plus, that would connect to regular bus services.
958	3/24/2021	This should have been done years ago. Don't let the opportunity pass.
959	3/24/2021	This would be a great asset to all 3 states and also to my family. I live in Door County, my son lives in Chicago and my daughter lives in St. Paul! There's been many a time one of us was w/o a car and this would have made all the difference. Imagine Brewers and Cub/Sox fans taking the train & not drinking and driving home!! I don't see any reason why this SHOULDN'T happen.
960	3/24/2021	Yes please do this. Taking the train is lovely and more would do it if it was more convenient. We need better public transportation options. My hope is that tickets can be subsidized somewhat so that more of the general public can afford to try it.
961	3/24/2021	I typically make 2-3 trips a year to the Twin Cities area, almost always by car. With the Twin Cities area's rather good public transportation options, I prefer to leave the car at home and arrive and depart by Amtrak. The current times with the Empire Builder service are not ideal, and especially with the eastbound (8/28) trains in winter, arrival and departure times can be unpredictable and inconvenient. Chicago-Twin Cities trains would not be subject to the same lengthy delay possibilities, and the proposed second train schedules would be much more useful. With Amtrak, I typically use connecting bus service from Rockford to Chicago, but Columbus would also be a good option, especially with a Amtrak Thruway Columbus-Madison-Janesville-Rockford-Chicago bus service connection. Having formerly lived in the Twin Cities area, the drive on I-94 or I-90/I-35 gets tedious, and not a favorite, especially in winter or at night, keeping an eye out for deer.
962	3/24/2021	I highly support this project on many levels. My main reason is that as climate change continues to be a global crisis many midwesterners are looking for a way to reduce their carbon emissions and often find the options for long-distance travel limited. Currently, rail travel is not feasible for many people, but with the improvement and the addition of a second-round trip per day, this might change people's ability to use public transport. Additionally,

963	3/24/2021	Passenger Rail is absolutely essential to growing cities like Madison WI. There are also many university, including UW students that do not have vehicles who would use this option. I do own an vehicle, and had to drive to Chicago multiple times in order to attend important events. It would be a six to seven hour round trip, tear up my vehicle, and leave me absolutely exhausted. I also have a group that I travel with and in a train we can actually be comfortable, get work done, rest, or catch up. I have actually opted out of traveling to Chicago after a year of commuting there because the trip was so grueling.
964	3/24/2021	Wish I could ride a train from West Bend, WI to Lacrosse or Minneapolis. I support improvements to secure and increase ridership.
965	3/24/2021	Why on earth wouldn't you run Milwaukee to Madison then north? Pick up the extra passengers in metro areas! Why route through small towns like Columbus?
966	3/24/2021	
967	3/24/2021	Amtrak has a well known history of spectacularly bad service. Why are we adding a second round-trip service when the 1st one's quality is terrible.
968	3/24/2021	I think this is an out and out win. Too long has this country and this state looked away from rail travel. Milwaukee would be a great place as the seat. I live in Madison and the idea that I could hop a trail to Minnesota is just grand. I've already done this to get to Chicago and it's way easier than a plane.
969	3/24/2021	Any train that doesn't go through Madison is a waste of money. Another train that takes 3 hours to get from Columbus to Chicago is another colossal waste of money. What we need is that high speed train from Chicago to Milwaukee to Madison. Otherwise, don't bother.
970	3/24/2021	I support this project! I've never traveled the existing line, though I have used the Hiawatha service between Chicago and Milwaukee. I'm hoping to use this line for leisure travel to the Twin Cities in the future, and depending on the Madison shuttle service I may use it to commute as well.
971	3/24/2021	Please expand the rail to include Madison. It is absolutely insane that our state capitol is not included in this.
972	3/24/2021	I'm in favor of this project. As a current Milwaukee area resident, who grew up near Wisconsin Dells and also has family living in the Twin Cities, I would regularly use this service to see family. Riding instead of driving would allow me to work, read, or relax instead of worrying about traffic. In addition, this would create long term jobs for the station communities along the railway, while reducing auto traffic and (hopefully) pollution.
973	3/24/2021	I support having a second daily roundtrip passenger between Chicago and Minneapolis. I live in Minneapolis and travel to Chicago for several reasons including visiting family, attending sports and cultural events, and making connections with trains going east, south and west of Chicago. A second daily train would make these trips more convenient. There are times when I drive instead of taking the train because of scheduling. A second train would make these trips more convenient by rail.
974	3/24/2021	Why isn't this project going to include Madison which, besides being the state Capitol, is also more populous?

975	3/24/2021	I am in full support of this project. I believe we are long overdue to provide mass transit across state lines. This project is long overdue. It will reduce traffic and provide a safer method of travel. Besides being convenient it is economical and for the long term, should have a beneficial environmental impact by reducing car traffic.
976	3/24/2021	Totally in favor!
977	3/24/2021	I am all for such a project being created, but I think that you should jog from Portage down to Madison, and then perhaps back up to Columbus. Even though this would increase the time from MKE to St. Paul, it would generate so many trips from MKE to Madison and back that is is worth doing. These fares would subsidize the parts of the route that would not get as much business. People (myself included) who don't travel often between Madison and MKE (for reasons of the stress of high speed, crowded highways, or a desire to stop polluting with CO2) would start to take a train ride much more frequently.
978	3/24/2021	Please for the love of god give me a high speed rail
979	3/24/2021	I do not support any state dollars being spent on a project run by a private company. Let Amtrak foot the bill if they want to build it. If public dollars are used, it should at the very least be decided by a referendum for the cities where each stop is being built and if they want to fund it with their sales tax. Similar to how the funding for Lambeau field was obtained. Areas of the state who do not benefit from this should not be burdened.
980	3/24/2021	Please include Madison.
981	3/24/2021	This would be a vital connection for these cities in the midwest. Ideally, this should be high speed rail. As I understand it, this is normal rail. It should be done in a manner that is able to be updated to high speed rail within the next 10 years to help connect the whole USA. The choice to bypass Madison is strange. I would think there would be a lot of travel to Madison for conventions, UW system and the capitol, as well as built in parking.
982	3/24/2021	I'm in favor of this proposal and would additionally support the line being routed closer to Madison
983	3/24/2021	Rail should serve State Capitol and primary University System campus. A rail station and alignment shift should provide service to east side of Madison/Dane County regional airport.
984	3/24/2021	Optional routes through Madison and EauClaire should be considered.
985	3/24/2021	I support the TCMC. It will bring it jobs, enhance quality of life, and promote Tourism.
986	3/24/2021	Yes! Do this please! Actually a good use of tax payer money! Get this done!
987	3/24/2021	Love the idea. Really would appreciate a stop in Madison WI. It's a huge college town and students would use and benefit from the service. Portage and Columbus seem less useful.
988	3/24/2021	NOOOOOOO. And, why is there no funding coming from IL? Only WI and MN. Seriously?
989	3/24/2021	This needs to include Madison! The fact that you're skipping the state capitol is ridiculous.
990	3/24/2021	Yes. Yes yes yes yes yes build a railway please for the love of God yes.

991	3/24/2021	The line should go through Eau Claire and Madison. Thanks.
992	3/24/2021	This rail line would be life changing. I've dreamed of a reliable, affordable and safe mass transit option to Minneapolis since moving to Milwaukee. I already use and love the Amtrak line to Chicago and can see the opportunities for working in, visiting for cultural events and seeing friends. Very much in favor of this project, especially if there's a program for low income or frequent travelers to receive reduced cost tickets.
993	3/24/2021	I hope that Eau Claire can be considered as either an alternate route or a future expansion, as it serves a large part of the state and is also a gateway so to speak from people traveling on 29 to the cities. I believe it would have a lot of traffic and would spur development along 94 between the two cities.
994	3/24/2021	Absolutely!!! Please include Madison in your stop though. Make this rail happen. This state needs it.
995	3/24/2021	Yes!! This would be amazing to have in our state. I am absolutely in support and would love to see this.
996	3/24/2021	Count me as a supporter of the TCMC project. As someone who used to commute regularly to Minneapolis, this would have been an outstanding alternative to the 5-6 hour drive or the two hours of headaches for a one-hour flight. Perfect extension of the already popular Chicago-Milwaukee connection, which I use often.
997	3/24/2021	Adding a second route connecting the Twin Cities and Chicago would be fantastic for economies all along the route and convenient transportation for passengers, especially needed in rural areas, to access a variety of economic and cultural opportunities. This would also help reduce harmful emissions. I personally would use this service regularly because of the affordability and other benefits that traveling by automobile do not provide. I would also advocate for the possible shuttle route connecting Madison to the Columbus station.
998	3/24/2021	I am an active duty Navy officer and I would strongly consider moving back to Wisconsin with my family for a career working on this project or an engineering career serviced by this rail line. Strongly support!
999	3/24/2021	I am a Chicago native, and have taken Amtrak from Chicago to the twin cities. I think the route should pass through Madison, if possible, as it would make for a fun multi day trip. Madison seems like a natural for it.
1000	3/24/2021	I believe we made a commitment to decreasing carbon emissions in order to improve air quality in Wisconsin for future generations. Also this project would provide many jobs.

1001	3/24/2021	I love that expanding rail options between Chicago-Milwaukee-Twin Cities is happening. However, I don't understand why we are not investing in high speed rail. So I would want to see 2 things. 1) This should be High Speed Rail, not anything else. 79 mph trains are useless today as we can drive just as fast. People should have a faster rail option. 2) This train should go through Madison to connect Milwaukee and Madison's downtowns. Those changes would make this train more user friendly, and greatly expand the populations it could service. That said, the buses should go from Madison to the surrounding towns, not vice versa. With the advancements in rail tech, and rail that is used all over Europe/Southeast Asia, it baffles me that it takes an hour and a half to get to Chicago by train. I am a regular 10-pass holder for the Milwaukee to Chicago Hiawatha line. I would easily say I would ride a line that would go from downtown Milwaukee to downtown Madison. And I would also say I would take a high speed rail to the Cities with frequency if it existed. I think we should use our investments with more forward thinking, particularly as Milwaukee and Madison continue to grow.
1002	3/24/2021	I support this project!
1003	3/24/2021	Full support for this and other rail passenger improvements
1004	3/24/2021	Please go through Madison, the state's fast growing capital.
1005	3/24/2021	I support this Intercity Passenger Rail project. As I age and it becomes more difficult to drive and yet I am physically active I want this available to me. I hope there are improvements in the service, streamlining reservations and timely scheduling as this project will reducing impact of vehicle traffic. It will be a positive enhancement to our state. Thank you.
1006	3/24/2021	This is great!
1007	3/24/2021	Why in the world isn't this stopping in Madison???
1008	3/24/2021	My comment is that I would absolutely use this. Yes. I reside in Milwaukee and would love to travel across the state of Wisconsin by train and visit MLPS this way. I'm curious as to how much a fare would cost, but either way, it's a scenic route and would enjoy it. Also, my 11-year-old son would love a train ride to the Wisconsin Dells.
1009	3/24/2021	Me and my girlfriend enjoy taking trips from rural Marquette county. We love the idea of riding on trains but find it hard to schedule. This would make it easier to plan trips and enjoy the Twin Cities/Chicago!
1010	3/24/2021	Please include Madison, Wisconsin! Madison residents would use the rail and we would provide a wonderful increase in passengers. We already have a commitment to the all the environmental benefits that the rail would bring. Economically, Madison is one of the fastest growing cities in Wisconsin and a rail would be mutually beneficial for Amtrak and local businesses. It would be a tremendous boon for those who commute to work and school. Madison has an airport that would also enhance and increase connections and be great for tourism.
1011	3/24/2021	This will be a waste of money.

1012	3/24/2021	Consider a rail service linking Mitchel Field, O'hare, Midway, and Downtown Chicago. There are existing rail right of ways between these points. This would allow the air carriers more flexibility interconnecting flights, and relieve some of O'hare' congestion. Parking lots could be built at Sturdevant or near the state line alleviating car traffic on I 94 going to O'hare and Mitchel. And alleviating parking congestion at O'hare. Possibly Waukeegan airport, Kenosha airport, and Chicago Executive airport could be added to this link to give private & corporate aircraft a way to link with commercial flights.
1013	3/24/2021	I think this would be a great step in the right direction. After traveling in the UK, I find our rail systems in the U.S. to be downright disappointing. Not only is traveling by train aesthetically pleasing, it's easy and safe. And having better high-speed railways is key. We should definitely implement this!
1014	3/24/2021	Love this
1015	3/24/2021	I am glad about the project however, I think there should be a revision to change the routing to go through Madison in some capacity. Besides being the capitol, it is a major city within Wisconsin, and is a very central location hub to the rest of the region, including the airport. The public transport system within Wisconsin is already sub-par, and having this rail project bypass one of the bigger cities in Wisconsin would isolate it from the rest of the state that is along the proposed route.
1016	3/24/2021	Please add a stop at Madison, WI
1017	3/24/2021	This would be wonderful for travel both business and recreation.
1018	3/24/2021	Wisconsin's second largest metropolitan area, Dane County, with a half million residents, could also be served by this project if Amtrak platform and parking facilities were greatly improved in Portage or Columbus, WI. At this time, the Amtrak parking lot in Columbus is a muddy lot and the passenger platform is equally inhospitable, without even a waiting area. People must sit in their cars hoping the train will arrive soon. Also the Amtrak schedule is way off for all eastbound trains especially, due to the many delays required by law to wait for prioritized freight trains. Federal laws need to be changed to prioritized passenger trains over freight trains.
1019	3/24/2021	It would be nice if this stopped in Madison, given the population in Madison that travels often to Milwaukee, Chicago and the twin cities.
1020	3/24/2021	Please include Eau Claire and more northerly service, as proposed before that previous governor killed it. We fund the DOT with our northern tax dollars too, but don't see a lot of payback from our hard-earned money. For example, we are stuck with an undersized Interstate road system between MSP and Eau Claire. We need commuter rail service along the 90 Interstate corridor, which has become dangerously over-capacity for over a decade.
1021	3/24/2021	Yes yes yes!!!! This is so needed!!!
1022	3/24/2021	I love and fully support this idea! It would make traveling between these cities so much faster and more convenient, and I am positive that I would be more likely to use this service.

1023	3/24/2021	Born and raised in Madison, WI, the second generation of our neighborhood is now all living in St. Paul and Minneapolis. With our family still being back in Madison, we are constantly driving I-94 whether that be a full car or just a solo passenger trip. This train would add convince and significantly cut down on our carbon costs to travel home. I am in full support of this project and look forward to seeing it through.
1024	3/24/2021	I vote no!
1025	3/24/2021	I strongly support the proposal. I live near Chicago. The enhanced service would give me much more flexibility in trips I need to make to both LaCrosse and the Twin Cities and diminish the need for me to drive or fly to Minneapolis. In addition, my understanding is that new ridership would produce roughly \$50 million in increased economic benefits from tourism, sales taxes, etc. along the route. There will be a diverse audience for the increased service, some of which, like me, would come from people who would likely be driving if the second route did not exist. There will also be a positive environmental impact as trains are much more environmentally efficient than cars.
1026	3/24/2021	This is totally appropriate and something I would use to see family in Minnesota. We need more long-distance public transportation.
1027	3/24/2021	Dont fund this project
1028	3/24/2021	Yes, more rail service is needed in Wisconsin. Is not including Madison in this proposal short-sighted? I would think you would want Madison and Dane Counties population base to help support this system.
1029	3/24/2021	The plan needs to have better connections to the light rail service in the Twin Cities.
1030	3/24/2021	Please consider a route that comes closer to downtown Madison, WI. The current route will disincentivize use by citizens of the second most populous city in the state given the significant increase in travel time and need for transportation to get to a train station.
1031	3/24/2021	I really wish this would go through Madison!!!
1032	3/24/2021	Add a stop in Watertown WI
1033	3/24/2021	Why does this pipe dream continually get new legs? There is no possible route to success where a rail project does not operate at a deficit and require more bailouts. At 100% full capacity and anticipated ticket prices, what is the estimated ROI with zero further maintenance, down time, or station construction.
1034	3/24/2021	
1035	3/24/2021	What a great idea!!! We would travel so much more. So many people I know would take advantage of this!
1036	3/24/2021	I took the train several times when our daughter was in college in Madison. It was very difficult for her to pick me up in Columbus. We also had to drive her to Madison and back more times than I can count. She hated the bus. It is a beautiful route and if the train went right to Madison and there was more service, we would have used it countless times.
1037	3/24/2021	The more alternatives we can add the better!! I wish we could have more through out the state

1038	3/24/2021	I love the idea of added more public transportation. I think adding a train is a great idea, but I think that the route should go through Madison. Given the size of the city, the colleges it is home to and number of citizens without vehicles, it makes sense that it should be connected to other cities in a way that doesn't require a car.
1039	3/24/2021	Would love to have more train route options. Support wholeheartedly.
1040	3/24/2021	An option to not use a personal combustion engine would be a good choice for all that want to choose. Skipping Madison as a stop is a mistake.
1041	3/24/2021	I am very pleased to see these plans to improve passenger service in Wisconsin to neighboring regions. This is much needed improvement for speed and reliability of travel throughout this corridor. Having had family members experience significant delays with the existing Empire Builder service, I appreciate the value of the additional trip and the focus on reducing delay. We prefer Amtrak for travel to/from destinations in Eastern Minnesota, but the reliability of service has been a challenge in recent years. One part of the project that I'm particularly excited to see is the inclusion of connecting shuttles to other cities, particularly Madison. As a current Madison resident and as someone who doesn't own a car, I would appreciate the ability to easily connect with service in Columbus rather than having to travel out of the way to Milwaukee or Chicago by bus to access Amtrak service.
1042	3/24/2021	I think this is a great idea, but I don't think it makes sense to skip over Madison.
1043	3/24/2021	I'm not a transportation expert... but seems like kind of a huge miss to not include the second largest city in WI on the route. As much as I wish this wasn't true, if I have to drive to Portage to catch the train, I'm just gonna drive the whole way to any of the points on this map.
1044	3/24/2021	I am an enthusiastic supporter of this project. Rail lines have been neglected for far too long in North America, and as a result we are far behind other countries such as the UK and Japan. If I had easy access to fast, efficient, and regular train round-trips I would take full advantage of it. I would especially appreciate easy access from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago.
1045	3/25/2021	Long overdue! This would promote economic growth by allowing Wisconsin residents to cast a broader net when seeking employment, not to mention being hugely convenient for travelers and environmentally responsible. Please bring this project to fruition!
1046	3/25/2021	This area does not have the population density to justify a line from Milwaukee to the Twin Cities. The air travel infrastructure already exists. The Milwaukee to Chicago route makes much more sense with the population density of the route. If one were to spend money on a train upgrading the Hiawatha line makes more sense.
1047	3/25/2021	This would be amazing. Imagine being able to commute from Milwaukee to Madison and vice versa. The US has needed to step up it's rail system since forever. Please do this.
1048	3/25/2021	I support this project. Would be great for faster travel and the economy.

1049	3/25/2021	I support this rail project. Wisconsin truly needs expanded passenger rail service. This proposed Twin Cities to Milwaukee to Chicago route is a good start. We could definitely use service to Madison, where UW students and residents of the Madison area could get reasonable public transportation to Chicago and beyond.
1050	3/25/2021	I support this rail project. Wisconsin truly needs expanded passenger rail service. This proposed Twin Cities to Milwaukee to Chicago route is a good start. We could definitely use service to Madison, where UW students and residents of the Madison area could get reasonable public transportation to Chicago and beyond.
1051	3/25/2021	Heck yeah, trains! Choo choo!
1052	3/25/2021	I am a resident of the City of WI Dells and would personally benefit from additional train service to visit Chicago and my friends in Minneapolis. The tourist industry in my city would also benefit from more convenient access to our vacation destination. Finally, as a society paying attention to climate change and carbon emissions caused by cars, we must embrace public transportation.
1053	3/25/2021	Please add a stop in Madison, WI to connect our beautiful capital city with this rail line!
1054	3/25/2021	Please include a stop in Madison, WI on this rail!
1055	3/25/2021	Yes please !! This connection has been needed for years! I would just make a suggestion to swing over to Madison as well. I know a lot of people would be appreciative of that .
1056	3/25/2021	
1057	3/25/2021	This is great to see. I use to always go visit my friends who went to school up in St. Paul MN and I loved to travel by train a great route through the state. The only downside I always thought is there is only one time to catch this train and it was usually of an inconvenience. So a second route offering up another departure time would be great. Also an in between stop like in the Waukesha area would bring great value to lots more people.
1058	3/25/2021	All investment into improved rail service is good investment. I fully support this!
1059	3/25/2021	Great idea! Make it high speed, too!
1060	3/25/2021	Please, please, please expand rail service between Madison, Milwaukee and Minnesota. This corridor is essential for our economies. It will improve worker mobility and will ease our overburdened roads.
1061	3/25/2021	I really hope this gets built. It'll make going from city to city so much easier. Make it easier to work in bigger cities as well.
1062	3/25/2021	This is only helpful if it's affordable. I used to use Amtrak between Milwaukee and Chicago all the time. But going anywhere else is often really pricey. How will tickets be?
1063	3/25/2021	Please make this happen. We'd love to have this go through Madison or have a stop closer to the Madison population center. We travel from Madison to Milwaukee often and would love to take the train there and to Minneapolis! Public transportation is an extraordinary gift!

1064	3/25/2021	This would've been amazing to have when I went to school at UW-La Crosse and wanted to visit my parents in southcentral Wisconsin. College students ability to travel to home and visit friends at other colleges will utilize this service.
1065	3/25/2021	This plan would help me and my family greatly. My brother and young nephew live near the Twin Cities and I live in Milwaukee. Adding a second departure makes it so much easier to spend time with them.
1066	3/25/2021	Great idea, better and easier mass transit between the three large cities is definitely needed.
1067	3/25/2021	I support this project and politicians who will champion it.
1068	3/25/2021	I, and many other Madisonians would make many more trips to both the Twin Cities and Milwaukee if this daily route passed through Madison.
1069	3/25/2021	Yes please do this!
1070	3/25/2021	I really hope this happens. We need to utilize the rail system efficiently.
1071	3/25/2021	Any additional public transportation for going across the state is great. It improves tourism and brings jobs.
1072	3/25/2021	I strongly support this and know I will utilize it to visit friends and family and to travel. I also would like MNDOT to consider extending the project eventually to Duluth and central MN.
1073	3/25/2021	I strongly support this and know I will utilize it to visit friends and family and to travel. I also would like MNDOT to consider extending the project eventually to Duluth and central MN.
1074	3/25/2021	Yes on the train, but why can't there be a stop in or close to Madison??? It's so weird to skip the second-largest population center in the state (and the capital!). I'd love a train option, but this route would not really work for me except for heading up to the Twin Cities (if there was a park and ride in the Dells or something). I'd never take it down to Chicago because I'd have to drive too far to pick it up.
1075	3/25/2021	A train would be a blessing to our area and I would love the opportunity to travel between Madison, Minnesota and Chicago without ever having to worry about driving. Once the pandemic is under control and more people are vaccinated and safety is locked in, I would travel so, so often! Make this happen!!!
1076	3/25/2021	This rail project would connect states and communities for so many opportunities. This would also provide access for people to work, visit, and live in various areas. This is truly a project that deserves vast support.
1077	3/25/2021	In favor of the project. No comments.
1078	3/25/2021	This would be a great addition to the Midwest. Connecting all 3 states using public transportation will improve the quality of life, reduce pollution and add jobs. It would be great if it could be high-speed train service, too.
1079	3/25/2021	I am all for improvement in the rail line. I hope the expansion makes rail more usable for our family. Currently - we don't use the Empire Builder line as the schedule is not convenient for our weekend day trips. But I would prefer to use rail service versus fly or drive to MSP or Chicago. I'd love to see it go through Madison. But I'm interested in the shuttle options from Madison to Columbus.

1080	3/25/2021	I'm fully in support of expanded passenger rail in Wisconsin. I use the Milwaukee to Chicago route currently and would like to see that expanded to Green Bay as well. The proposed TCMC corridor should include a stop in Downtown Madison to really be an effective route.
1081	3/25/2021	we used the high speed trains in Europe and loved them. we have used this route before but running 4 hours late each time makes it hard to rely on it to get to the airport in Chicago or Minneapolis. I would like to be able to use it for that purpose. we get on in Tomah, not a manned station.
1082	3/25/2021	A train service like this would be game-changing for our region in such positive ways! I hope this happens. I can't think of why this rail wouldn't go through Madison, though? Seems strange to connect MPLS, MKE and CHI but leave out Madison. There's such a big population who'd take advantage of this rail — and leaving us out is saying no to our revenue... What is the logic behind this? Would love to hear an explanation.
1083	3/25/2021	Please run the proposed rail service through Madison, Wisconsin.
1084	3/25/2021	I love this idea!! While of course it would be better to have a high-speed route that also runs through Madison and Eau Claire, this is a good first step. I ride the Empire Builder to and from Milwaukee once a month, and more scheduling options would absolutely increase my usage. Thank you!
1085	3/25/2021	I feel like there is a missed opportunity to have the Rail Project not go through major cities like Madison, which is a large college town with many coming from either local state regularly, and Rochester, which is an enormous and great city that would benefit greatly as well with the close service to MSP and to Chicago. I know there are bus routes that connect, but a rail project through these cities would make a bigger impact than going through small cities like Tomah.
1086	3/25/2021	Please, please, please add more Twin Cities-Milwaukee trains! And try to get Madison into the mix. It was short sighted of the Walker Admin to stop train expansion.
1087	3/25/2021	This project is needed and necessary. It's impact would be positive & far reaching. Please work to connect these communities.
1088	3/25/2021	This is a fantastic idea. It'd make driving to the twin cities incredibly easier. The route looks great too. I'd love this ASAP.
1089	3/25/2021	I would ride this! It would benefit all three states.
1090	3/25/2021	I think this would be wonderful! I live in Dodge County. Visiting Twin Cities or Chicago via train from Milwaukee would be a pleasure. It also would reduce traffic on I-94. A station in Watertown or Oconomowoc or Columbus would be useful for those of us
1091	3/25/2021	I would support this. I think we would use the train to visit Minneapolis. I would like a train from Madison to Milwaukee and would use that several times a year for leisure.
1092	3/25/2021	This was a great idea when it was proposed the first time! I'm all for it.

1093	3/25/2021	I strongly support this endeavor! I live in Chicago and frequently want to travel to MSP but hate driving and have reservations with flying given the immense carbon footprint per passenger. After living in Texas for 10 years, I've seen how awful a culture of [quote]just build more lanes[quote] can be (it's how you end up with a 26-lane highway...) and firmly believe that there needs to be these kinds of alternate, affordable, long-range transit options.
1094	3/25/2021	A second, daily round-trip train along this corridor is good. How about updating our rail service to the modern age and developing HIGH SPEED RAIL SERVICE on the Empire Builder and Hiawatha?
1095	3/25/2021	This would be a great idea. WI residents need more options for public transportation. Metra expansion and High Speed rail were canceled 10 years ago. WI still in need for more and better rail transportation.
1096	3/25/2021	Yes! Please add another train on this route. It is much needed.
1097	3/25/2021	Bypassing Wisconsin's capitol and second largest city, despite being so close to being inclusive? Seems like a way to limit the benefit from all that investment, and exclude a lot of otherwise eager passengers.
1098	3/25/2021	Madison or Dane County should be included in this plan.
1099	3/25/2021	Our family would use this rail service. In our estimation it is sorely needed. Please move forward with the project.
1100	3/25/2021	Our family would use this rail service. In our estimation it is sorely needed. Please move forward with the project.
1101	3/25/2021	Please don't skip Dane County, Madison area!
1102	3/25/2021	YES! Of course! It is obvious that people should be able to 'commute' from MSP to MAD and MKE and CHI just like east coast people do. Madison, the capitol city, should have a station as well, but CBS is better than nothing.
1103	3/25/2021	This is such a great opportunity for college students!
1104	3/25/2021	We would love to have this service from La Crosse to Minneapolis and to Madison/Milwaukee. It is also so much safer. Since the speed limit has been raised, I-94 is getting too dangerous with all the semis and heavy traffic. We have a University here and in Winona. I think our towns will keep the train busy.
1105	3/25/2021	For me, more trips do not help the rural commuter. I am the rural commuter living in Hartford. If the rail system had a stop in Oconomowoc or Hartland I would use it. If I have to drive to Milwaukee or Columbus it's more convenient to continue on to my destination in my vehicle. My family spends every summer weekend in the Dells at a campground and it would be nice to have an alternative to driving. We would also travel to Chicago more often.
1106	3/25/2021	Please run it through Madison
1107	3/25/2021	I live In Wis Dells. Pre-pandemic I commonly visited clients in MKE / Chicago. Once restrictions are lifted, I will be back to regular travel, so would welcome more frequent and dependable service!

1108	3/25/2021	As a person in my twenties and a lifelong Wisconsinite, I hope that this project moves forward. While I want to start and raise a family in the Midwest, the lack of public transit is significant drawback that has my partner and I considering relocating. I live in Milwaukee and have family, friends, and business in both Minneapolis and Chicago. While I am lucky enough to have my own vehicle, I am uncomfortable with long drives, especially at night. I would use this service frequently. A train would enable me to work during the commute, feel safe no matter what time of day or season it is, and lower my carbon footprint.
1109	3/25/2021	Do it! This would be great
1110	3/25/2021	Yes please provide this transportation.
1111	3/25/2021	Strongly in favor, much needed. Add sheboygan fond du lac area.
1112	3/25/2021	I think the TCMC Rail Project is a wonderful way to serve the trip-state area. With relatives in both Chicago and Minneapolis I'll be sure to utilize this service. My hope is that ticket costs will be kept down so I can travel with my whole family for less than the price of gas.
1113	3/25/2021	In full support. I think it would great to connect the cities more to increase travel between us.
1114	3/25/2021	We use the rail as often as possible to travel from La Crosse to Milwaukee and I believe the improvements would be a great asset.
1115	3/25/2021	I use the rail to travel from Onalaska to Milwaukee to visit family.
1116	3/25/2021	I think this is a very worthy project. It will benefit tourism. It is a good idea to make public transportation more available along this route. As an aging driver, I would personally welcome the opportunity to ride the train instead of riding in my car. I have friends and relatives all along this route and would use this service to visit them.
1117	3/25/2021	Yes! We need this badly, both for our own transportation system as well as for the planet. Please make sure this finally happens.
1118	3/25/2021	Yes! We need this badly, both for our own transportation system as well as for the planet. Please make sure this finally happens.
1119	3/25/2021	I know it follows the Amtrak station, but I feel like it would be remiss if you didn't go through Madison or have a way for Madison residents to have a station. Think of the travel many students and families take as well as business people. I think it would bad not to include it
1120	3/25/2021	I live south of Milwaukee and have family in St. Paul. This would really help us visit more often than every couple years.
1121	3/25/2021	A rail line between Chicago and the twin cities would've a great idea. As I'm getting older driving from Wis Dells area either way is not as easy as it once was in my younger days this would've an easy solution to that long drive. Please seriously consider this.
1122	3/25/2021	Please have the train stop in Madison! I would travel around the state using the train every weekend if it stop in Madison!!! Thank you.
1123	3/25/2021	A stop in Wisconsin's capital city seems worth it.
1124	3/25/2021	This is great! Anything that increases passenger rail in Wisconsin is an improvement. I only wish we could get up to Green Bay and Door County, too.
1125	3/25/2021	Why not include Eau Claire in the proposed plan?

1126	3/25/2021	Please consider routing through Madison. I know there is no passenger station, but we need one and we need to be added to this map. Milwaukee-Madison-Wi Dells... this is the Capital city with huge population that would LOVE to use rail transport. So many college students without cars going between Chicago and the twin cities.
1127	3/25/2021	It makes no sense not to connect through Madison. College students traveling to and from home would easily use this. It improves possible tourism and access to our State Capital. Besides trying to draw a straighter line, the cost is worth it to actually have destinations and common sense in play. If you want the Dells to be on the route, I get it. But I lived in Chicago, no one will board or get on in Columbus etc. if you make it easy for people, they will use it. Go from the Dells to Madison to Milwaukee... that's an absolute no brainer. If you're going to build it, build it right.
1128	3/25/2021	I love this idea but it really needs to connect to Madison to make it viable long term.
1129	3/25/2021	Yes please!!!!
1130	3/25/2021	I think this a wonderful idea. Entirely support it. Live in Wis Dells, work near Portage Wi, family in Columbus Wi.
1131	3/25/2021	I think this is a great idea because there is no options for public transportation. Many college students would benefit from this and it would generate revenue.
1132	3/25/2021	Heartily support this project. This is a necessary project to relieve I90 congestion, provide transportation to those without Motorized vehicles, and support regional economies.
1133	3/25/2021	It would be nice if you could find a way to route this trough Madison! Think about it, please?
1134	3/25/2021	It would be super handy to have a station in Madison! Can we ever get that to happen!?!
1135	3/25/2021	I live in Milwaukee and work as a physical therapist. I have disposable income and would like to travel more. This route would make it easier for me to travel throughout the Midwest which I definitely would do and it would increase my ease in getting to Ohare. Please please please build this.
1136	3/25/2021	Adding a 2nd train, with convenient departure times, each day is long overdue. Increased access, helps people to get around, reduces congestion, enhances the environment.
1137	3/25/2021	It would have nice if Eau Claire was included in this route! So many rural areas around Eau Claire! With having to travel to Lacrosse or Winona to get the train... we would almost be to St Paul if we drive ourselves (the distance to train vs driving Also I see Madison is bypassed too! Are there going to be off shoots of smaller routes to bring Madison folks to the train
1138	3/25/2021	YES this would be great! Thank you!

1139	3/25/2021	This expansion would be a huge plus for the region and provide a more reliable service. I have taken the train from Wisconsin Dells to Minneapolis and Chicago on many occasions over the year. With only one train each day for each direction, it is not very convenient. And service east bound from Minneapolis to Chicago is very unreliable with trains sometimes running many hours late. Having an eastward train that originates in Minneapolis would greatly improve the service.
1140	3/25/2021	I think this is a fantastic idea!
1141	3/25/2021	Yes!!!! Please. My in-laws live in MN and we often don't want to do the drive. This would be way better! Please please! And we love the cities!!!! And they love us!!!!
1142	3/25/2021	I fully support this project. Living in Western Wisconsin, I've not found the Empire Builder to be a feasible option because of frequent delays.
1143	3/25/2021	Excellent and long overdue project!
1144	3/25/2021	Yea please! Such a long time waiting! This would be SO amazing and would help stimulate economic growth in the area!
1145	3/25/2021	This is a great idea!
1146	3/25/2021	This is a service which I fully support and would use regularly. Car trips are tedious and a poor use of workers' time which could be spent working on a train. Would this be nonstop or not?
1147	3/25/2021	Routing through Eau Claire or even Wausau would expand access to North Central and Northwestern Wisconsin, rather than duplicating existing service.
1148	3/25/2021	I fully support this and would welcome the opportunity to visit new places and venues.
1149	3/25/2021	Please make this happen. I would use this route frequently.
1150	3/25/2021	Honestly I have a very nice car and I live in a rural area, but I'd 100% rather take this rail route to get into both Chicago or Minneapolis. I hope another rail project can reach north-central Wisconsin around Oshkosh and Appleton area too.

1151	3/25/2021	<p>travel patterns. Work travel will not soon return to pre-pandemic levels due to businesses realizing the savings, and in some cases, increased efficiencies from working at home. Beyond daily commutes, business travel is significantly down. And lastly, vacation travel has also been reduced. Has the modeling performed to produce a positive economic impact been reevaluated with these new realities? This is not the time to be expanding services that are currently operating under or at capacity. The project should be reevaluated and refocused to improve the reliability of only freight rail movement. This money benefits a smaller number of users (passengers) than money spent on freight rail or highway systems that benefit a far greater number of people.</p> <p>One the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •(2:10) What is a “favorable ridership and revenue projection” given it is based on federal/state subsidies. As the subsidy increases, the “favorability” increases; so how is the amount of subsidy determined and does/should this change over time? •(2:35) How were “gaps in the regional transportation system” identified and quantified. Was a detailed origin-destination study completed to confirm these “gaps.” •(5:03) “Stress free” is a very subjective term. Certainly system delays will continue to occur and will generate stress; therefore it is not “stress fee.” •(7:40) Why is there no connecting shuttle service proposed between Red Wing or Winona and Rochester—these look like a much shorter distances than from La Crosse? (also mentions opportunity “doubles,” yes from 1 to two)
1152	3/25/2021	This would greatly help me as I travel this route a few times a year and would love the option to arrive in St. Paul earlier than 10:30 pm
1153	3/25/2021	<p>Absolutely necessary for future transportation for Madison Wisconsin We should have put this together 20 years ago. Rail can save fuel by using less cars to drive. It needs to be cost effective to consumer but lucrative enough to make money for it's expenses</p>
1154	3/25/2021	The line should be passed through Madison wi.
1155	3/25/2021	<p>I love the idea. I understand building a whole new rail line to link Madison into this is outside the scope of this improvement, but perhaps some other service to provide train-catching transport between Madison and Columbus/Portage would be helpful.</p> <p>Additionally, I would support a fare reduction (or even elimination) and for it to be entirely publicly funded. I understand free transit isn't a particularly feasible idea in the US right now, but driving from Milwaukee or Chicago to Minneapolis is both quicker and cheaper than the train, which is a serious disincentive.</p>
1156	3/25/2021	I'm for it but it has to be high speed. Otherwise there's no incentive to ride.
1157	3/25/2021	Please add a station in Madison! I would love to be able to go to Chicago or Saint Paul from my town instead of having to drive to the Dells.

1158	3/25/2021	This would be fantastic! I live in Milwaukee but have family in the Twin Cities area. This would greatly increase my ability to see them more frequently.
1159	3/25/2021	Add service to Madison... long overdue to our Capital!
1160	3/25/2021	More trains are better for everyone! Yes, please!
1161	3/25/2021	<p>This absolutely needs to stop in Madison. Madison is already a major thoroughfare for people going anywhere along this ride -- as evidenced by the Badger Bus that currently runs there. The traffic of college students traveling between these cities alone, besides professionals/non-students, seems well worth the investment on its own. Madison is also becoming a major economic player, and it would serve inter-city commutes for those living in Milwaukee/working in Madison or vice versa. Madison's population is also increasing rapidly as it's becoming something of a tech hub, so even though it's currently the smallest of the main three cities, it's certainly got a larger pool of passengers than La Crosse, WI.</p> <p>Numerically I would assume there would be more riders in Madison than La Crosse. People in Madison would likely not have the means to get to La Crosse to partake in this transit.</p> <p>I would be curious why Madison wasn't immediately in this.</p>
1162	3/25/2021	<p>New riders will bring about \$47.7M in direct & indirect economic benefits (tourism spending, hotels, restaurants, entertainment, state & local taxes, etc) for the region.</p> <p>The service will attract an estimated 155,500 new passengers per year</p> <p>A conservative estimate based on 2017 ridership data</p> <p>Two daily round-trips between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul will mean more convenient departure times</p> <p>The new train will garner a diverse ridership by diverting trips from already overcrowded regional roads & highways</p> <p>Most diverted trips will be from cars, with a small fraction diverting from buses</p> <p>An additional fourteen thousand trips each year will come from induced demand, i.e., trips that would not otherwise have been taken</p> <p>Saving the three states over \$30M in associated highway maintenance costs.</p> <p>We love Empire Builder but sometimes the 3-day per week train makes travel difficult. This area needs more frequent service.</p>
1163	3/25/2021	This expansion would be super beneficial to all, but I think for it to get proper use, there must be some further incentive to use it. Whether this means teaming up with businesses for public relations, or emphasizing it's use for tourism, something has to be done. Right now, so many adults don't even know they can use the Amtrak to go to certain places.
1164	3/25/2021	Please, please, PLEASE expand public mass transit like this. This is definitely not the end of what's needed - better mass transit around metro hubs like Milwaukee and Madison are needed too, particularly in reaching the suburbs to the downtown area, but expanding the rail system like this a much needed first step.

1165	3/25/2021	It should come to Appleton.
1166	3/25/2021	Please add Madison to the route. Thank you
1167	3/25/2021	I love this idea. Please pursue with maximum vigor!
1168	3/25/2021	Why is this not going through Madison, the second largest city in Wisconsin by population? The closest it gets is Columbus, a 40 minute drive away. This really reduces my level of support for the project.
1169	3/25/2021	I think the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago passenger rail project is an excellent idea. I know my family and I would use it alot.
1170	3/25/2021	A big waste of money. Better ways to fix the stuff we have now that need fixing instead of adding more problems and money out of the tax payers pockets.
1171	3/25/2021	What a wonderful idea! I wish they would extend it to Duluth. I hope we see this project come to fruition!
1172	3/25/2021	It just doesn't make sense for this train to skip Madison. Please reroute to allow the Madison population base to have access to this train. Madison-Milwaukee and Madison-Chicago traffic will add significantly to use of the train and to revenue generation. I simply won't use the train if it does not have a Madison stop.
1173	3/25/2021	This project sounds wonderful and it would be even better if the line went via Madison. Or at least some option for a track to connect in Madison. There are many people who rely on travel that live in the Madison area and I believe routing the train through here would be very beneficial for all parties involved.
1174	3/25/2021	Please add to Eau Claire WI!
1175	3/25/2021	I am in favor of adding the second train each day so I can travel from Milwaukee to St. Paul round trip to see family while not needing to drive. Also, I support trains to cut global auto emissions. I lived in Europe and saw how efficiently train systems can work.
1176	3/25/2021	I think that this is a brilliant idea.
1177	3/25/2021	Would love to see increase in daily routes for this line. Possibly would like to see more shuttle services to depot locations
1178	3/25/2021	More trains, faster trains, more convenient schedules, bikes on trains. Without improvement, trains are not convenient enough for the American public who has general access to highly convenient and highly impractical personal automobile. After this gets done, bring back high speed rail.
1179	3/25/2021	Great idea. Some WI folks would prefer the route to go through Madison. As a Madisonian, I disagree particularly to a route on the isthmus. Columbus is a short distance to drive. A high speed connection Madison to Milwaukee would be AMAZING!
1180	3/25/2021	Very interested in this idea especially considering WI has 2 high speed engines sitting around thanks to Scott Walker and our evil GOP "representatives" who block anything that would actually benefit the constituents
1181	3/25/2021	I think the transit would be used by many more if it had a stop in Madison rather than Portage/WI Dells/Columbus (if that's possible)

1182	3/25/2021	I believe Eau Claire would be a better route option rather than snaking through Winona and LaCrosse. The route should absolutely also stop in Madison. People in Madison have been wanting a train line to MSP and Chicago for YEARS.
1183	3/25/2021	This is a great idea. We need more of this.
1184	3/25/2021	I support the project generally, but the route leaves out Northeastern Wisconsin and the Fox Cities entirely which is a large population area. I would like to see a station in the Appleton area or somewhere along the Oshkosh-Neenah-Appleton-GreenBay corridor. Additionally, 79 mph seems slow for new train service. I hope the improvements to track/route will support faster trains in the future to provide more benefits over cars and compete more with air travel.
1185	3/25/2021	This expansion is a wonderful idea to improve our infrastructure and allow a greener option than traditional vehicle commuting/traveling. We need to invest in the structure to create a robust public transportation option that the general public will truly want to use, something that frankly, has not been the case in the majority of the Midwest. Just seeking examples from European countries and major US cities demonstrate a valuable use case regarding the efficacy of these types of offerings.
1186	3/25/2021	This would be a great addition for mobility and convenience. Plus a great help to decrease co2 emissions and reduce carbon footprints. Madison and Milwaukee areas of WI could greatly benefit.
1187	3/25/2021	Does the Glenview station provide easy access to O'Hare? Or would it be possible to pass through O'Hare? Living in south central WI, there are many more flights leaving Chicago than Madison or MKE. Thank you for considering!
1188	3/25/2021	In general I think rail service is a great idea, however, I think it's very short sighted that the line totally bypasses one of the states major cities (Madison)
1189	3/25/2021	This is so needed!!! We take the train into Chicago several times a year!
1190	3/25/2021	I have been waiting for this to happen for so long. The last time this was proposed everyone I know voted yes for this and it got turned down. This would be a great alternative for transportation and would save on gas emissions. Traveling will be much easier and I would use the Amtrak most of the time. Please don't silent out voices this time with excuses and make this happen. Thank you!
1191	3/25/2021	It seems very mysterious that this route continues to avoid Madison. I realize this is an established route, but think it would make sense to reroute to include Wisconsin's 2nd largest city.
1192	3/25/2021	Has a spur been considered to run up to the fox Valley Green Bay area.
1193	3/25/2021	I absolutely love this idea!! A stop in Wisconsin Dells would be fabulous.
1194	3/25/2021	Absolutely no justification or need for this, especially since the last year has demonstrated more and more companies will be allowing their work force to work from home. Were there no lessons learned from the [quote]Hop[quote]?

		<p>Are there enough passengers using this line to justify adding a second service?</p> <p>I would use this service and be in favor of this project if it ran through Madison, or one of the city's suburbs. If DOT wants passenger rail to be successful, they need to provide access to major population centers. They should be working on bringing this route through the city of Madison to gain access to the many people living in our state's second largest city who do not have adequate access to transportation services.</p> <p>A shuttle service from Madison to much smaller cities is an inefficient way to generate usage.</p>
1195	3/25/2021	
1196	3/25/2021	Please do this! America needs to move into the 21st century.
1197	3/25/2021	I support high speed rail in Wisconsin, and I support this project. The train needs to go through Madison though, no matter the cost
1198	3/25/2021	I fully support a second rail service to the twin cities, the benefits far exceed and adverse effects. Between increasing traffic and environmental concerns, this makes the most economic sense to me. Looking forward to it!
1199	3/25/2021	I understand wanting to use the existing Amtrak route to keep cost down, but to maximize usage and ridership, the route should be changed to serve the larger population centers of Wisconsin The fox valley is not on the route and limits the appeal Using the route through the valley and across the state opens up the access to most of the population centers.
1200	3/25/2021	It is disappointing to see there is no planned connection to Madison in the route.
1201	3/25/2021	I am a college student in the twin cities, and know many college students from MN and WI who travel between the two states, this would make transit for that much easier!
1202	3/25/2021	I think it would be a great idea. Money better spent than on expanding Milwaukee's street car.
1203	3/25/2021	Leaving Madison out is an error of design and hurts both this project along with Madison itself.
1204	3/25/2021	What a great idea! As a frequent rail traveler, I would love to see more service from MKE to MSP. It would be wonderful if the new train would also include a stop in Eau Claire if possible.
1205	3/25/2021	It is imperative this project move forward! While this route should be the first priority don't stop here. There should be service to Madison too.
1206	3/25/2021	Fantastic! Encouraging tourism, independence, and exploration. Saving wear-and-tear on roads, minimizing impact on the environment and reducing traffic-related fatalities.
1207	3/25/2021	This is an extremely exciting project with a huge potential to be the first step in rebuilding Midwestern train connections. This would absolutely convert my 3-6 car/airplane trips from MSP to my in laws in Chicago to train trips!
1208	3/25/2021	I would really like a stop in Madison. If that's not possible, perhaps expanded parking in at the Columbus station?

1209	3/25/2021	Why would it not go through Madison where you would get more riders? I know you want to use the tracks already available, but I love to use the train and only went to Columbus once to catch Amtrak because it's just not convenient. We already have rail service in these areas. Put it where we don't yet have it. Riders is what will make this successful.
1210	3/25/2021	Yes I would like to see a second daily round trip. Hopefully that would help to catch your next train to go beyond Chicago. I would like to see access to other cities by rail.
1211	3/25/2021	Please go ahead with this service. It's been needed for a long time and will be a great benefit to the people of all 3 states involved. I hope in the future that rail service can also originate in Wausau.
1212	3/25/2021	This project would help my family immensely. My husband, children, and myself live near Madison. Our parents live in La Crosse and La Crescent. We also have quite a bit of family in the Twin Cities. Improving times and availability for the passenger trains would be so helpful. I am in support of this project. We would also use it to visit Chicago once COVID is under control.
1213	3/25/2021	I would like to see it go through Green Bay, WI.
1214	3/25/2021	I am very much in favor of this rail line. It will particularly benefit us in the coming years. My daughter and son will be traveling to Madison and Chicago respectively, and one of their best friends will be doing school in Minneapolis. This will make it much easier for me to help coordinate travel for our entire family. It will additionally open up their access to other communities and help them decide where to settle down for the long term.
1215	3/25/2021	Please consider running the rail through Madison. The two largest cities in Wisconsin should be more directly connected, and there's a lot of traffic between Madison and Milwaukee every day.
1216	3/25/2021	Please include Madison in this route!!!
1217	3/25/2021	This is a fantastic idea. As someone who lives in the twin cities and has family in WI, this helps better connect us. It will also help with traffic issues and car pollution.
1218	3/25/2021	As someone who plans to spend time in Wisconsin and the surrounding states in the future, and as someone who cares deeply about accessibility & affordability of public transportation, I strongly support this effort and look forward to its implementation.
1219	3/25/2021	Wish it could go through Wausau!!
1220	3/25/2021	I am in favor of additional train services and would utilize this to go to Chicago or Minneapolis.
1221	3/25/2021	Long overdo! should have been done 30 years ago!!
1222	3/25/2021	A future stop through Madison, the Capitol of our state, would be nice.
1223	3/25/2021	Long overdue. This is a fantastic idea and I can't wait to ride it.
1224	3/25/2021	Please add Madison. This could only be a good thing for our economy, the environment and visibility. It is long overdue.
1225	3/25/2021	Love it!

1226	3/25/2021	<p>When former Republican administrations canceled rail service improvement and denied our state millions in federal aid, it was a huge step backwards. Let's rectify that at last in the face of climate change.</p> <p>Rail service is more efficient, can be cleaner, reduces the need for fossil fueled transport, spurs well-planned growth instead of unchecked farmland sprawl. DO IT.</p>
1227	3/25/2021	I live in River Falls, and I think this is a great idea!
1228	3/25/2021	<p>This route skirts by but does not effectively serve Dane County, WI, which is roughly halfway between the route's two endpoints and has around 550,000 population. While I personally support spending public money to improve intercity train service, I am dismayed and frankly shocked to see the cost compared to the actual service improvements. The end result for Dane County residents is a service that is impractical to use and with fares several times higher than existing carriers. I would gladly support a much more costly but usable high-speed intercity rail system connecting these cities, with caveats. The main one being that it does not make sense from the regional economic perspective to do this without effectively serving Dane County's population. As it stands, this project is a colossal waste of money that does not improve real transportation options for the great majority of Wisconsin residents.</p>
1229	3/25/2021	I will add my voice to those who would like more Northern connections, Wausau or Stevens Point.
1230	3/25/2021	<p>I live in the Milwaukee area and have taken the Hiawatha service to Chicago several times as it is simply a better option than having the burden of a personal car in Chicago. I've also loaded a bicycle onto the Hiawatha for use in Chicago and even rode back to Milwaukee one-way one time. The bicycle loading service is so incredibly beneficial. I've wanted to do the same type of trip to La Crosse and the Twin Cities but the limited time schedules have been prohibitive and all of the information I could gather had me needing to go to Columbus WI in order to actually load a bike on the Westbound route.</p> <p>Please consider adding more bike cargo services at your locations. Along with the expanded schedule this will make day or weekend trips to these communities considerably more appealing and easier to coordinate with flexibility. Posters and maps at the stations with local bike infrastructure could also drum up interest for getting people's minds turning at alternative travel modes and trip ideas. Several of the rural station locations can be destinations in their own right with the right mindset. Rail/bicycle touring is an incredibly enriching way to travel and interact with a place.</p>
1231	3/25/2021	<p>Huge fan of rail travel for its practicality. I spent much of my life commuting both via light rail within Chicago and via commuter trains to outer exurbs. Intercity travel is a mark of civilization and tremendously practical. We citizens of the Upper Midwest have more in common than not: it's time we had a better way to share those commonalities.</p>

1232	3/25/2021	I love that you're going to update the stations and how this will make it more convenient to use
1233	3/25/2021	I fully support this initiative. I am a resident of Wisconsin with family in the Twin Cities and would take the train if it were available to me.
1234	3/25/2021	If the passenger demand is there, I think it is a wonderful idea. We need more ways to reduce our carbon footprint by not having to drive, and improve our infrastructure.
1235	3/25/2021	Sounds like a wonderful idea. We need more transit access like this and improving stations or adding seems to be helpful.
1236	3/25/2021	Please consider having a car that allows passengers to bring bikes on board. California Capital Corridor I believe has this and is supportive for green, sustainable transportation. Bikes can be locked in and upright position for more space in the car.
1237	3/25/2021	I think Madison must be included in this route, I would also like to see a route connecting Milwaukee and Green Bay with a route through the Fox Valley. Passenger Rail service would certainly benefit Wisconsin!
1238	3/25/2021	This is such a much needed project it will make it so much easier for people to get from one area of the state to the other, we in northern Wisconsin, (Bayfield Co) would use this when traveling to both Chicago and Milwaukee, and also to Minneapolis, please ensure this project is on track and is completed. Thank you.
1239	3/25/2021	This project should consider routing through Madison; the city and the state could benefit from convenient transit connections between our state capital and the largest cities of our neighbors.
1240	3/25/2021	I am 100% supportive of this. This would make traveling much easier as long as it isn't insanely expensive to ride.
1241	3/25/2021	Absolutely want this project to happen! This would help so many people reach different areas to work, get medical care, live, and go to different schools. It will help diversify different areas as well. Wisconsin absolutely needs this.
1242	3/25/2021	It should stop in Madison, seems like a completely missed opportunity that Madison would not be included. As a twin cities native that went to college at UW, I found there were very limited affordable options for getting home from Madison for holidays and weekends.
1243	3/25/2021	Highly support this project. I feel like it will connect the three major cities of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois bringing economic benefits as well as fostering a larger sense of community in the midwest. Would gladly donate or pay a tax if needed
1244	3/25/2021	Build it!!! Boost jobs, improve commuting and decrease pollution. Build ittttt!!! Route it through Madison!!! Do it!!!

1245	3/25/2021	This project is badly needed for transportation, pandemic recovery, energy conservation, economic development, climate protection, equity, and health. The state should take all possible steps to advance this project and increase passenger rail service throughout Wisconsin. Stations should be staffed and upgraded for ADA compliance at all Wisconsin stations. An Amtrak sponsored shuttle bus should be implemented between Madison and Columbus with stops at Dutch Mill, the University, and the Isthmus.
1246	3/25/2021	I strongly support this project. I live on the route in Columbus, WI. It would be wonderful for our small city and I would definitely use the train for travel. It's so good for the environment too!
1247	3/25/2021	There is literally no reason not to bring this to Madison. Without adding a stop in Madison this is a better value proposition for Minnesota and Illinois than it is for Wisconsin.
1248	3/25/2021	I'd like a bullet train that goes over 200mph
1249	3/25/2021	I think that's a great idea and lovely route through some great towns.
1250	3/25/2021	I would love if the rail could connect Wisconsin's largest city with its second largest City/State Capitol.
1251	3/25/2021	
1252	3/25/2021	We have taken the train from La Crosse to Chicago a few times and it is wonderful, except that it is almost always late. Adding another line would be a great way to help this transit be more dependable and I believe it will be used a lot.
1253	3/25/2021	I would use this service.
1254	3/25/2021	This would be awesome for weekend trips and not driving. Expanding high speed rail for passengers is eco friendly and is a great way to keep the Midwest connected.
1255	3/25/2021	Any step towards more high-speed rail between these cities are steps worth taking.
1256	3/25/2021	It would be great to add a second, daily round-trip service between Chicago and St. Paul. It would be a nice to have another option to travel to Chicago without making the half day drive or booking a flight.
1257	3/25/2021	I don't believe this is necessary. Empire Builders almost always swayed and driving a car, bus, or plane are substantially faster or more efficient. Additionally, I've never heard anything good from a cost/benefit perspective. Let's not waste tax dollars.
1258	3/25/2021	Yes, we need this service now. It will bring revenue into our state as well as jobs and ease of travel.
1259	3/25/2021	I feel this project should be funded and allowed to move forward. This will reduce congestion on highways, and in the airports, plus this will be much better for the environment.
1260	3/25/2021	I love this but please please please add a stop to Madison. I feel we always get left out and more passenger railway options is always good for the population.
1261	3/25/2021	I am in favor of this project. Adding a second daily trip would also help grow Wisconsin tourism. I'm sure it would relieve summer congestion on Wisconsin Highways and thus we would have less traffic accidents while moving people from point A to Point B. Please consider funding this project and to keep improving and maintaining railroad operations.

1262	3/25/2021	Yes! Please add a second daily round trip passenger service between Minneapolis and Chicago! This would go a long way towards improving transportation in the region. We could really use double track, electrification and grade improvements in Winona or anywhere on the line for that matter.
1263	3/25/2021	Why on earth doesn't this pass through Madison??? We desperately need a rail link here, and the city was ready to prepare for it a decade ago.
1264	3/25/2021	This would be fantastic!
1265	3/25/2021	I don't understand why you wouldn't stop in Madison? It's the second largest city and the Capitol of Wisconsin. I think utilizing Union Depot in Saint Paul is great. Other than skipping Madison I think this route is a slam dunk. If this route can get within an hour or so of driving to Chicago from MSP you've got a winner.
1266	3/25/2021	I feel it is an excellent idea, would be a great way to link the two cities and those in between. With the availability of public and private transportation, such as Lift or Uber. Getting around once one got to their destination shouldn't be an issue. Would be even better if this line were extended up to Fargo or Moorhead.
1267	3/25/2021	YES. Please add this! We've been isolated for far too long.
1268	3/25/2021	I support this whole heartedly. The more rail the better.
1269	3/25/2021	Although I would love to see high speed rail, I am thrilled at the prospect of adding more train service in this corridor. This adds another option for people needing to travel between Mpls, Chicago and all stops in between - there is a definite need for more frequent service - especially since the Empire Builder schedule has been scaled back.
1270	3/25/2021	It may entail building a small track but being so close to Madison, it is a shame there isn't a stop in the city.
1271	3/25/2021	Do it!
1272	3/25/2021	I feel this is a critical program which deserves to be funded.
1273	3/25/2021	This would be amazing, and give folks more options of rail travel than the current once a day offering. This is the busiest corridor on the entire Empire Builder route and would also relieve congestion on the daily Empire Builder train.
1274	3/25/2021	I LOVE this idea, however, I don't understand why this route would skip over Madison? I feel it would be much more productive and useful if it passed through Madison instead of Portage (or at least closer to Madison.)
1275	3/25/2021	Yes please make this happen.
1276	3/25/2021	What a HUGE missed opportunity by excluding Rochester from the route.
1277	3/25/2021	This is a fantastic idea and one that I would utilize consistently.
1278	3/25/2021	
1279	3/25/2021	This is an excellent idea and I would love the opportunity to use it!
1280	3/25/2021	Do it!! It would be wonderful to have.
1281	3/25/2021	I think that this is an excellent idea. Whenever I go down to Chicago and a car is not needed I take the train. It would be beneficial because I would be more open to going to do things in Minnesota than I am now.

1282	3/25/2021	Yes! Adding a second daily round-trip passenger rail service along the TCMC would be amazing and would benefit the public as a means to provide additional means of transportation!
1283	3/25/2021	This is so absolutely necessary. It will allow for talent from larger cities like Chicago to live in Milwaukee or otherwise and boost local economy.
1284	3/25/2021	Fully support this LONG overdue improvement in public transportation. Tourism, increased educational and job opportunities and reduction of "brain drain all demand it.
1285	3/25/2021	Rail transportation to Chicago is a great idea! Love the stop in Wisconsin Dells as that'll increase easier access to their attractions. I'm just wondering about average travel times.
1286	3/25/2021	The only real reason I don't take the train to Minnesota is that it's inconvenient to. This would lessen the inconveniences and I'd be way more likely to use it. Please let it happen!
1287	3/25/2021	I am strongly in favor of this project. Ideally, Madison would have been included, although I understand that when Wisconsin rejected the federal funds for the high-speed rail connecting Madison and Milwaukee, that had the effect of confining rail service to the existing line. Having taken the Empire Builder from Minneapolis to Milwaukee on occasion, and utilizing the service between Milwaukee and Chicago frequently, I believe this is an investment in the future of regional transit in the upper Midwest that will pay dividends for years to come.
1288	3/25/2021	Please consider connecting Madison and Milwaukee by rail as a part of this proposed project. The reduction in traffic and attendant air pollution would be worth it, especially in the absence of a light rail connection. Thank you!
1289	3/25/2021	Yes I want this.
1290	3/25/2021	This should include Madison, WI.
1291	3/25/2021	As a soon-to-be Minnesota resident, moving from Northern Michigan. This will be a great benefit to connect me living in the Twin Cities to Chicago.
1292	3/25/2021	Gimme that rail
1293	3/25/2021	This is something that we have long needed in Wisconsin. I love that we are looking into ways to connect Milwaukee with the Twin Cities and Chicago. In my opinion, this is a long time coming, will open up opportunities for so many who can benefit from better public transportation, and connect everyone in ways we can't even yet imagine.
1294	3/25/2021	As a representative of a major employer in Eau Claire, we recognize that transportation plays a crucial role in providing an environment that is essential in attracting and retaining talent to an area. We strongly support the additional frequency being considered, as well as a shuttle connection from Eau Claire to Tomah in addressing our talent needs and enhancing the Eau Claire area as a place to live, work, and play.

		<p>Yes absolutely we need to see more rail transportation in this state! But this NEEDS to be a high speed rail that isn't limited by freight train schedules. A major investment in linking the great cities of the Midwest would be to have high speed rail connecting them. Tourism would boost, businesses could easily expand if they knew a commit was only a few hours instead of 8, and so on.</p> <p>I'm a MN resident currently attending university in South Dakota. If we had high speed rail in the Midwest, I would visit the twin cities more often, go to Chicago, and more with greater frequency. But I currently don't cause the drive is horrendous.</p>
1295	3/25/2021	More rail, yes. High speed rail? NEEDS TO BE A PRIORITY
1296	3/25/2021	I'm in support of this project!
		Support the idea. Excited to see it implemented. Having this rail go through Madison would be critical in my opinion. Seems like a natural connection for big cities and my usage of the project would go up significantly. Is there a reason why the rail can't go through Madison or would there be arterial projects that would easily connect the rail to Madison?
1297	3/25/2021	Thank you.
1298	3/25/2021	I love the idea of increased service. I would like to see this service increase in speed to make it more attractive to people who are less likely to travel by rail.
1299	3/25/2021	ABSOLUTELY NOT. The crime statistics involving gang activities in Minnesota from both Milwaukee & Chicago alone should be enough to make sure that something like this NEVER happens. I cannot believe it's even being considered. Please use whatever funding that was going to be used for this to FIX and update the current methods of transportation that are available and are in terrible condition.
1300	3/25/2021	Include Eau Claire and Wausau. Larger metropolitan areas
1301	3/25/2021	I am very much in favor of this project. However, there is no mention of Madison anywhere, and as the capital city and seat of government, this oversight is not acceptable. Please include Madison! If the argument against having a stop in Madison is that it would be too expensive, then we absolutely need a bus that runs several times a day between Madison and Columbus.
1302	3/25/2021	Yes, PLEASE increase this line! This would be such an incredible boon. Being able to go from St Paul to Winona and Redwing alone would make it worthwhile, but also being able to go to deep into Wisconsin and all the way to Chicago would be perfect. I work with students and this would make weekend/multi-day trips to outdoor activities as well as to Chicago for extra-curricular competition so much easier, safer, and more affordable. Just personally I would love this too as it would make it easier to go hiking on the weekend.

1303	3/25/2021	This is essential service for people who cannot drive, should not drive, or simply don't want to drive. The economic benefits to the communities it serves far outweigh the costs, and those costs are no different than the government subsidies that go for highways and air transportation.
1304	3/25/2021	SUPPORT!
1305	3/25/2021	Love it!!! Please please please!
1306	3/25/2021	Please. I am begging you. Make it cheaper to take the train from St Paul to Chicago than it is to fly. Please invest in this route!
1307	3/25/2021	I love the idea of a rail line; but, is there anyway it could go through Eau Claire? Cities listed on the proposed route seem to have other ways to get there. But; residents near northwest WI have to travel at least two hours to get to one of the stations listed.
1308	3/25/2021	I strongly support this rail project. I believe this is essential to promote environmentally conscious transportation between some of Wisconsin's and regional economic hubs. The I-94 corridor is incredibly congested and a stressful drive or commute and steps need to be actively taken to reduce congestion. I believe this expansion will help with that.
1309	3/25/2021	This sounds like a great way to keep people moving between some great cities. I think it would be a great tourism tool for Wisconsin Dells while providing the urban areas on either end with great options at a price similar to flying. It would be great to see future development bring high speed rail to this stretch.
1310	3/25/2021	Yes this is fantastic, please give us more trains. It would be even better if you guys could put that high speed train project back on the rails.
1311	3/25/2021	This would be great to see and could make my trips to Chicago significantly easier
1312	3/25/2021	This makes good sense and I appreciate the alignment and utilization of exiting infrastructure where applicable. This is of tremendous public and economic benefit. Construction costs only increase, so moving forward soon is preferred.
1313	3/25/2021	While I understand this expansion to follow the existing Empire Builder route but adding Madison, WI as a stop would be highly beneficial.
1314	3/25/2021	The rail needs to go through Madison WI. With the number of students, professionals, and travelers, it would significantly cut down on busses needed (which helps with emissions) and traffic in an already crowded city. By skipping Madison, you are eliminating the ability for thousands of students, faculty, and staff who don't have cars to be able to utilize this system.
1315	3/25/2021	It needs to be fast and cheap.
1316	3/25/2021	It would make more sense to go through Madison.
1317	3/25/2021	I highly support this project, but I would like to see a stop in Madison. Many students from the Twin Cities and Milwaukee go to school in Madison and this would be a great connector.
1318	3/25/2021	

1319	3/25/2021	I have been hoping and praying for a reliable rail line in MN for years! Driving to Chicago to see family is really taxing, and I wouldn't have to take time off work if I could take a train with wifi. Please please please use my tax dollars for this project. Reliable public transportation options are the future!
1320	3/25/2021	Please just add an express between Chicago and St Paul, maybe one stop in Milwaukee. It will be full to capacity on every ride.
1321	3/25/2021	I really think this should go through Madison. I think a lot of people would be interested in commuting though Madison, especially students that have family in the Twin Cities or Milwaukee.
1322	3/25/2021	Yes badly needed. Too many delays of hours with the train being held up in through west.
1323	3/25/2021	I really support this project. My entire network lives within the corridor service area (Chicago, Milwaukee, Twin Cities area), and would use this service if available. I really hope this project receives government support and funding. It would significantly improve my long-term access to family/friends and would help resolve some existing travel barriers that make it harder for us to stay connected. For example: my mother-in-law likes to visit (from Milwaukee to Saint Paul), but is elderly and struggles with the drive, especially at night. She prefers public transit and this system is preferable to the bus ride - which takes a long time, feels cramped, and is hard on her body.
1324	3/25/2021	Absolutely not. This is a terrible plan.
1325	3/25/2021	How is this going to help the public. Are trains going to be more observed more and are they going to run during the day or all hours of the day
1326	3/25/2021	Please connect Madison! Madison to Milwaukee will be substantial ridership.
1327	3/25/2021	Project completion will be 2025 and the rail service will travel up to 79mph. Americans are ready for high speed rail service which other countries have enjoyed for decades. Why not make a splash and jump into that category of transportation? The hyperloop project (CA) will eventually be operating and expanding nationwide. Eventually outdated normal rail speed projects like this will be rendered obsolete and lose substantial amount of money due to other high speed transport availability.
1328	3/25/2021	A station should be added either in Lake Forest, IL or Waukegan, IL for those coming from the North Chicago suburbs. Having the line end at Midway instead of Union Station would also be helpful for those traveling from Minneapolis or the Western/Northwestern suburbs.

1329	3/25/2021	As a regular rail passenger, I have often been frustrated with the lack of options along this route regarding times, availability, and delays. Having a second option would make this service more accessible. If one train is delayed; it may be possible to catch the second train. Having greater flexibility with timetables would make this line a more viable option. There are regularly capacity issues on this route and a second train would also provide more people the opportunity to use mass transit. I would use the train more often. Providing increased access to this route and the regions it serves will provide for economic growth, support the environment, and reduce the infrastructure costs of maintaining our roads. I support this expansion and I hope the state will choose to go forward with this project.
1330	3/25/2021	I support the second daily route but the service is very unreliable. Speaking from experience, that fact that Amtrak has to share the rails with other freight traffic causes major delays and is extremely frustrating and unreliable to use. Would rather use the mega bus to travel from the Cities to Madison/Milwaukee/chicago etc.
1331	3/25/2021	Please do this. If you can make it faster, do that too. If you can make it less expensive, please do that too. MSP to CHI rail needs to be a more appealing alternative to flying or driving.
1332	3/25/2021	Great idea and I'm excited about it as I live in the twin cities, have many friends in Madison, and my family is from Chicago. It's a unfortunate that the route goes through the Dells instead of Madison, but still in favor of the project.
1333	3/25/2021	Make it go faster. It will never compete with cars or flying until/ unless it can shave an hour or two off the time it takes to go from St. Paul to Chicago. Anything less is a waste of money.
1334	3/25/2021	This project would be extremely beneficial to the millions of people who live among these large cities, and provide easy, safe, quick, and hopefully affordable travel. These are huge hubs for universities, employment, tourism, and would be helpful in traveling to see family or friends. If this project can get more cars off the road and improve sustainability measures, this could also have a positive environmental impact.
1335	3/25/2021	I'd rather have high speed rail to Madison/ Milwaukee/ Chicago, so hope this isn't instead of that. However, I do go to Milwaukee pretty regularly, and would use this often, because sometimes I need to rent a car when the existing time doesn't work
1336	3/25/2021	Please do this!
1337	3/25/2021	I am 100% in favor for this and would like to see daily passenger rail service in the twin cities but I do have some questions regarding it with other passenger rail services. What I am wonder is will this be an extension of the current Amtrak Midwest that is already in service in Illinois or will this be something new entirely? It appears to follow the existing Amtrak Empire Builder Route. What will happen with the Metro Transit Northstar in that case? Will it be dissolved and added to this or will planned extensions for that continue? In which city will this new line start in?
1338	3/25/2021	Yes! Please do this.
1339	3/25/2021	I am very excited about this project. I would 100% use this.

1340	3/25/2021	I was born and raised in Milwaukee and much of my family remains there. I live in the Twin Cities with my wife, who is from Madison. I routinely travel this route and have driven, taken the train, and even flown between these important cities. I am hugely supportive of this proposed expansion of rail travel and guarantee I would use it.
1341	3/25/2021	As a resident of Chicago with family in Minneapolis-St. Paul, I'd greatly value better rail connections so I can avoid the hassle of flying. That said, 79 MPH is a low speed—even if not high speed rail, it would be preferable to run these trains at Northeast Corridor conventional speeds of up to 125 MPH, with some express runs between Union Station in Chicago and Union Depot in St. Paul.
1342	3/25/2021	This is a necessity! As a musician, I would prefer multiple modes of transportation to get more people to our cultural hub of Minneapolis/St. Paul, and this provides so many opportunities to out-state individuals that want to attend events without worrying about parking and driving.
1343	3/25/2021	This would make a great addition to the Minnesota/Wisconsin/Illinois infrastructure and provide citizens more opportunity to travel and promote economic growth between the three states.
1344	3/25/2021	I think this is an excellent idea. I would like Wisconsin to be a leader in alternative transportation instead of finding reasons to not do it.
1345	3/25/2021	These are welcome improvements, and I fully support this project and look forward to utilizing the additional rail service between La Crosse and Milwaukee and La Crosse and Minneapolis-St. Paul.
1346	3/25/2021	Hi there, as an occasional travel to Chicago for business and pleasure, this is a waste of time. Rail with a top speed of 79-mph will make no changes in my travel habits. Far more convenient to fly or drive. I'm a huge fan of commuter rail, but we should be looking at investments into upgrading tracks to support higher speeds instead of this.
1347	3/25/2021	Would there be any way to connect Mankato into this plan? There are a lot of people who I feel would benefit or enjoy the option of traveling by train from Mankato to Union Depot & then possibly to Chicago. It's more scenic than a drive & more relaxing than worrying about weather/road conditions.
1348	3/25/2021	It would make so much more sense to run through Madison. I understand it's using additional track, but it would be beneficial to a lot more people.
1349	3/25/2021	Train travel from Minneapolis to Milwaukee and/or Chicago has been lacking for a generation. We need another alternative to short/wasteful flights and long drives. Faster and more frequent service may allow more folks to choose the train. Union Depot in MSP is beautiful so it's a shame it only gets two trains a day.
1350	3/25/2021	My daughter and her family live in the Milwaukee area and we live in the St. Paul area. My son-in-law is legally blind so he cannot drive. He also has siblings in Minnesota. He'd be able to take trips to Minnesota by himself if there were passenger service between Milwaukee & St. Paul. My daughter would appreciate an option to take the train rather than doing all of the driving alone. Having passenger service between Milwaukee & St. Paul would also reduce my fuel use (and carbon emissions) & vehicle wear when I go to visit my grandkids, and since I don't need a car when I'm there, it would work well for me.

1351	3/25/2021	Stop in Madison needed
1352	3/25/2021	This Project seems to be nothing but beneficial to the state of Wisconsin. Having a link between the 3 states can only benefit all 3 states in my opinion benefit all 3 states in my opinion.
1353	3/25/2021	Great idea. Better connects this area of the Midwest.
1354	3/25/2021	Madison needs a station! North coast cultural corridor!
1355	3/25/2021	anyway to get a line to Green Bay?
1356	3/25/2021	This would be an extremely good use of funds. We need this. Thank you for considering and going through the entire evaluation process.
1357	3/25/2021	We need a high speed rail in Wisconsin redirect the route to pass through Madison and then we have a winning route. Taking a train from Milwaukee to Madison was the goal under Jim Doyle we had the funding til Scott walker meased it up. If there is possibility to get federal funding to make it happen this would be great
1358	3/25/2021	I live in Lake City and the trains come through here. I have never been anywhere on a train before and have a huge desire to but there is something holding me back. I know people who have got on board in Red Wing to go to Chicago. Since Amtrak has to wait for the other trains to go through, it would have been quicker to just drive. They get on in the morning and arrived in the evening because of so much wait time. Would having a second daily option make any difference to this wait time as in less wait time or could it make it worse? And I see that the second option is limited to which stops and does not appear to have Red Wing as an option.
1359	3/25/2021	I would like the TCMC Project to consider adding a Madison station to it's route, which would increase connectivity between major cities on this route.
1360	3/25/2021	Love this idea, but would be better as a high speed rail system!
1361	3/25/2021	I would urge you to consider running through Madison to allow easy transportation to Wisconsin's capitol. I love the idea of a rail system connecting these major cities!
1362	3/25/2021	Please add a Madison WI stop or at least a stop closer to Madison than Columbus. Madison is a large city, tourist spot, and College town. It would create jobs, tourism and bring in money to the city.
1363	3/25/2021	I am in favor of this proposal. I believe we need more mass transit options.
1364	3/25/2021	As someone who routinely has to drive from Minneapolis to Chicago this would be a life saver.
1365	3/25/2021	Would love to see this come to be! We need more rail transport in the country and this would definitely add to our existing rail.
1366	3/25/2021	I fully support this project and cannot wait to take advantage of it.
1367	3/25/2021	This is incredible - we need more connection in the midwest.
1368	3/25/2021	Another Train between Chicago and The Twin Cities would be very convenient for all passengers. It would give us a second train to pick the one most convenient for all passengers.. A second train would be good for the environment as it would take people out of cars and planes and people would see that they can get a lot work finished while they ride, Being a person that drives to St Paul to catch the 8am train I welcome a second one as I would guess and hope that it would leave the following morning so I can get to work and return home s day earlier

1369	3/25/2021	<p>We currently take the Amtrak from Winona to Chicago about once a year, and would do so significantly more with more schedule options. We drive to Chicago 3-5 times a year.</p> <p>My only request on changing this plan would be to reroute on the CP rail through Rochester to Owatonna and the UP line from Owatonna through Northfield, serving a FAR larger populating and lessening traffic on the riverside CP rails.</p>
1370	3/25/2021	Please add a stop in madison :)
1371	3/25/2021	I support the second daily train between St. Paul and Chicago, and I hope it leads to further improvements along this route that is long overdue for significant rail service that can better compete with cars and air travel.
1372	3/25/2021	This would be an incredible addition to the tristate area. I would be highly inclined to travel more if this were a method of transportation available.
1373	3/25/2021	I wish this went to Madison at the Portage Station to connect to Chicago. Otherwise, I support this effort.
1374	3/25/2021	The additional service would be fantastic! Really hope it goes through. I love taking the train and would love the additional option.
1375	3/25/2021	Would be best to include Rochester MN for Mayo Clinic access
1376	3/25/2021	I love any opportunity to be able to travel to Chicago from the Cities that is cheaper than Amtrack yet faster than driving in a car. I fully support this plan!
1377	3/25/2021	<p>Columbus population: 5,058 Madison population: 254,977</p> <p>I just want to know if there is a Walker-appointee at the DOT who hates our city. Why are we not included? Do we seriously not have any tracks connecting Madison to this route?</p>
1378	3/25/2021	Please go through Madison!
1379	3/25/2021	<p>I'd like to say that I am in favor of improving our rail transportation options. It is past due. I think this has been understood long enough that we can proceed without new meetings; just do it.</p> <p>I live in Appleton, WI and wish a route would connect the Fox Valley (Green Bay, Appleton, Oshkosh) to Milwaukee and Madison.</p> <p>I've used high speed rail in England and France, and really liked it. It compares nicely against air travel for some purposes.</p>
1380	3/25/2021	I look forward to this project's completion. I have family living along this corridor. Improved rail service enables me to visit frequently and take my grandkids to larger cities to explore museums etc.
1381	3/25/2021	I am a Minnesota resident and I strongly support additional Empire Builder service. When I consider taking the train, I often have to fly because it's either sold out, or the time is too inconvenient for my travel needs. An additional service will provide choice and capacity that are badly needed on this corridor. While I am primarily concerned with service frequency, please explore the feasibility of running trains through to Minneapolis Target Field Station; Union Depot is too far for transit connections for folks living in the West Metro.

1382	3/25/2021	There is already rail service metra rail service from Kenosha to Chicago so it seems a little redundant to be building another train line on that route. Furthermore, students and individuals who do not own cars are most likely a large portion of the people who will be using this service. Therefore, with madison in particular this service should be closer to the city. I would imagine there would be more ridership of students going from madison to Chicago than commuters from Milwaukee to Chicago.
1383	3/25/2021	PLEASE route this rail line through Madison, WI! You would get so many passengers from UW-Madison, the Capitol, and Epic. I know that it would significantly cut down on auto pollution from commuters, tourists, and patients. We are still devastated about Scott Walker's refusal to follow through on the Milwaukee-Madison rail line. Please put a station in Madison! It would make so much more sense than just routing through Portage! Thank you.
1384	3/25/2021	These plans should include Madison. This would be a great system for all people living in Madison but especially considering Madison is a city that allows for so many not to rely on their own car. Many people cycle or use public transportation already so it would be more difficult for those individuals to use the train. Madison is already a hub for nearby areas it makes sense to include it as one of the stops.
1385	3/25/2021	Please make sure Madison is on this route. I travel from Milwaukee to Madison at least once per month and I would much rather travel by rail, even if it takes the same amount of time. Please allow open intoxicants on the rail as I would definitely enjoy this rail a lot more if I could pre-game on my way to Madison.
1386	3/25/2021	This would be great! I live in northern Minnesota but I would definitely travel to the twin cities to utilize this!
1387	3/25/2021	Why doesn't the train line go through Madison, WI?
1388	3/25/2021	This would be one of the best ideas I've heard in a while
1389	3/25/2021	Good Afternoon, I am a lifelong Wisconsin resident and civic leader in the greater Milwaukee Area. This rail project is an idea that is long overdue. The rail connecting multiple jurisdictions will increase the ability of people to work, study, find employees, and collaborate. I would love to see this completed. Melissa Lemke

1390	3/25/2021	<p>This would be a huge asset for our state! I've used & liked bus service between Milwaukee & Chicago, and my family loves taking the Metra from southern WI to Chicago. I'd be thrilled to see my tax dollars invested in public transit!</p> <p>I would really like to see a stop in Madison if that can be added. I know the goal is to follow the existing route, but connecting Milwaukee, Madison & Minneapolis is an important enough goal to extend or adapt the route. Without a stop in Madison I'd be unlikely to use this much. Having a Madison stop would also greatly increase tourism revenue from both MN and IL into WI and be a help to our economy. I know many students, families & commuters who would make good use of a route with a Madison midpoint. I personally would be far more likely to plan a day or overnight trip to visit Madison regularly, whereas going all the way from MKE to MN would be a once or twice a year trip due to the time it'd take.</p>
1391	3/25/2021	This answer is very simple. Do it.
1392	3/25/2021	Please pursue this project! It would be excellent addition to the Midwest.
1393	3/25/2021	Absolutely NOT!! Fix the roads here in minnesota first!
1394	3/25/2021	<p>I am an advocate for transit and dream of a modern, civilized society not stuck in the past but you need to create modern transit options or don't propose anything at all. I'd rather spend my taxes on something worthwhile rather than some garbage 2nd Amtrak line. [quote]Greatest[quote] country in the world yet we can't build a single bullet train or any other high speed rail option. Max 79mph? Same as Amtrak which translates to a realistic 50mph. Projects like this are why anti-govt sentiment persists in America; bureaucratic spending of tons of tax dollars in dumb ways. Minnesota is one of the highest-taxed states in the nation - for what? 79mph max speeds to Chicago on some rusted out track, but I have to stop in Milwaukee to get there? I'll just drive.</p>
1395	3/25/2021	Let's get this done ASAP! Any proposed new stops/stations? That would be tremendously helpful!
1396	3/25/2021	Please make it go from the Twin Cities to Madison and then Chicago, have a line from Madison with Milwaukee, and from Milwaukee it can go up to Green Bay and the down to Chicago. Open it all up to rail but with transfer options.
1397	3/25/2021	<p>Affordable passenger rail from Chicago to St. Paul, MN would be amazing. I would use this several times a year if available and cost less than, say, \$60-70 (typical cost of airfare from Minneapolis to O'Hare or Midway). The bus is an option I've used numerous times, but is slower than train travel & generally less environmentally friendly.</p> <p>I would likely also buy tickets for family to visit from Chicago.</p> <p>I really want to see this happen in my lifetime, and the next few years would be best :-)</p>
1398	3/25/2021	
1399	3/25/2021	I think this is a great idea. Expanding the number of trips and making this a high speed service would be fantastic!

1400	3/25/2021	I support the TCMC Project
1401	3/25/2021	Could we have a station in (close to) Madison?
1402	3/25/2021	I would love a reliable more cost effective option other than plane for traveling to Milwaukee and Chicago.
1403	3/25/2021	I would very much like to have more public transportation options available for traveling between these cities! If there could be high speed train travel consistently it would increase travel and commerce throughout the region.
1404	3/25/2021	I am in favor of more frequent trips in this corridor because it will allow for people who need mass transit and people with disabilities have the ability to travel on the train between the State of Wisconsin and Minnesota. As a person with a disability I would hope that making train travel more accessible to people with disabilities in the future would also be a goal. I would also hope that stations could become more accessible to people with disabilities as future funding becomes available for improvements on the line and more routes are added.
1405	3/25/2021	Msp to Chicago rail service would be fantastic, especially with the stop in LaCrosse! Please make this happen!
1406	3/25/2021	Good idea!
1407	3/25/2021	This would be wonderful. It would increase access to jobs and tourism. I am in full support.
1408	3/25/2021	There should be a station in Minneapolis.
1409	3/25/2021	Yes please!! Possibly include a stop in Kenosha as well? But even as is, I'll take it!!! So many opportunities can be created by this rail and it will change lives.
1410	3/25/2021	This is an amazing idea! We would save so much money in the long run. Please do this!
1411	3/25/2021	Has the high speed rail between Chicago and Madison completely dead in the water. If not, would the high speed provide connections to the proposed passenger rail.
1412	3/25/2021	Yes please but I want a high speed rail.
1413	3/25/2021	
1414	3/25/2021	I support this project, and would like to see a second daily service extended to Fargo, ND as well. I think allowing passengers to bring their bikes on the train at more stops, should also be considered. Currently this is only offered at checked luggage stops.
1415	3/25/2021	How is this not including Madison? Madison is the capital and one of the biggest cities in WI. There are so many people that would love a train route from Chicago to Madison. The tourist dollars alone for Madison and Chicago would help pay for that stop.
1416	3/25/2021	We need a stop in Madison!
1417	3/25/2021	This would be amazing!
1418	3/25/2021	Please include Madison, WI in this rail service. If the rail goes to Madison, it will increase traffic on the line a lot. A lot of people would take this line regularly to the twin cities, to Milwaukee, and to Chicago. Madison was on the high speed rail plan -- it's a destination small city and would bring a lot of business.
1419	3/25/2021	Three words: JUST DO IT!!
1420	3/25/2021	This is essential, and it should have been built years ago. Yes yes yes!

1421	3/25/2021	This would be amazing! I see so many benefits to our citizens in all 3 states. Both professionally and recreationally. In a world with gas demands and problems with global warming, this would help get us ahead of future problems that we will have. This will help the rail industry tremendously. We just need to make sure 1 state will not carry the brunt of the costs, as this will be a great benefit to all states involved. I would love to see more stations added as well. I am concerned that the northern part of our state will be ignored.
1422	3/25/2021	As a young professional, this project would very convenient for business travel.
1423	3/25/2021	Please do this. This would be awesome!
1424	3/25/2021	Hello, I am very happy to see that this project may finally come to fruition. I think it will be a boon to the economies of all 3 cities and help form the foundation for cooperative community practices and work opportunities as well as tourism opportunities for people of all 4 major cities and the smaller ones along the way
1425	3/25/2021	This would be a game-changer for my family! My husband is from Milwaukee and I'm from Minneapolis. We currently reside in Minneapolis, but frequently travel back and forth for visits and family events. We typically avoid Amtrak because of cost and the time of travel - if the rail service was improved and additional options were added, we would certainly leverage the train more often! I know our family and friends in Wisconsin would appreciate this improvement as well.
1426	3/25/2021	Great for normal people use. Scary with riots in Mpls having Chicago people coming into St Paul easier. Also not really to taxes increasing for more spending. If Amtrak is paying completely cool, if not will the cities/counties/states get a percentage for money paid? Will people paying get a cost break? Or will Amtrak get free government money and we get charged more (Twins stadium comes to mind where they kept the tax after it was build plus we didn't get anything in Hennepin county.
1427	3/25/2021	Adding more daily trains along this route is absolutely critical. In addition to the current route, service needs to be added to Madison. The Madison-Milwaukee-Chicago corridor is practically begging for fast and frequent rail service, with the potential to drastically reduce car trips along interstate 94 as well as greenhouse gas emissions.
1428	3/25/2021	I think this is a great idea! I love the idea of more trains/rapid transit between cities and states in the United States. Sometimes I get tired of driving my car everywhere. I just want to sit back, relax, and watch the scenery pass. This route would also increase tourism and accessibility. Please consider this project! I'd love to take these trips with my kid(s) some day.
1429	3/25/2021	I would be in favor of a stop in Oconomowoc.
1430	3/25/2021	This project is very exciting. It would be great if this one day ran through Madison as well.
1431	3/25/2021	Fantastic idea. We really need this.

1432	3/25/2021	This rail line is a long time coming. So many folks I know commute from Milwaukee to Madison to St.Paul. This will be a highly used route line. I suggest including a stop in Madison or working with the cities to make budding to the Portage station more accessible to those without cars like many college students who attend UW-Madison of the other universities along the train line in both states. Hopefully one day the rail can be optimized for faster trains.
1433	3/25/2021	Budget for continuous improvement of the rails so higher speed trains are possible. Have one express daily that doesn't stop everywhere
1434	3/25/2021	The prospect of a route is this very exciting. I'm an artist and often go between the cities for shows and projects, it would be cost effective and more environmentally friendly to be able to take the train instead of driving! I can also connect to my friends and family much more easily! I can imagine most people would feel the same that it's a great travel option personal and business wise. I'm super in favor for this & hoping this project is realized.
1435	3/25/2021	This project is long overdue. Passenger service on this route would open the way for increased commerce, tourism, and opportunities for employment & education. The US is far behind Europe in the area & growth is necessary.
1436	3/25/2021	We need better options to commute for Chicago, however, this is a waste of money if both routes aren't updated to something like bullet trains, so that the trip can be less time consuming. Why take the train when you can get there in about as much time in the car, and then you don't have to rent one when you get to your destination, because you already have yours.
1437	3/25/2021	My family supports this and would use it frequently for work and leisure.
1438	3/25/2021	I think this is an amazing project that should have happened a long time ago. I believe that culturally and financially this will elevate our city and drive new tourist business. In addition I feel we will all benefit from being able to take public transportation to these cities. I believe this project will also alleviate some of the traffic from Milwaukee to Chicago and Milwaukee to the twin cities. I hope that a route to Madison will be added- I think this would make a lot of sense.
1439	3/25/2021	I would love an easier way to travel to the Twin Cities! Service to Rochester, MN would also be greatly appreciated.
1440	3/25/2021	High speed rail lines sound great for travel, hopefully the project will cut down on air pollution, and environmental destruction. I also hope the project leaders will take into consideration the indigenous tribes upon who's land the rail will cut through.
1441	3/25/2021	A rail stop in Madison would be invaluable! This would allow this urban area access to the rail without needing additional transportation to outlying areas that are already included on this route. The use of the rail would increase dramatically with a stop in Madison.
1442	3/25/2021	Please add a Madison, WI stop on this route!
1443	3/25/2021	Given the enormity of the UW Madison campus, please add at least one stop in the city of Madison for this well traveled route!

1444	3/25/2021	I support all efforts to increase passenger rail service in and throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota. I would use this service with my family for some of our frequent trips between Dane County and the Twin Cities.
1445	3/25/2021	I ABSOLUTELY am in favor of this!!! my family all live in Chicago, and the only reason I don't take the train now is that it takes longer to get there than in a car driving. I would love to support rail travel and would use it often. Also the route is BEAUTIFUL!!!
1446	3/25/2021	I live in the Twin Cities and commute often to Madison and Milwaukee to visit family and friends. Please consider adding a stop in Madison. It's important to connect major cities along this route. For me it's an issue of equity and inclusion.
1447	3/25/2021	The line should go through Madison.
1448	3/25/2021	
1449	3/25/2021	Please increase passenger rail service between Chicago and Minneapolis
1450	3/25/2021	I think this is a great project that is a long time coming- IT JUST MAKES SENSE. I believe that this project will increase revenue from tourism and elevate our city culturally. In addition I believe this project will alleviate some of the congestion from driving between MKE/Chicago and MKE/Westward. I hope that at some point a route to/from Madison can be added. I think that would be a great improvement on the current route.
1451	3/25/2021	I think this is a great project that will benefit many people. We should continue to expand public rail transit. I look forward to seeing developments and being able to travel from St. Paul.
1452	3/25/2021	Madison would love a stop!!!
1453	3/25/2021	This project is 50 years or more overdue. Yes, yes, yes, and a thousand times yes. The fact that service between these two cities has been limited to once a day, and only if the Empire Builder actually makes it past the snow drifts further west, has been one of the greatest failures of infrastructure planning for the entire region. Invent a time machine and do this yesterday. Yes.
1454	3/25/2021	Would a stop in Madison be a possibility? I feel like a lot of college students could benefit from a station there, along with others visiting the area. Thanks!
1455	3/25/2021	This would be great! I have family in Chicago and it would make it easier to see them more often!
1456	3/25/2021	This railway would be great for public transport. As someone who has family in both the Milwaukee and Twin City area this would be a great addition for another way of transport.
1457	3/25/2021	It would be nice if you could start a bit further back like in Big Lake or Fridley. I think more people would like to take the trip via train but don't want to deal with going to the St. Paul station. I know Amtrak goes through Fridley & if it stopped here it would be very convenient for people & would also make better use of the train station that is mainly only used a few times a day by the NorthStar.
1458	3/25/2021	I would like to suggest reducing the number of stations the 2nd train stops at so it will be more of an Express train. And would provide faster service to Chicago \ St. Paul.

1459	3/25/2021	More high speed train routes would be great to make travel accessible and easy to do.
1460	3/25/2021	That looks awesome. This will make ballpark trips more feasible during summer.
1461	3/25/2021	Add a stop in Madison WI
1462	3/25/2021	Totally support this. Would love to have it come through Madison. Students would probably use it often.
1463	3/25/2021	Great idea, long overdue solution to mass transit
1464	3/25/2021	I totally support additional passenger rail service. It would be wonderful! I would also love an additional stop near Watertown or Oconomowoc. Thank you.
1465	3/25/2021	A Twin Cities to Milwaukee to Chicago passenger rail project would be a wonderful thing. It would mean less reliance on the family car. It would mean more likelihood that our family would travel to the Twin Cities and Chicago from Milwaukee for vacation purposes spending money there. It would open up the possibilities of working in those cities as well. This is the type of infrastructure the United States needs to support and embrace. Thanks for attempting this! JSchmidt
1466	3/25/2021	I believe this is an important project since it is an affordable option for people to travel between the Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago.
1467	3/25/2021	This is a great project and would be a welcome way to travel in the region.
1468	3/25/2021	We are so far behind in rail service that we forget that Wisconsin was founded on it. Make it possible for people to get around without a car and boost the economy.
1469	3/25/2021	I'd really love an easy connection or transfer to Madison. And i really hope this train exists even if Madison didn't have an easy transfer!
1470	3/25/2021	My wife and I would use this, not only to go to Chicago, but also to several of the other destinations. We live in Red Wing, so it would be very convenient for trips in both directions.
1471	3/25/2021	Much needed! I live on the route & would utilize this.
1472	3/25/2021	It would be really helpful and increase network in the Upper Midwest. They should do a similar one connecting Mankato as well.
1473	3/25/2021	Yes! Finally a train!
1474	3/25/2021	This would be fantastic. Living in Minneapolis, but often working in Milwaukee or Chicago, this would be incredible. Strongly for.
1475	3/25/2021	This line will provide tangible benefits to myself and the entire area surrounding Tomah, allowing us to more easily access the Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago without the need to drive. It would also permit flexibility in scheduling, providing alternatives to persons who cannot make the Empire Builder's once-a-day departures. It may also provide tourism benefits to cities like the Wisconsin Dells and Tomah, as such places would be more accessible by people who do not usually drive.
1476	3/25/2021	This is a great idea! For business people, college students, vacationers, etc. I would use it at least twice a year, maybe more to go to LaCrosse, Milwaukee and Chicago.
1477	3/25/2021	This is wonderful! I would be able to take the train to multiple trainings a year without having to use extra vacation time for additional travel time. I support the rail project.

1478	3/25/2021	As the driver in my family, I would love to have more options open for us to visit locations relatively nearby without the stress of constant vigilance on the road for four to twelve hours. It's my vacation as well, as more opportunities for long distance public forms of transportation is appealing to me. The idea of visiting Chicago is much more appealing if I also don't have to deal with their traffic.
1479	3/25/2021	High speed rail is common around the developed world. Needless to say it is absent in the United States. We need to get this built. I would sooner take the train to Chicago than drive or fly.
1480	3/25/2021	Yes, please improve this route.
1481	3/25/2021	I used the Amtrak back and forth from Lafayette, IN and Winona, MN a few times in 2010 and early 2011. My layover in Chicago was long but this doesn't apply here. I know it takes quite a few hours anyway to get from Winona to Chicago or from Chicago to Winona. If the train stops at all the places it stopped back then, including the Wisconsin Dells, and Tomah, etc. It really takes a while. A person would need to be able to invest a day. Maybe things have gotten faster, but there are also times when the train has to pull over onto the side rails and let another train pass. There were a couple times there were mechanical problems and we sat still for hours.
1482	3/25/2021	Amtrak runs to Columbus, and could come into Madison to the airport and downtown, on the WSOR lines. There is great interest in trains in Madison for access to other major metro areas but also for light rail in the city limits and places like Verona, Sun Prairie, Waunakee, and outlying commuter areas.
1483	3/25/2021	Please make a station in Madison! It is badly underserved by rail.
1484	3/25/2021	This rail service should serve the Madison-Janesville-Beloit, WI CSA. Cutting out this major population center doesn't make sense for financial viability of the service.
1485	3/25/2021	I would love to have better access to Chicago. I support these changes.
1486	3/25/2021	It would be better if you included Madison.
1487	3/25/2021	this is a great idea, more downtown to downtown service. two items, speed. somehow this needs to be improved. second, how at this point can this be discussed with somehow hooking rochester mn in? with the investment and growth there a key potential market is being tossed aside. this one really needs a solution
1488	3/25/2021	Adding a second round trip service to this rail line would be extremely beneficial for individuals who may rely on the train system for transportation over using a car. It would increase connectivity in an area of the US that see a lot of movement through out.
1489	3/25/2021	Madison please
1490	3/25/2021	Add Madison
1491	3/25/2021	Long overdue.
1492	3/25/2021	Please include a location that passes through Madison, WI! This will be essential for travel and a common point of access for many people who will rely on this train network.
1493	3/25/2021	Please make this happen!

1494	3/25/2021	I think track improvements should be made so that the trains can reach higher speeds. Speed, convenience, and cost are the largest factors when choosing how to travel, so decreasing travel time and making sure this service is affordable (cheaper than a plane ticket to Chicago, so \$80?). I also recommend offering easy connections to other cities, like Rochester and Madison, by bus or adding spur lines so this service is more accessible to more people.
1495	3/25/2021	Yes!! Would be so convenient
1496	3/25/2021	It would be incredible to have a station coming to Madison as well! I understand Columbus is on the map, but there are so many low-income folks in Madison who do not have adequate transportation to make the drive to Columbus. If we had one in the city (maybe on the West side where most low-income folks reside), this would convenience the population who would truly benefit from a rail system, instead of prioritizing people who already have reliable transportation with their cars.
1497	3/25/2021	Yes please!!! AND please add Madison to this system!
1498	3/25/2021	I would love to have a train to go to Wisconsin dells, and all the way to Chicago, great stress free way to travel.
1499	3/25/2021	I support adding this second service. I would use the service more often if the cost was lower, and if rail service was extended to Madison, WI. The busses to Madison from rail stations are incredibly inefficient.
1500	3/25/2021	This is a great Idea!
1501	3/25/2021	Please add Madison to this route! It makes no sense not to connect the capital to this route!
1502	3/25/2021	Visiting Chicago would become much more feasible with this second daily trip, as the once-daily severely limits the ability to be flexible in our plans. This second trip would make it far more likely we would be able to replace trips to Chicago via plane for ones via train, saving both money and reducing our carbon footprint.
1503	3/25/2021	Please include a stop in Madison or at least arrange a way by bus for Madisonians to access this service.
1504	3/25/2021	Please add a station in Madison, WI!
1505	3/25/2021	I'm excited by this proposal. There is a definite need for this. I may even be tempted by Milwaukee! I wonder if Madison could be a stop or if convenient transportation to and from that city could be offered.
1506	3/25/2021	This would be super great! Buses just aren't feasible for traveling to Wisconsin and MN from Chi!
1507	3/25/2021	This is such a good idea! And long overdue.
1508	3/25/2021	Run it through Rochester
1509	3/25/2021	Is the old St. Paul train station now being used? Also, try to make the fares affordable- I've been able to fly RT from Mpls. To Chicago for less than \$100!
1510	3/25/2021	This is a great idea and I would definitely use it! I would use it to visit my family in south Eastern Minnesota and I would really feel as though I don't need a car!
1511	3/25/2021	Please add Madison as a stop! I'm so tired of taking the badger bus to Chicago
1512	3/25/2021	Would definitely love to see this additional option for travel between the Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago.

1513	3/25/2021	Yes please!!! Partner with Wisc Dells for travel + lodging deals as families from MN, WI & Chicago travel there regularly & would happily use rail over a long car ride.
1514	3/25/2021	<p>I think the project is wonderful --- as long as it is FULLY privately financed. If one thin dime of taxpayer money will be spent, then I oppose it and will fight against it tooth and bone.</p> <p>If the private money is not there to build it and profit from it, then it is unneeded and neither should government money be used. Successful private business interests are better suited to conduct and evaluate needs assessments and market studies than politicians.</p> <p>The fact that no one has invested in such a project up to now might already suggest that it is a poor investment. But then, as politicians, you haven't considered that ... RIGHT?</p>
1515	3/25/2021	Yes! I would love to travel by train! Having more availability would be a blessing.
1516	3/25/2021	Would take this from Columbus to the Twin Cities once a year and Columbus to Chicago at least twice a year.
1517	3/25/2021	For my partner and I who live between Chicago and Minneapolis, the option to be able to take the train would be game changing. I really hope that IL, MN, and WI can work together to make this happen!
1518	3/25/2021	
1519	3/25/2021	Make the route reliable and run on time with 95% or better reliability and I would use it. Current Empire Builder reliability puts the train hours or sometimes days behind schedule.
1520	3/25/2021	I am enthusiasm in favor of this project, but I would encourage Madison to be included in the route. All cities already included would benefit if Madison community members were able to participate in this interstate travel.
1521	3/25/2021	Take funds for expanding I-94 and allocate them to rail to Madison and increasing frequency of trains.
1522	3/25/2021	Madison, WI
1523	3/25/2021	Please add a stop in Madison. It would be incredibly valuable to have this transportation run through Madison as well.
1524	3/25/2021	Improving and adding rail transportation is exciting. I don't live near this line, but would find a way to use it. Rail is a wonderful way to commute.
1525	3/25/2021	Please direct this through Madison, WI! So many could benefit routing it through another major metropolitan area.
1526	3/25/2021	My husband and I believe this second train would be an important and beneficial addition to the existing Empire Builder run. We have taken the Empire Builder, but when we specifically go to places in Wisconsin and St. Paul, we drive because of the single departure/arrival times on the existing train. There is much to see and do in this area, so it would be great if we could take a train and not have to deal with driving. Going away for the weekend is much easier if we don't need the hassle of driving and can relax on our way to our destination. It would make vacationing here so much easier.

1527	3/25/2021	Yes more trains. Faster trains! Look at Japan for what that should look like
1528	3/25/2021	I think this is a great idea!
1529	3/25/2021	Yes! I favor this passenger rail project. I believe it will be essential for family/recreational transport and to help stimulate the economy!
1530	3/25/2021	It would be nice to travel though Madison, as it connects the capital as well
1531	3/25/2021	Public transportation that is easily accessible and affordable is so important. People assume driving is the norm but if you have reliable public transportation driving becomes unnecessary. Please consider allowing this project to create jobs, access, tourism and so much more.
1532	3/25/2021	This would be a great addition and option for ease of traveler's not wanting to drive, especially in winter .
1533	3/25/2021	Please make a stop much closer to Madison. It's the second largest city in the nation and it makes no sense to bypass it.
1534	3/25/2021	ADD a stop in Madison!!! This will be immensely useful for university students (both international and out-of-state) by taking them to O-Hare and the Chicago Amtrak station. It will also cut down on cars & buses traveling and potentially allow for commuters to live in Madison while working in Milwaukee/Chicago. This is the future, we need to invest in public transportation and clean railways.
1535	3/25/2021	I vote for this rail project. I am a senior in Chicago with a daughter and grandson in Minneapolis. I can no longer drive the long distance as I once did. I would Have more travel options to see my daughter and grandson if this project is approved.
1536	3/25/2021	Please add a station in Madison!
1537	3/25/2021	If this becomes a thing, I'll be able to visit family in Milwaukee without having to worry about traffic and contributing to pollution. Sincerely hoping this becomes reality and train usage becomes an option for travel to most of the US!
1538	3/25/2021	The service speed needs to be faster. Fantastic plan!
1539	3/25/2021	Yes, please!
1540	3/25/2021	Excellent Add Madison and Green Bay.
1541	3/25/2021	Please add a stop in Madison Wi.
1542	3/25/2021	The passenger rail would allow those who cannot travel by car to commute and visit family in friends across the three states. The route having a station nearer Madison would be an improvement.
1543	3/25/2021	YEEESSS! This would be awesome! Any chance it would be able to expand down to Madison? Either way, this would be great! Also, would this be affordable for all levels of income?
1544	3/25/2021	I would love this! I have tried several times to schedule train trips that require me to get to Chicago, and this would be so helpful!
1545	3/25/2021	I think this will be wonderful.
1546	3/25/2021	Good Idea.
1547	3/25/2021	This sounds great if it can be more affordable to the customer and faster. I took this line a lot in college and it was a life line.
1548	3/25/2021	It's the 21st century. Why are we behind the rest of the world?

1549	3/25/2021	PLEASE make this available to Madison, WI! As the second-largest city in Wisconsin and with a diverse population, a station here would HUGELY benefit many people, especially those who do not have access to a car to be able to travel. Skipping Madison would be a disgrace.
1550	3/25/2021	Full support for more/improved rail travel options.
1551	3/25/2021	My daughter did a trip back from Milwaukee and it was not full at all. On top of it, it was delay after delay after delay. Other trains had to pass etc. It was one of the worst experiences ever for travel. By the time she was at the Union Depot she was sick and tired. Don't see why a second train would be needed, especially if they cant keep on schedule
1552	3/25/2021	This sounds awesome. I would definitely use it as I have a condition that prevents me from driving. This would be great I can visit my family without worries
1553	3/25/2021	I think this is a wonderful idea! We need more mass transportation between major cities to cut down on traffic.
1554	3/25/2021	please create a stop IN Madison, anywhere in the city limits!!
1555	3/25/2021	I am in full support of this initiative! Accessible public transit is great for the people and great for the environment. We've needed this for a long time! Thank you!
1556	3/25/2021	I love Amtrak. Please go through Madison.
1557	3/25/2021	I support this project. Thank you for improving rail service in this corridor
1558	3/25/2021	Please please please make this happen! Transit between the cities would help with transportation, generate revenue and create jobs! Please incorporate Madison in the station locations, it's a larger metro area that needs this service as well.
1559	3/25/2021	This would be a great addition to the transportation options between Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois. Providing additional option for family travel and business travel that are better for the environment, while connecting locations with tourist and economic interests is vitally important. This project appears to cost-effective, using existing infrastructure and improve transportation between economic hubs. I look forward to riding the TCMC soon.
1560	3/25/2021	This is a great idea! More rail transit options are fantastic, if more options were available I would likely use this instead of driving from Minneapolis to Chicago. This would be particularly useful if the train offered roll on bike transport, to make it multi-modal on both ends of the journey.
1561	3/25/2021	Please stop in Madison!
1562	3/25/2021	Why would this completely skip Madison where many people who would utilize this actually live?
1563	3/25/2021	I suggest you add Madison to the route. It would be used more and more financially beneficial than other cities in the area especially considering all the students who travel to the universities in the area.
1564	3/25/2021	I would love a stop near Madison, WI
1565	3/25/2021	This is a wonderful way to reduce traffic and pollution while increasing efficiency and access for all!

1566	3/25/2021	I fully support expanding the service options. I wish there were more than just two daily trips however- like 4 or so. The fact that the times are so spread apart can mean that if I'm trying to go to Chicago from the Twin Cities, I may have to book an additional night stay at a hotel (which would be great if a person can afford that and can also afford to take more time off work) and increase meal expenses etc. as a result. If you have to be somewhere the next day at a conference, meeting, event, concert etc., and the train brings you to Chicago by a time that is just one hour prior to the event, then that's likely not going to work out for you to figure out all the other logistics like dropping off your belongings at a Airbnb or hotel before said event, and the problem is worse if the arrival time is slated to be after the start time of some scheduled event. I'm glad you are looking at expanding options from 1-2 different times but there really needs to be more than that in order to make it a viable option for people who want flexibility and more ability to fit things into their lives when they have limited time off. I also wish that there was some way to improve the speed of the rail. If that can't be done, then anything to make the trip more efficient would also be highly desirable. Shortening stops in low-demand locations, working to make boarding times reduced as much as possible (or expanding them if that makes the train more likely to leave on time)
1567	3/25/2021	Hello! I think this is a great idea and would improve travel between Minneapolis and Chicago. It would allow commuting WHILE working which is not possible while driving or even taking a bus.
1568	3/25/2021	This proposed rail project is long overdue! We have so many positive reasons to implement such a line and service. I hope that our states can unite to make this a reality! - Annie Melchior, Milwaukee
1569	3/25/2021	I wish Eau Claire were included on the route. Would love it if there were plans to add a few connection lines between the proposed route and other cities. This will make it so much easier to visit my family, though. I'll only need to get a ride 30 minutes to the nearest station than 4 hours to their home.
1570	3/25/2021	This would be a worthwhile project that would help drive the continued emergence of a new upper Midwest and benefit folks in both our metro centers as well as the surrounding rural areas.
1571	3/25/2021	At present there is no good connection to the California Zephyr from the empire builder and vice versa. This could remedy that.
1572	3/25/2021	I would use this all the time, though I honestly would like a stop in Rochester because I have friends who have moved there. It is okay if you do not include Rochester as I would go from Minneapolis to Chicago more, but still hope there is a regional transit system soon. Thank you for building this!
1573	3/25/2021	I would prefer to have the route go through Madison. It would increase usage and reduce automotive reliance for trips between Madison and other destinations, especially Milwaukee.
1574	3/25/2021	Please add a stop in Madison, WI!! We need this so bad!
1575	3/25/2021	Yes please!! Would be wonderful.

1576	3/25/2021	This is literally so needed and would benefit so many communities without reliable transportation. Please please please implement this and continue the rail throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota!!!!
1577	3/25/2021	Since I now reside in the twin cities from Madison, WI, it would be ideal to have a connection route to Madison with a station included on the way to Milwaukee. Going forward in the future, it would be exciting to see this be the basis of an expanding high speed rail system similar to infrastructure seen in Europe in order to lower reliance on driving AJ's personal motor vehicles.
1578	3/25/2021	I am very in favor of increased service by rail between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities.
1579	3/25/2021	It should have been done a long time ago.
1580	3/25/2021	I support a second daily trip of the Amtrak train between Saint Paul and Chicago. This is a lovely way to travel between metro areas already but the limited travel times make a weekend trip difficult. Adding an additional option will better support the use. I support any necessary upgrades needed and hope to see a high speed rail option soon. I also want to see this route extended to Saint Cloud and/Duluth. I may not need or use a weekday option but I could see others using it often for work or other trips.
1581	3/25/2021	Great idea, but the rail should go through Madison.
1582	3/25/2021	I think that this great
1583	3/25/2021	You should have built the high-speed rail...or at the very least a rail that goes through Madison...
1584	3/25/2021	Yes yes yes! Aside from added commuter flexibility between 2 major metropolitan areas, it would also restore a little more grandeur to the St. Paul Union Depot. To only have ONE eastbound train at 8am and ONE westbound train at 10:20pm leaves an underutilized great train hall for the entirety of the day.
1585	3/25/2021	This is very good
1586	3/25/2021	I think it is very unfortunate to not include a Madison stop. I know lots of people who drive from Madison to Chicago on a regular basis, and I do not think someone will be inclined to drive an hour north to the Dells just to get on a train to go to Chicago. It might work for Minneapolis, but it basically makes the rail unusable for the Madison population to get to Milwaukee or Chicago.
1587	3/25/2021	Improving ability to get from the Twin Cities to Chicago without the headaches of driving or air travel is an excellent idea. It would be great if there were a couple routes, one regular route speed and one high speed but I suppose one can hold out hope for high speed rail being a future plan.
1588	3/25/2021	Great idea
1589	3/25/2021	I took the Amtrak from Mpls. to Chicago in the 80s. I remember having to go very slowly on parts of the route. Track improvements are definitely needed. The faster the better, otherwise people can drive there faster. I would say skip the small towns and just stop in Milwaukee and Chicago.

		<p>public input.</p> <p>I have personally ridden this route on the Empire Builder and was very pleased with the service on the Amtrak trains. I look forward to a second daily train that will increase capacity and frequency within the Amtrak route network for travelers in the Midwest, specifically to and from Minnesota.</p> <p>I have the following questions and comments regarding the TCMC proposal and the future of the corridor in general.</p> <p>1a: How many daily passenger trains can the proposed track upgrades accommodate? I believe that the track upgrades required for 2 daily trains should also be able to accommodate more trains in the future, potentially up to the 7 daily trains that currently run on the Hiawatha line (even if other sections of the corridor would need upgrades for this level of traffic).</p> <p>1b: Does the proposal include the option of adding additional rolling stock (1 to 2 extra coaches) on the currently scheduled Empire Builder trains between Chicago and Minneapolis in the case demand for it exists? If extra cars were added to the current Empire Builder, would the proposed track upgrades be able to accommodate the longer trains?</p> <p>2: Please allocate funds for advertising the new service to potential customers.</p> <p>3: Will this train receive the Amtrak Midwest branding? Will new rolling stock be ordered for the additional train or will existing Amtrak rolling stock be used? In the long term I believe that dedicated rolling stock similar to Amtrak Cascades would best</p>
1590	3/25/2021	
1591	3/25/2021	Add Madison Wi part of this rail service
1592	3/25/2021	
1593	3/25/2021	Please add a rail connection/stop in Madison! It is unbelievable that our capital city remains unconnected to the other major cities in the Midwest. Please help increase the revenue to small, local Madison businesses by connecting us!
1594	3/25/2021	This would be amazing!! I live in Milwaukee and would use this to visit family in MN and Chicago.
1595	3/25/2021	Please extend to Madison!!!
1596	3/25/2021	There should be high speed trains on this route every hour. Adding a daily roundtrip at conventional speeds should be a bare minimum.
1597	3/25/2021	Madison should be added to the Chicago to Minneapolis rail route.

		<p>I currently live in Minneapolis but have several friends in the Chicago area that I would love to visit more often. The train service is great but it takes too long and does not currently leave at very convenient times. If there were more trains operating, and at faster speeds, I would definitely take the train more often rather than drive. I believe that many other travelers feel this way and that improvements in train service would lead to much greater takeup by the general public.</p> <p>Train travel through the Midwest should be developed since it is an environmentally friendly alternative to driving and provides the opportunity to have a pleasant travel experience compared to sitting at the wheel of a car for several hours. The train stops in convenient places and the route has the potential to deliver people to and from Minneapolis in less time than it would take to drive or fly. Funding should be dedicated to upgrading the current rail infrastructure and adding more service to better serve Minnesotans and our neighbors in Wisconsin.</p>
1598	3/25/2021	Thank you for your consideration.
1599	3/25/2021	We need a stop in Madison. ITS THE CAPITAL.
1600	3/25/2021	I would love for there to be more regular train service available and would like to suggest adding Madison as a stop. With the college and carless population plenty of people would use the service
1601	3/25/2021	Yes ,please add to this route!
1602	3/25/2021	Please figure out and do what it takes to bring the train through Madison. This is a metropolitan area of over 500,000 people and we would use the train a lot more to travel to the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, Chicago and points East and West if the train came through town.
1603	3/25/2021	Please run the train through Madison WI
1604	3/25/2021	I would love to take the train to visit family in WI and spend more time in Chicago. Creating space to roll on bikes on a train would also increase ridership greatly. So many options to ride a bicycle one way and take the train back!!
1605	3/25/2021	I think this is fantastic, and look forward to riding this line soon
1606	3/25/2021	Make it happen. High speed would be even better!
1607	3/25/2021	This is an excellent idea! The most important thing is making sure every train and station is wheelchair accessible and ADA approved. That includes the ticket purchasing system. That's basically all I have to add. Can't wait to see it come a reality.
1608	3/25/2021	As someone who doesn't always want to drive but has flight anxiety, this is a perfect alternative and long overdue to modernize the Midwest!
1609	3/25/2021	Yes! Definitely a good idea! Would love to have more train access to other cities plus it would add more jobs to the area!
1610	3/25/2021	I think its a great idea but I think Madison should have a station as well.
1611	3/25/2021	We critically need a stop in Madison WI!
1612	3/25/2021	I support this project wholeheartedly. This project should be fully funded. The route is excellent. There should be more daily frequency beyond 2 daily trips.

		Love it.
1613	3/25/2021	Don't see why it can't be faster than 80 mph.
1614	3/25/2021	I love the idea of this rail but the train should be able to go faster for people to take it over driving. France and Japan have high speed rail and this is a fantastic opportunity for us to catch up.
1615	3/25/2021	Stop in Madison
1616	3/25/2021	Fully support! Economical rail travel is the future of America aka (30 years ago for Europe) ;). Please consider public art on platforms and investment is transit oriented development, connecting to other public transit nodes
1617	3/25/2021	If the train is made into a high speed rail it'll be more worth the time and money. Currently the train costs similar to a plane with less flexibility and a longer ride.
1618	3/25/2021	Strongly in favor. I'd use this multiple times a year.
1619	3/25/2021	I would Love to see Madison, Wisconsin be a stop on this line. Thank you.
1620	3/25/2021	Would love to see a station in Madison Wisconsin to St Paul. We drive up there 2 times a month and would definitely use it for those trips!
1621	3/25/2021	I would like to see the Empire Builder service expanded to a 2nd daily, round trip option and I support railroad improvements in Winona, LeCrescent, and LaCrosse as well as interior renovations in St Paul.
1622	3/25/2021	lower income folks in Madison would benefit having a station here instead of in Columbus, WI since the people who could use this transportation that most don't own a car and can't easily drive outside of the city to go to a dang train station.
1623	3/25/2021	I am enthusiastically in support of increasing access to passenger rail transit in the IL-WI-MN corridor! I think it will be critical to ensure railway reliability - not sure whether this Amtrak infrastructure is sharing the rails with higher priority freight trains, but that is a huge issue in my past experiences with US passenger rail services. I also strongly support shuttle services between nearby metro areas to the rail station, and ensuring there is affordable (or free) mid and long term parking at stations for those who want to park to ride.
1624	3/25/2021	I love this and it would change my life! I've been waiting so long for this to happen and I think this is an incredible idea, I would do anything to get to visit my family often and quickly! I live in Chicago and do not have a car, a lot of Chicagoans rely on public transit and the only way we can visit our Minnesota or northern Wisconsin families is through a very long (full-day) bike ride or spending hundreds of dollars to rent a car.
1625	3/25/2021	I would definitely use this service since I travel frequently between Minneapolis and Milwaukee for work and to see family. Please consider extending these services.
1626	3/25/2021	I would request that Madison would be included in the plan. Madison to Milwaukee is a very popular route and it would be great to have trains going there!! By doing this, we would reduce the automobile traffic greatly!
1627	3/25/2021	I would love this and use it if the price is right.
1628	3/25/2021	Please include Madison in the rail system. This would be a great college students, those that commute in and out of Madison, for sporting events, concerts and expos.

1629	3/25/2021	I think this is a great plan. Any improvements to help public transit connections between the twin cities, madison, milwaukee, and chicago are a good thing. Using federal funds is great, especially after the whole Scott Walker debacle where he scuttled already existing trains and plans for Milwaukee/Madison/Chicago connections. I'd love to see any proposals about extended a passenger line from St. Paul to the Eau Claire area as well!
1630	3/25/2021	I am in favor of adding a second train, flying to Chicago is almost the same length of time when you factor in airport check in times baggage access and still an hour from downtown Chicago from Ohare and 40 min from Midway.
1631	3/25/2021	good idea please do it
1632	3/25/2021	I think adding a second day passenger service would be an amazing way to connect some often neglected areas of the Midwest.
1633	3/25/2021	Please!! please ensure that this passenger line goes through Madison ... it would be such a great way to link up these major cities (with the accompanying positive environmental outcomes. I have lived in Madison for decades and to have us linked to the Twin Cities - MKE and Chicago by rail would be an amazing step forward, and one that is long overdue.
1634	3/25/2021	Please add Madison
1635	3/25/2021	I fully support this effort. Any work done to speed the route, whether that be ROW alignment, banking, or locomotive selection would be ideal. Further, pricing this option lower than that of Amtrak could make this a well-used option since the Amtrak route is rather costly and a significant impediment to ridership. I would however, recommend limiting the stops from what are proposed. Ridership probably won't be increased with the additional stops, but it will decrease speeds significantly. St. Paul, La Crosse, Wisconsin Dells, Milwaukee, Racine/Kenosha, and Chicago should probably be the only stops. Finally, I'll note that increased frequency has a multiplicative, not additive effect on ridership, not only for this route, but other connecting routes, which is a major public good across a host of criteria.
1636	3/25/2021	I support the second Amtrak train between Chicago and at Paul.
1637	3/25/2021	I very much look forward to this project. Being able to travel easily from the Twin Cities to Chicago would be a big benefit for businesses. Rail travel will become more important as we do more to curb air travel due to climate effects.
1638	3/25/2021	If the route can divert from a straight path to include La Crosse, it can certainly do so for Madison, the fastest-growing city in Wisconsin. I'm sure there are reasons for this current route, but it's an extremely odd choice to account for the state capital and the state university system flagship school with a [quote]potential shuttle connecting service[quote] instead of incorporating it directly, possibly for the sake of including smaller cities. Is usage in Portage, the Dells, and Columbus anticipated to be *that* high?
1639	3/25/2021	I support this initiative! Investing in public transportation is an important part of transitioning to a green economy.
1640	3/25/2021	The timing of the current trains are the issue we don't take it. We travel from:to Msp to Mke at least 8 times a (normal) year and this would be a great option. Also a great option for the elderly who prefer not to drive that route.

1641	3/25/2021	This is a fantastic idea! The only change I would include is diverting it to Madison. I would definitely use if this existed.
1642	3/25/2021	I support and would use a second train between the Twin Cities and Chicago. The 2nd time option, in addition to the existing Empire Builder times, would be more convenient, and likely more reliable, improving mobility and quality of life for those that desire or need non-driving options, or access to locations without commercial air service. Further, the potential to create links to an extended Northstar service to St. Cloud as well as additional service to Duluth and Rochester means that benefits will extend to a large part of the state of Minnesota.
1643	3/25/2021	I have taken the Amtrak empire builder from Chicago to Saint Paul a couple of times and find it to be rather unreliable for the cost. The train is often late (can't rely on a pickup time for family at the other end) because of the freight traffic. For the cost and time, it is often easier or just as cost effective to just fly or drive from Minneapolis to Chicago. And it is always faster to drive because I wouldn't stop as many times or for as long as the train does. Therefore, unless the service's reliable and efficiency can be dramatically improved (which would be hard given that it would share the track infrastructure with freight traffic like Empire Builder currently does) this seems like a bunch of money spent on minimum improvement. I travel to Chicago a few times a year, always prefer to fly or drive, train is last resort because it is the slowest and usually on par with air travel costs.
1644	3/25/2021	I am excited about this.
1645	3/25/2021	I have been choosing this train route over the long car drive in recent years. It would be awesome to have more than one choice of departure time. I go to Chicago from Minneapolis to visit family and the mid-afternoon arrival is not always convenient for them.
1646	3/25/2021	Add Madison
1647	3/25/2021	Please incorporate Madison into this route
1648	3/25/2021	Add Madison as a stop on the route
1649	3/25/2021	Madison should get a node.
1650	3/25/2021	Bring the route through Madison
1651	3/25/2021	Bring the route through Madison
1652	3/25/2021	looks great, keep up the good work. i love you very much
1653	3/25/2021	This would be a great benefit to travelers! It would be even better if they could increase the speed higher than 79 mph.
1654	3/25/2021	I've been riding this passenger route for over 60 years. Experienced the 1,2,3 hour delays. Due to "waiting" for freight trains to pass. A second option will help with crowding and more importantly time flexibility and a reliable schedule.
1655	3/25/2021	I am very much in favor of adding more service between the Twin Cities and Chicago. I would love the option of using the Midway Station instead of the downtown St Paul Station. I would also love it if there was a stop in Madison, WI, instead of or in addition to Columbus, WI. Madison is a high traffic destination, especially for college students and other people who might not have cars. Getting from Columbus to Madison and vice versa is very difficult.

1656	3/25/2021	Need a Madison/Sun Prairie Station.
1657	3/25/2021	Why doesn't this go through Madison or at least go near it? Seems like a crucial stop that is being cut out and will affect ridership.
1658	3/25/2021	Nothing specific. Have a son in college who this could affect for career opportunities and entertainment.
1659	3/25/2021	I would love to see this route in place. I have spent many hour driving that could be better spent working while riding on a train.
1660	3/25/2021	Please add a link to Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Many people from this area travel daily to work in the Twin Cities, to shop or to get to the airport. It will be used!!
1661	3/25/2021	I would take a train to Milwaukee and Chicago several times a year if the service we're more convenient timewise and a lot more reliable going east. I support this plan!
1662	3/25/2021	I am in support of more public railway especially if it has a speed option. Maybe one trip with stops one trip with stops only in dells and MN.
1663	3/25/2021	Don't bother. 79 mph and all those stops is simply too slow. Its still an 8 hour trip. A flight from MSP to ORD is an hour and a half, and only is under \$300 round trip. This is only double the price of the comparable Amtrak trip. This route needs to be dedicated high speed rail. The shinkansen goes 200 mph and is already almost 40 years old. This plan was obsolete 30 years before this survey even got onto the internet. Once my car can drive me there in 8 hours on its own via I94 this will be completely pointless. But sure.. if the coach cars are full, why not. Why even get feedback if that is the case.
1664	3/25/2021	As an alumna of UMN whose hometown is near Chicago, I would have used this train so much! I really enjoyed my Amtrak experiences in the past, but found the large departure delays to be a deterrent. Having multiple departure times a day would have made this a better option over buses and flights, no question!
1665	3/25/2021	This is a good idea, but I think you should have the route go through Madison if at all possible.
1666	3/25/2021	I think that this train should be electrified and run at higher speeds ~100mph
1667	3/25/2021	Yes please.
1668	3/25/2021	Please add Madison as a stop.
1669	3/25/2021	This should include a smaller rail line connect Madison up to the primary rail. Transport from Madison to Chicago is sorely lacking. As a Madisonian from Chicago, I would absolutely take advantage of this.
1670	3/25/2021	Please add a stop in Madison, WI to this route!
1671	3/25/2021	I ride this train, and it would be great if there would be more times available.
1672	3/25/2021	What is really needed is a change in your route for a stop in Madison Wisconsin. I think there is a big need for a Madison stop in your route both to and from Milwaukee WI and St Paul MN. Columbus WI is just too far to catch a train.
1673	3/25/2021	This is a great idea!!!
1674	3/25/2021	Please add a route through Madison!! Please don't ignore a major MidWest city when it comes to accesible transportation.
1675	3/25/2021	Add Madison WI stop to route.

		Please include a stop in madison! It doesn't make sense not to. I realize there are stops close to madison, but what this would ideally best be serving, in my opinion, is people who don't own cars, like myself. I live in madison and although there is a stop close to madison I would not be able to get there without a car. If there was a stop in madison that would be a lot easier/more accessible. This would maybe even enable people to ditch the car completely as a lot of young people are considering this to reduce their environmental impact. I choose not to have a car because it is so doable in madison since it is a walkable city designed with people in mind, not cars. This proposed route seems to be more convenient and centered around people with cars - or maybe not, but then it doesn't make sense to exclude one of Wisconsin's largest cities (madison) when it is so close to the route anyways. My family lives in Minneapolis and it is a hassle to get home and I have considered renting cars for hundreds of dollars before, but instead didn't go home to visit family because that was not financially right for me. I really support this initiative but I would love to see madison included. Specifically people in madison who don't have access to cars or the finances to rent a car.
1676	3/25/2021	
1677	3/25/2021	Yes, yes, yes!
		I think the project will be great. My current issue with Amtrak is that there is not enough train runs in order to actually plan a weekend trip without it being wildly inconvenient. Additional service would be great- however, I wonder why not run the line through Madison? There is an existing population in the city that would be very motivated to use a service like this if there were a closer station than Columbus.
1678	3/25/2021	
1679	3/25/2021	Add a Madison, Wisconsin station and this project will be even better!
1680	3/25/2021	Fully support.
		I love the idea of this, and in theory it could be amazing. However, being that the plans are for a conventional speed system, what is really so groundbreaking about this? We should be investing in FUTURE tech, not yesterday's tech. If this plan is to move forward, we need to be thinking beyond the next 10-20 years. We should be thinking high-speed rail and alternative fuel locomotives. This should be a part of a larger, sustainable and renewable energy/transportation push across all three of the mentioned states. I LOVE the idea, but please, please, PLEASE fight for the funding to do this the right way from the start!
1681	3/25/2021	
		I think having rail in place is fantastic and should have happened years ago! I hope eventually the rail will be able to go to Appleton and the fox cities as well, perhaps eventually including Wausau- making it locally accessible for more people. I am very happy to see this being considered as Wisconsin needs additional modes of transportation made readily available.
1682	3/25/2021	
1683	3/25/2021	Please add a station in Madison!
		Please add a central or at least near town stop in Madison. The east town mall area could have some revival by having a train stop without disrupting city traffic much.
1684	3/25/2021	
1685	3/25/2021	I think this would be great for business. I think this should happen. Mass transit is the way of the future

1686	3/25/2021	<p>Overall support the plan. I would encourage the use of more bus connections, I've seen how well that works in California, especially for Amish communities.</p> <p>A little disappointed that the train doesn't go through Eau Claire, I understand that was part of the prior studies.</p>
1687	3/25/2021	<p>Don't have it on the same tracks as freight trains. I love taking the train but the delays because of freight having the right of way messes up the schedule so often that I end up having to be put on a bus which is what I did not want to do. I love being able to walk around and stretch my legs while looking at the scenery out the window. It would be great if the trains went faster then the time it takes to drive to Chicago. also the cost is about the same as or more then it cost to fly would be great if it was lower</p>
1688	3/25/2021	<p>This would make traveling for work easier and less time consuming</p>
1689	3/25/2021	<p>Support additional round trips routes being added to meet demand and as a stepping stone to increase ridership so that long term a high speed service can be put in place. Also replace aging trains to improve passenger experience.</p>
1690	3/25/2021	<p>Please consider adding a second daily trip to this route. It would increase my use of the service immensely.</p>
1691	3/25/2021	<p>It would be great if this was convenient for Madison.</p>
1692	3/25/2021	<p>I love this idea. Intercity Passenger Rail will help communities in both states.</p>
1693	3/25/2021	<p>This seems great! It WI be nice for commuters to go to airports, visit loved ones, and just casually travel in a more safe way than on the roads. With less road traffic potentially, we might also see less wear and tear, accidents, and fatal crashes with wildlife!</p>
1694	3/25/2021	<p>Please consider expanding the service. I would love a second daily route (hopefully planned with better depart/arrive times). I even think a third same day route should be added!! The empire builder is wonderful. This would allow for so many folks to be able to commute between the twin cities and milwaukee (or chicago) regularly. This would be a dream come true.</p>
1695	3/25/2021	<p>I strongly support this proposal! I've taken the train from St. Paul to Milwaukee twice - once alone and once with my toddler son and it was great. It is such a better way to travel with young kids than by car and so relaxing. But, it is so hard to make it work when there is only one train a day.</p>
1696	3/25/2021	<p>I am so excited about this improvement to the current rail service. I heard a talk from a relational planner almost 20 years ago about making this happen and the positive impact that it would have on our region. I really hope that it will happen so that this part of the Midwest will be more connected. I plan to take the train to Chicago and Minneapolis Saint Paul.</p> <p>Having a clearer connection to Madison would be good thing. I understand the difficulty of putting train service to Madison, but that is a major market for travel between the two big cities in the state.</p>

1697	3/25/2021	Madison should absolutely be a stop. Leaving the capitol city out of the rail system is ludicrous. The volume of passengers who would make use of this service from Madison would make up for any additional costs to extend the line.
1698	3/25/2021	I am for this train
1699	3/25/2021	Why in the world would you not have this go through Madison?
1700	3/25/2021	I would love to have more train options between the twin cities and chicago.
1701	3/25/2021	I think this project would be an amazing investment and has been needed. I would absolutely travel by rail if this was to happen.
1702	3/25/2021	Please include Madison in the Saint Paul to Chicago line! This is a university hub and to leave it out seems ridiculous!
1703	3/25/2021	There should be a stop in Madison.
1704	3/25/2021	
1705	3/25/2021	Shouldn't public transportation be designed to connect people? The design needs to go through the Madison area!
1706	3/25/2021	I am 100% in favor of a project like this. It would be invaluable for our region. I believe it would be beneficial to add a station in the Madison area somehow. It would be worth modifying the existing rail route to add Madison as it is such an important hub and while Columbus looks close to Madison, it is extremely difficult for residents of Madison to get to the station and for visitors or university students to get to Columbus.
1707	3/25/2021	This would wonderful!
1708	3/25/2021	More opportunities to ride a train along this route will surely increase ridership and revenue, and reduce cumulative emissions of passenger vehicles. Please add these services. My family and community would certainly benefit.
1709	3/25/2021	The stop should go through Madisoan! It is silly to leave Madison out of such a key transit loop! The city of Madison is environmentally conscious, booming and would be heavy users of such a railway.
1710	3/25/2021	Please build this passenger rail connection along with all of those proposed stations!!! Thank you!!!
1711	3/25/2021	PLEASE make this happen. A rail from twin cities to MKE regularly is needed
1712	3/25/2021	Very excited about improved passenger rail service to Milwaukee and Chicago. Can see taking family trips 2-3 times a year if the experience is favorable.
1713	3/25/2021	Please, please, PLEASE add a stop in Madison. It's crazy to skip over the state capital when there are hundreds of thousands of potential customers here.
1714	3/25/2021	Madison, Wisconsin should absolutely be included on this route. I've lived there for two and a half years and would have definitely used this several times for several locations by now if it was available (barring closures due to covid).
1715	3/25/2021	Happy to see more public transportation options. Love train travel and would do more if more options.

1716	3/25/2021	I believe the rail should have a stop in or closer to Madison, WI or near to the Dane County airport. Many people commute from Milwaukee to Madison and it would be great to have a rail option. I think more people would use this resource if there was a better stop in Madison.
1717	3/25/2021	Would prefer Madison to be included on the route. Perhaps updating for a bullet train would be of more benefit. Improving existing service should come first.
1718	3/25/2021	There needs to be a stop in Madison. It's absolutely shortsighted that it would be skipped altogether. Please make this happen. Many more people live near Madison than Wisconsin Dells.
1719	3/26/2021	Should make service more reliable and usable, might reduce traffic on adjacent highways
1720	3/26/2021	This project would be a huge benefit to better connect the La Crosse area with three major metropolitan areas. I am from La Crescent, but currently live in Chicago (without a car) and the Empire Builder is my only means of getting back to the Coulee Region. The additional route would not only be more convenient for me personally, but would also make it possible for me to travel more often. I consistently meet university students on the train who are traveling between the MSP, La Crosse, Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago areas. They (and other folks living without cars) would be great populations to hear from, as easier access to each of those cities benefits everyone. The US is generally far behind other countries when it comes to rail travel, this proposal would be a benefit to those mentioned above, but could also prove rail is a worthy area of investment.
1721	3/26/2021	This project is an amazing idea! I have cousins who live in Chicago and I am moving there in September. Having personally waited over 6 hours multiple times waiting for the empire builder both in Saint Paul and Red Wing, this project would be incredibly beneficial to people traveling between the two cities. The only thing I think could improve this project would be to have a stop in Madison. I'd never have to drive the 6 hours again!
1722	3/26/2021	I love this so very much! However, I do believe an additional route up to green bay would be equally as beneficial. This impacts sport attendees greatly too and the city of Green Bay would love the extra boost! I worry about the cost of a trip as the rail tickets in the US are crazy expensive. This needs to be addressed otherwise people will continue to drive instead.
1723	3/26/2021	This project is a much needed addition to the public transportation service offering between Chicago, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The public will positively benefit from this increased investment in public transit routes.
1724	3/26/2021	I would be much more likely to take a train to Chicago with multiple departures per day. We traveled by train extensively in Europe and if we could get a reasonable balance of comfort, price, and speed it would be an easy decision to choose the train over driving.

1725	3/26/2021	Increased service on this route is vital. As is a larger effort in conjunction with the City of Madison and downtown stakeholders to change this service route. This line NEEDS to include a station in the city of Madison. It was drastically improve quality of life for large sectors of our community (particularly for lower income families already using your service). In addition to strengthening the economic corridor of twin cities/Madison/Milwaukee/Chicago.
1726	3/26/2021	What a wonderful proposal! I am a Senior on a very fixed income who would LOVE to take train to St Paul! How absolutely perfect. I take the City of New Orleans every year to Mardi Gras (well, not this year... But I will next!) Yes, train!
1727	3/26/2021	I think this is a fantastic idea. I would love to be able to take the train to Chicago. The current problem with the Empire Builder service is that the timetables for when it arrives in St. Paul (both east and westbound) don't really make for a convenient travel experience for me. This additional service would be well received and I would definitely utilize it to get to Chicago as well as Milwaukee. Please move forward with this project and help make it a reality.
1728	3/26/2021	Another option to travel between these two great metropolitan areas would be a great service to the traveling public
1729	3/26/2021	As a senior citizen in Madison, I think Madison should have rail service. Students and the elderly would benefit greatly, as would the general population. I lived for thirty years an hour west of Philadelphia on a train route. I and my family benefited greatly from train service into Philly and New York. It allowed us to appreciate the larger urban experience comfortably. We could also transfer at Philly for other destinations. The east coast corridor is well used and Madison should be on a similar corridor.
1730	3/26/2021	I think the TCMC Intercity Passenger Rail Project is a FANTASTIC idea, and one I've been hoping would happen for years. I am from the Twin Cities area but lived in Milwaukee for 6 years, just recently moving back to Minnesota in February 2021 - this rail would have been a gamechanger for me. With family in Minnesota, I was driving back and forth bi-monthly and would have loved the opportunity to utilize the train more. I did use the Amtrak once, but the schedule was not always conducive to my own and on the way back (Twin Cities to Milwaukee), the train was over 6 hours delayed AND it was a Monday holiday so nothing was open near the station - it soured the experience for me. Personally, making improvements on the rail and having more options for times would truly make a world of difference for my travel plans and I would definitely utilize this over car or air travel.
1731	3/26/2021	Having another daily trip as well as structural improvements would definitely facilitate my travel as well as many others. I would love to see this happen!
1732	3/26/2021	I think connecting Madison would be incredibly important in connecting all these metropolitan areas especially for low income communities that don't have vehicles to get to Columbus. This would provide easier access.
1733	3/26/2021	Madison needs to have a stop!
1734	3/26/2021	I think it sounds like a great idea!

1735	3/26/2021	Do it. Extend up to St. Cloud please. Many would travel, as well as grow the economy.
1736	3/26/2021	Absolutely support this. Would love if it connected through Madison as well.
1737	3/26/2021	Yes! Please add a second daily round-trip option. This would make it more convenient to take the train to Chicago.
1738	3/26/2021	There needs to be a stop in Madison, WI. Access to the multiple colleges in that area would greatly improve access. It would also help those commuting to Milwaukee for work or vice versa.
1739	3/26/2021	I'm very excited for the proposition of this rail. This would increase regional activity in a major, accessible way.
1740	3/26/2021	As a resident of Eau Claire, I have been wanting a rail line to Minneapolis/St. Paul for decades. I would utilize it several times a month to go to shows, sporting events, concerts, or simply just out to dinner. And I know that I am not alone in this sentiment in the Eau Claire area as there is currently a private organization looking at developing this railway option. I HIGHLY recommend the DOT look at an option through Eau Claire. Being closer to the Twin Cities I think people from Eau Claire feel a lot more connected to the Cities than people from LaCrosse do, and would utilize this service substantially more than members of the LaCrosse community. Going through Eau Claire is a gold mine waiting to be tapped.
1741	3/26/2021	How well used is the existing train? It must be very full to warrant an additional route. I think the necessary improvements should be made to implement high speed rail. If it's considerably faster than driving, I would use it monthly round trip Milwaukee to Twin Cities. It's worth the investment!
1742	3/26/2021	How well used is the existing train? It must be very full to warrant an additional route. I think the necessary improvements should be made to implement high speed rail. If it's considerably faster than driving, I would use it monthly round trip Milwaukee to Twin Cities. It's worth the investment!
1743	3/26/2021	This is great, this country, especially the Midwest, has a severe lack of mass transportation. Mass transit also helps with climate change.
1744	3/26/2021	If you're just going to use old, existing, grungy trains, then this project is ridiculous. It's time for more innovation, not seating people on passenger trains from the 20th century. 79mph - this is sad. Use existing rail lines for high speed trains.
1745	3/26/2021	Why not swing through Madison? Potentially 250K more riders.
1746	3/26/2021	Add Madison as a stop! I would love to go home to Madison from Minneapolis more easily.

		I'd like to know why Madison is being bypassed ; otherwise glad to hear it's long ,long ,long past time. I hope to see this succeed ; I'd gladly leave Madison for a town that is actually connected and not becoming a gentrified technocracy. Public transportation in Madison is horrible and impractical for use a six mile trip takes an hour , ridiculous. At 14 I took the public commenter bus in 1987 from Lake Saint Louis, thirty miles outside of Saint Louis , to Granite City , IL and it only took me two and a half hours. Two transfers. When I became a nurse I took the bus reliably to work from 1991 to 2006 twenty one miles one bus , one train in about forty min until I moved from Saint Louis to WI in 2006 and found cars are absolutely necessary unless you want to spend an hour and transfer twice to get six miles ...ridiculous. Get on it WI. Though by the time you've built it I'll have likely moved to a city that actually understands public transportation and puts funding in to maintain it. I have no desire to continue live somewhere that public transportation is so unreliable , nor do my college age children who would like the planet not to be destroyed by the massive carbon footprint created by daily automobile use in places where it should be wholly unneeded. Classism , racism and crappy public transportation all go hand in hand ;it's more than WI started moving towards a solution , kudos to the people who quit talking about it and finally act.
1747	3/26/2021	
1748	3/26/2021	I would use a train from St Paul to Chicago!
1749	3/26/2021	Please add this service! This dependable mass transit service is a great idea, and an alternative to driving an individual vehicle or flying.
1750	3/26/2021	I'll be honest with you. I had no idea this existed. I'll be using it more to go to Wild and Twins games from Madison, WI area.
1751	3/26/2021	Please and then restore Milwaukee, Findlay, Oshkosh, Appleton, and Green Bay
1752	3/26/2021	This should be high speed rail. It's a waste of time otherwise. And it makes no sense to skip by Madison. So much potential here but it must be done right.
1753	3/26/2021	I am in favor of this plan.
1754	3/26/2021	A stop in Madison, WI would be really helpful!
1755	3/26/2021	This project is welcome news and should be a beneficial public good allowing more travel without the need to rely on a car.
		This is a no brainer. Just do it.
1756	3/26/2021	This line should go through Madison. Do that too.

1757	3/26/2021	while expanding the travel ability between twin cities metro and chicago, would greatly improve commerce and travel just adding a frequent route on current line would not see much improvement as most do not think to use standard rail ways as a way of transportation as most are still engine driven and not electric operated rail ways. the better idea for this route would be to have a multistate/private investment plan done to build a high speed electric fueled rail way between the major cities. with adoption of maglev technology in future. as doing this would further bring awareness to public transportation train systems and possible allow each city to upgrade or expand inner city train systems, which would reduce car on road, pollution, faster and more fluid rush hours as well create jobs. by doing a state(government) and private business joint venture would greatly reduce strain on costs as well allow train stations and transfer hubs to become a center for commerce for those business that invest. essentially coping Tokyo. Japans rail set up and station commerce.
1758	3/26/2021	I think this will be great for UW system students. I went to UW Madison and I always wished there was a train service (the Badger bus was my least favorite transport option.) The environment and limiting our carbon footprint is very important to me and my family. Any improvements should more more energy efficient or rely on renewable energy. If this project was successful, my Milwaukee family would definitely start vacationing regularly in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Thanks
1759	3/26/2021	Please add Madison!!
1760	3/26/2021	This would be great for people who physically have difficulty driving long distances. I support it.
1761	3/26/2021	Yes! This would help connect our cities and benefit so many people!
1762	3/26/2021	Please make Madison a stop!
1763	3/26/2021	The second daily round-trip Amtrak train to St. Paul is long overdue. I support it heartily. You must include a new station west of Milwaukee to make an easier access for that region. Elm Grove or Brookfield would be ideal.
1764	3/26/2021	Would like to see Madison WI as a stop.
1765	3/26/2021	Madison stop please!! I would use it to visit family in chicago and friends in Minneapolis
1766	3/26/2021	This is a great route with one exception. It would make a lot of sense to add Rochester, MN to the route. Either a direct route from St. Paul to Rochester and then La Crosse, or Red Wing>Rochester>La Crosse, WI. The Mayo clinic serves many people from the region, country and world and this rail connection would benefit
1767	3/26/2021	I would hope you would have very good, dedicated shuttle service between columbus and madison... as Madison really should be on this route, too. The shuttle should have a dedicated station/depot in madison, not just street drop offs, as Badger bus currently does.
1768	3/26/2021	I'd like to see frequent high speed passenger rail between Chicago and Minneapolis, going through Madison and Milwaukee. This would be transformative for our region.

1769	3/26/2021	A second train would make traveling by train so much more logical. I travel from Madison to the Twin Cities for work-related conferences and visiting family numerous times per year. Rarely now does it make sense to travel via train because the schedule is so awkward (why would I want to get into MSP at 10:03 at night? By the time I take public transportation from the station, it's 11pm before I arrive at my destination). So hands down this is a great idea. However, a stop in Madison should be seriously considered. From the south side of Madison, it is an hour to Portage (westbound) and 50 minutes to Columbus (eastbound). Ridership could be increased by the 550,000 people in Madison and Dane County for day trips from Madison to Milwaukee & Chicago.
1770	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Rochester, MN after Saint Paul. Or possibly Red Wing>Rochester>Lacrosse. Or have some type of rail connection from Rochester to La Crosse. The Mayo clinic and Rochester serve a wide range of people from the region and country and this type of access could be beneficial for everyone.
1771	3/26/2021	What about the folks in Northeast Wisconsin? Nothing reaching Appleton or Green Bay.
1772	3/26/2021	Add rail and service to Madison
1773	3/26/2021	Please do this! Love taking the amtrak from milwaukee to chicago. Can be a large job and source of revenue if done correctly.
1774	3/26/2021	Please do this, but PLEASE also work on making this route HIGH SPEED. La Crosse to St. Paul in 60 minutes!!!
1775	3/26/2021	<p>Thank you for taking the time to consider public input.</p> <p>A second daily train will greatly increase capacity and frequency, making it a more viable option for many travelers.</p> <p>In order for this rail connection to truly thrive, it needs a competitive travel time compared with driving and flying. As soon as the second train is approved, I believe it would be pertinent for project leaders to request a study on corridor improvements needed to increase the maximum speed to 79mph wherever possible, and then to allocate the funds necessary for these improvements.</p> <p>I would also like to suggest bus service to cities near the corridor but without rail stops, like Rochester and Madison. Ideally, customers could book a bus ticket and train ticket simultaneously and seamlessly, such that a customer trying to get from Chicago to Madison need not navigate multiple sites & pages, but can instead simply purchase a ticket for the Chicago-Madison route.</p> <p>Finally, I would suggest the allocation of funds towards advertising the new service to potential customers. They won't take it if they don't know it's available!</p> <p>Thank you for your work towards bringing better rail service to Minnesota and Wisconsin.</p>

1776	3/26/2021	<p>Thank you for taking the time to consider public input.</p> <p>A second daily train will greatly increase capacity and frequency, making it a more viable option for many travelers.</p> <p>In order for this rail connection to truly thrive, it needs a competitive travel time compared with driving and flying. As soon as the second train is approved, I believe it would be pertinent for project leaders to request a study on corridor improvements needed to increase the maximum speed to 79mph wherever possible, and then to allocate the funds necessary for these improvements.</p> <p>I would also like to suggest bus service to cities near the corridor but without rail stops, like Rochester and Madison. Ideally, customers could book a bus ticket and train ticket simultaneously and seamlessly, such that a customer trying to get from Chicago to Madison need not navigate multiple sites & pages, but can instead simply purchase a ticket for the Chicago-Madison route.</p> <p>Finally, I would suggest the allocation of funds towards advertising the new service to potential customers. They won't take it if they don't know it's available!</p> <p>Thank you for your work towards bringing better rail service to Minnesota and Wisconsin.</p>
1777	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison. It would be so convenient for transportation between the other cities.
1778	3/26/2021	Any chance of a stop in Madison? With or without that, I heartily support the project. Anything that makes it easier for the non-driving population to get around is great. Fewer cars on the road, also great.
1779	3/26/2021	This looks nice. Could be very useful. Is there a chance it could ve extended to St Cloud, MN?
1780	3/26/2021	Having a 2nd St Paul - Chicago train will enable me to propose 2-day getaways to friends, with a reasonable expectation that we will have at least 36 hours in MnSt.Paul.
1781	3/26/2021	Please provide this second daily service. People need it and will use it!
1782	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison.
1783	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Madison
1784	3/26/2021	I am all for a second train.
1785	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Madison.

1786	3/26/2021	Businesses need customers. Now, and in decades to come, fewer people want the cost of highway-capable vehicles. With remote-workforce expanding, fitness-mindedness, environmentally friendly attitudes, there will be an increased demand for alternatives. We can be prepared for that future by building efficient transportation infrastructure now. As to the specifics of this route, it is absurd to skip the Madison consumer base both current and potential. Including a station at 1st and Johnson, or another centrally located stop would benefit all the stations and cities connected to this system.
1787	3/26/2021	Rail me
1788	3/26/2021	Please add Madison, WI., a mass-transit promoting city with tens of thousands of university students... talk about a market!
1789	3/26/2021	I am in favor of this additional second daily round trip. I would like to see high speed capability added!
1790	3/26/2021	Yes please make this happen! I live in Minnesota but my family is in southeast Wisconsin and this would make our frequent trips down to my family so much easier!
1791	3/26/2021	Crime is going to increase in all of the cities it stops in. Not a good idea.
1792	3/26/2021	Build it! Run it! If it went through Madison, I'd use it regularly.
1793	3/26/2021	Please, add a stop in Madison it will increase ridership because of the university and the capitol.
1794	3/26/2021	This would be wonderful. I am near Winona, MN and really like the option of taking amtrak to Saint Paul and Chicago today. More speed/on time performance, low costs, and good advertising would go a long way towards better ridership.
1795	3/26/2021	<p>If this makes this route faster, easier, and/or cheaper, I'm all for it. Currently, as long as you plan ahead, it's about \$100 cheaper and an hour faster for two people to fly to Minneapolis from Milwaukee than it is to take the train, and that's with an hour layover all the way in Baltimore.</p> <p>I want this route to succeed so much, I would absolutely love to take this train on a Friday afternoon, spend the weekend in Minneapolis, and return to Milwaukee Sunday night. I would guess there are people in Minneapolis who would do the same sort of weekend warrior tourism if tickets were more economical or the trip were faster.</p> <p>This would be a great boon to both our cities, I'm just not certain simply adding another route will be enough to make that possible.</p>
1796	3/26/2021	This would be HUGE for me, for a lot of people I know, and for the environment. I don't know the logistics and won't pretend to, and I may have more specific feedback once I feel better informed; the only comment I have would be that this train can be relatively slow and I think there's probably ways to make it much faster. But I LOVE this proposal in the general sense and will fight for more transit access like this for everyone.
1797	3/26/2021	Please, please, please do this! It would be such an amazing service.
1798	3/26/2021	Great idea! Please, waste no time on implementing this. If only Madison had direct service . . .

1799	3/26/2021	It's time that the rail include Madison, Wi. So many and students, and going to Columbus makes rail prohibitive. I would take the train more if it were available in Madison.
1800	3/26/2021	
1801	3/26/2021	please stop in madison wi
1802	3/26/2021	Please do it! We are lagging behind other countries when it comes to transportation! Our roads are clogged with cars because we have no other options. This is a wonderful start! We need more of this! Link all the large and mid-sized cities!
1803	3/26/2021	I love this idea!
1804	3/26/2021	A stop in Madison would be invaluable for this rail line.
1805	3/26/2021	I strongly favor this project. Twice-daily service will make rail travel between Saint Paul and Chicago much more attractive as a transit option. The public would be very well served by this additional offering allowing folks more flexibility when traveling across the whole of the corridor. Regarding routes, a spur to Madison would also be very, very attractive.
1806	3/26/2021	While I am fully on board with the expansion of passenger rail, especially high-speed rail, I feel like it is a bit of a missed opportunity not to include Madison in this route, since it goes so close.
1807	3/26/2021	Please include Madison, Wisconsin. This is an essential stop for so many people.
1808	3/26/2021	High speed rail is a must for WI! This would be amazing for employment, tourism, natural resources, and travel.
1809	3/26/2021	Please add Madison to the line, or give us a branch!
1810	3/26/2021	i would like to see it and would consider using it more often. i do wish madison were a stop as it's a fantastic city to spend time
1811	3/26/2021	Please add Madison to this project. There are numerous small towns served by the route currently under consideration but Madison, the second largest city in Wisconsin is not included!
1812	3/26/2021	This would be awesome. Then we can visit Chicago and family on a weekend without taking off a bunch of work
1813	3/26/2021	This is a step in the right direction. I would love to see more public transit options in Wisconsin.
1814	3/26/2021	Two things: 1. Let's future proof this by making upgrades that will allow a third, fourth, and fifth train. 2. Trains should run to target field station in Minneapolis on the Minnesota side to increase access.
1815	3/26/2021	
1816	3/26/2021	This is so exciting! I strongly believe that increased passenger rail in WI/MN will be of great economic benefit and positively affect daily life in our states. Please consider a Madison stop if possible, for commuter and tourist travel throughout the region
1817	3/26/2021	Why is Madison not included along this route? How wonderful to have all the major cities in MN, WI and IL it could be!
1818	3/26/2021	Great idea! It will have economic benefit. Make sure the air filtration and passenger proximities reduce airborne viral exposure. If there's any way to create a connecting spur to Madison, it would be much appreciated.

1819	3/26/2021	<p>Taking the train instead of flying from Minneapolis to Chicago would be a much greener option if it was more viable. The departure times of mid-day make a lot more sense than really early mornings. I would hope for improvements to the speed so it's even more viable as a competing option to flying.</p> <p>One feature that would definitely make this option more desirable is good free wifi. If travelers can work remotely, it lessens the impact of taking a slower option than flying as well.</p>
1820	3/26/2021	I would use this route regularly, both for business and for recreation. We need alternative methods of getting to and from Chicago and Milwaukee besides driving or flying.
1821	3/26/2021	Add Madison Wisconsin
1822	3/26/2021	I love the train. I wish I could ride it more often, but it needs to be more reliable. I have never yet been on time when I've tried riding this route. Sometimes those times have been off by many hours! It is better than nothing if the full ride takes the same amount of time as if driving the highways. However, it would be much better if it were faster to take the train than car.
1823	3/26/2021	This would be amazing. It would open up quick and easy trips to any of the spots on the route. The increased options for employment and tourism would be great for all of the cities involved.
1824	3/26/2021	I would like to see more regional train options. I travel to Milwaukee 5-6 times per year to visit family; it's not far enough to justify flying, and I hate getting stuck in traffic. Having multiple time options to take make the trip on Amtrak would greatly increase the number of trips I take via Amtrak
1825	3/26/2021	I am very excited for this project as I highly dislike driving but like traveling to several of the locations along this route.
1826	3/26/2021	This route should include Madison where there is a large population of people like myself who do a lot of traveling and are very interested in passenger rail. Excluding Madison will result in lower passenger rail usage and lower rail revenues.
1827	3/26/2021	YES YES YES, please have this as an option, it would bring prices down and a reliable and more convenient option for families. at this time return trip to MN is in late PM hours and traveling with little kid's is not convenient.
1828	3/26/2021	I am a Milwaukee resident and downs hundreds on gas to visit family each month. This would alliviatete so much stress to my family, provide jobs, create safe and environmental travel, and allow me to use the extra money to fund the local economy rather than just gas corporation
1829	3/26/2021	Please don't bypass the second largest city in Wisconsin on this project.
1830	3/26/2021	The route should include Madison Wi
1831	3/26/2021	I very much approve of this project and hope that this will eventually lead to the creation of a high speed corridor in the region.
1832	3/26/2021	I believe this is a long-overdue option for folks that are looking for a most cost-effective connection between these cities, other than flying. It would be better if it went into Minneapolis instead of just to St. Paul, but either way this is something I look forward to using some day!

1833	3/26/2021	This is a waste of money if it does not go through madison. Why wouldn't it go to Madison? The second largest city in the state. I love public transportation but if I can't take the train from MKE to Madison what is the point?! Also forget la crosse and go through Eau Claire. Being an Eau Claire, grad half of my class was from the twin cities. Make transportation easier for those who would use it I.E. college students. I guarantee more people from EC want to travel to the twin cities and Vice versa. I wouldn't take this. I have zero need to.
1834	3/26/2021	Do it! Make it high speed!!
1835	3/26/2021	This project would greatly improve my quality of life and professional development. I live and work in Minnesota for a company headquartered in Chicago, and I have personal connections in Milwaukee. Currently it is very difficult for me to travel between all of those locations, so this project would be a great start to expanding our regional travel opportunities. Having lived on the East Coast for the last four years, I've experienced the ease with which people can move throughout the region - even across state lines. It would be wonderful to begin building similar infrastructure in our area as well.
1836	3/26/2021	Wildly in favor of this. One of the safest and civilized ways to travel and my family would make use of this all the time!
1837	3/26/2021	Improved route must go through Madison WI
1838	3/26/2021	
1839	3/26/2021	Please add Madison as a stop on the route between Milwaukee and Minnesota. If the train went through our community, the residents of Madison would use this service in such a way that there would be irreplaceable economic impact and support of the rail system.
1840	3/26/2021	Yes, please! We would love this and utilize it frequently!! We were very disappointed that Former Governor Walker destroyed this plan years ago.
1841	3/26/2021	Add connection to Madison
1842	3/26/2021	I think expanding Empire Builder service is a great idea! I particularly support having multiple stops in Milwaukee, expanding its service to the airport station. Overall, I think having more connections via train is a great idea for the future of our state, I hope WisDOT continues to invest in public transportation options instead of highways- this is the way of the future and a great way to become more sustainable and connected. The benefits of this are great socially, economically, and environmentally.
1843	3/26/2021	We need multiple trains a day for people to use them. Don't compare to a single train a day, it doesn't make sense. How can people have a day trip or go to a meeting with only one train daily? Even two is not enough, but it's much better, three gets closer though. We also need to work to match the price of driving intercity. If it doesn't have a chance to compete, it won't have a chance. Give it a chance. Also having a station actually in Madison would be a huge help.
1844	3/26/2021	This would be amazing! I would love to have extended rail service as I live in Winona and this would be a great asset for my family!
1845	3/26/2021	This is a great idea!
1846	3/26/2021	I'm in support of this!

1847	3/26/2021	Excellent idea! I wish a station at the Madison airport were considered, but I understand this is a more direct route.
1848	3/26/2021	No I am against.
1849	3/26/2021	Please make this happen, we need it.
1850	3/26/2021	Would absolutely take a train from Chicago to MSP if it was quicker and had more time options. Perhaps the second train could be more directly between Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and the Cities with less stops along the way
1851	3/26/2021	Rochester > Red wing Should stop in Madison if possible Should stop in Evanston IL if possible
1852	3/26/2021	<p>I feel there should be actually two more daily services for that route - not just one.</p> <p>First one should be a day service (chair cars only - Acela style) , and will be very useful for intermediate points such as Wisconsin Dell, leaving Chicago union station around 8 am and hopefully reaching Minneapolis by 7 pm. The reverse route should be day service as well.</p> <p>The biggie is that smaller towns in between will have a daytime train (as district from Empire builder passing by these station in “dark hours”) .</p> <p>The hotel customers in Wisconsin Dell would love it as their check in and check out time would be close to when their arrive (either from Chicago side, or coming from Minneapolis).</p> <p>The second one should be an all sleeper service leaving Chicago around 9 pm and reaching Minneapolis in the morning. It will be useful for businessmen who do not want to lose business hours while traveling and use the train as their “hotel on wheels”. Naturally this should have limited stops - May be Only bigger places like Milwaukee.</p> <p>Would be nice if the day train could be rerouted through Madison somehow.</p> <p>SM</p>
1853	3/26/2021	Yes let’s make this happen! Thank you for all of the planning that has gone into this so far!!
1854	3/26/2021	I am strongly in favor of the improvements. We need passenger rail between our major cities in this country and this is a good start. I am tired of busing or driving to Chicago from Minneapolis. I am in my mid 20s and me and all my friends would visit chicago and milwaukee more frequently if it were a pleasant train ride away
1855	3/26/2021	Please connect Madison as well.

1856	3/26/2021	<p>I am very much in favor of adding a 2nd train. It's a useful route for many reasons. For one, it links to some great bike routes. It's great to be able to bike to a station, take my bike hundreds of miles from home, and bike back. It would be great if you could make that easier by adding bike storage or any way that would keep me from having to box my bike for the journey.</p> <p>Longer-term, I'd like to see us continue to improve the route until it can support high-speed rail.</p> <p>Lastly, changing the route to pass through Madison would be outstanding. Thank you.</p>
1857	3/26/2021	<p>Madison is our state capitol and needs to be included in this railway. Tens of thousands of people who live in Madison would bring tourism money into both Milwaukee and the Twin Cities if this rail were available to us.</p>
1858	3/26/2021	<p>There should be a stop in Madison, WI.</p>
1859	3/26/2021	
1860	3/26/2021	<p>Run the route through Rochester, MN for access to the Mayo Clinic and through Northfield, MN for access to St. Olaf College and Carlton College. There isn't much along the west side of the Mississippi River to justify the route following there.</p>
1861	3/26/2021	<p>Please add a second intercity passenger rail trip between the Twin Cities and Chicago! It will dramatically improve service and provide an important, climate-friendlier alternative to flying.</p>
1862	3/26/2021	<p>I'm in support of this plan! I've taken Amtrak across the country and would like more local options. In addition, I am trying to reduce my environmental impact by using planes less often and this will help greatly.</p>
1863	3/26/2021	<p>Please do this. We need good connections between cities in the Midwest.</p>
1864	3/26/2021	<p>This will be a great addition to our regional transportation system.</p>
1865	3/26/2021	<p>This would be lovely. Sustainability is important as we move into the future, and having more rapid transit option is always valuable for the community.</p>
1866	3/26/2021	<p>An expanded more efficient rail service in the mid-west would be a welcomed addition to the area. A link from Rockford, Beloit, and Janesville should also be considered, especially if the casinos come to Rockford and/or Beloit. Something else to look at would be Elon Musk's Hyperloop project, or possibly a Bullet train. Chicago to St. Paul in three hours or less. It would be a great tourist attraction to the area.</p>
1867	3/26/2021	<p>I would like to see Eau Claire included on the route. Lots of people commute between Twin Cities & Eau Claire, WI for work/school.</p>
1868	3/26/2021	<p>The time for a decent and reliable public rail system is long past. Bring Wisconsin into the present day by giving a dependable alternative to cross state travels. Our state only has to gain by letting the two larger states transverse through.</p>
1869	3/26/2021	<p>I think having more rail options between Minneapolis and Chicago is a fantastic idea.</p>
1870	3/26/2021	<p>Needs to be much faster. Needs to be under 3 hours from Minneapolis to Chicago to compete with planes.</p>
1871	3/26/2021	<p>This would be tremendous for state economies and would lend tons of public benefits in addition to creating both temporary and permanent jobs.</p>

1872	3/26/2021	If there is any availability to take a car with, even from main stops like Saint Paul and Milwaukee and Chicago I fee ridership would increase. Especially with electric vehicle sales increasing and having to stop to charge with electric cars. This would allow individuals to have the Connie I eve of their own car and save time with ouch waiting to charge as often.
1873	3/26/2021	I'd simply like to voice my support for this project.
1874	3/26/2021	This is an excellent idea; it would change people's lives significantly.
1875	3/26/2021	Please consider making a stop in Madison.
1876	3/26/2021	My mother in law lives in Winona and this would be a great way for her to reach her family (us) in the twin cities and vice versa, especially as she gets older! It is important that it runs more regularly so that scheduling is easier for our family.
1877	3/26/2021	I support this!
1878	3/26/2021	Hooray! This is wonderful. Can't wait to take the train from Minneapolis to Chicago to see my family.
1879	3/26/2021	I would love more options in getting to Chicago. I love the idea of the train, but need more times
1880	3/26/2021	Madison needs a stop
1881	3/26/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison.
1882	3/26/2021	Hi: Please incorporate a Madison, Wisconsin station in your plans.
1883	3/26/2021	I support investment for passenger rail. We need this infrastructure to help our economy and environment thrive. We also need light rail from the twin cities to Duluth!
1884	3/26/2021	Wisconsin Dells is midway between Chicago and Twin Cities. If properly scheduled, one set of trains could carry Dells visitors between these two endpoints and the Dells: westbound would drop off visitors arriving from Chicago, and pick up visitors returning to Twin Cities. Vice versa for eastbound. I believe Amtrak could get significant family traffic to the Dells, if only its service (especially eastbound) was reliable in scheduling.
1885	3/26/2021	I would prefer a high-speed train but do like the idea of another trip being offered as sometimes the train was impractical because it only left once. Ideally I would like to see 3-4 trips a day to allow for more commuting like on the east coast.
1886	3/26/2021	I live in the Twin Cities and I visit Milwaukee 3-4 times per year to see family there. Our family has made 3 trips using Amtrak with mixed results. The first experience was great, not problems. In the second trip, we experienced major delays in departure times and travel times both ways. In the third trip, we learned that the train from Seattle had been cancelled due to track problems and that chartered busses would be used instead of train. These experiences have caused us to feel that train travel is the least reliable form of transit other than hot air balloon. We have not made a train trip in the last 10 years. If reliability could be demonstrably improved (e.g. arrival/departures occur with reasonable reliability, and travel time similar to car travel) we would consider trying train again.

1887	3/26/2021	Madison really needs to be a stop on this route - it is the second largest city in the state AND the capital. This route would be much more useful to many more people if Madison was included.
1888	3/26/2021	Would love to have an efficient rail route being an alternative way to travel to Chicago, vs having to fly or drive.
1889	3/26/2021	Please install a high speed rail. They are fantastic in Europe, you can go from Amsterdam to Paris in 2 hours for €30. I would use this to MN & Chicago 4+ times a year if improved.
1890	3/26/2021	Yes please!!!
1891	3/26/2021	I would be in favor for this quick route to and from St. Paul to Chicago. It will be imperative for the trains to remain on time with ample stations across the railway.
1892	3/26/2021	I'm so excited about the possibility of taking trains to the Twin Cities and Chicago! However I think Madison should have a stop and/or have a connecting line or at least frequent bus service to the closest stop. I live in Madison and frequently drive to the Twin Cities and Chicago. Since I share a car with my fiance, it would be fantastic if I could take a train instead to leave him the car for the weekends I'm gone.
1893	3/26/2021	Please add the second daily train, it will help greatly with mobility in the region at low cost to people and the environment
1894	3/26/2021	The increased frequency of trips would not only benefit businessmen but would also benefit those traveling recreationally. Those who dislike driving will have more options to travel and visit family and friends while making the most of transportation times otherwise wasted driving. Not to mention save on gas prices and additional carbon emissions.
1895	3/26/2021	I support improving the rail connection, but would really like to see Madison, WI included in the line. An easy train connection to Milwaukee (especially the Milwaukee airport) and Minneapolis from Madison would be fantastic.
1896	3/26/2021	This would be awesome and our family and extended family would use it maybe a dozen trips a year? The existing Amtrak route is more expensive than flying to Chicago and takes longer than driving... even when there aren't any east bound delays - AND THERE ARE ALWAYS EAST BOUND DELAYS.
1897	3/26/2021	I strongly support this rail project. I seek to visit family and friends and other cities without adding to traffic, road degradation, and climate change. I seek opportunities for myself or my elderly family members to travel alone while reading or relaxing. I seek a reliable schedule that would allow me to catch a connecting train in Chicago without worry of needing to stay overnight due to missed connection. Rail travel is the future, so we should invest now in improving accessibility for all.
1898	3/26/2021	Yes please this would be amazing!!
1899	3/26/2021	Love that this is happening! Why doesnt this go through Madison?

1900	3/26/2021	This project would make it easier for me to visit my family in Minneapolis without using a car. I am strongly in support of the project. Please include carry-on bicycle service, which makes it much more feasible to bring along a bike and get from the train station to one's final destination.
1901	3/26/2021	This is a waste of taxpayer dollars for a very niche clientele.
1902	3/26/2021	Would love this if its fairly quick and affordable. Something similar to Japan's railway system
1903	3/26/2021	I am excited to hear about increasing passenger rail in Wisconsin. I would love to be able to take it to Milwaukee and Chicago, as well as other destinations. However I continue to be baffled why Madison is bypassed. Shouldn't a major city be included in a rail plan? At the very least please include some sort of shuttle service from Madison to Portage and/or Columbus. This may be a reasonable option for those taking a longer trip, such as to Minneapolis. But would be pretty useless for those wanting to travel to Milwaukee, as you would be halfway there driving to Milwaukee by the time you arrive at Columbus. I have travelled to Europe a number of times and wonder why we can't have a better system like theirs.
1904	3/26/2021	In order for this to be especially useful, there needs to be a rail stop in Madison. It is absurd that a route which comes so close to the second largest metropolitan area (by population) in Wisconsin, but doesn't quite make it. Monona terrace is basically already a station -- please please please make this happen for us Madisonians. Even a small basic alternative route every now and then would be welcome I'm sure.
1905	3/26/2021	This is a great idea! I take Amtrak on the east coast and it's way easier than driving or flying - would be great to have more options for this when I travel to Chicago. However, I think there should be a faster express route to cut down on the 8 hour time.
1906	3/26/2021	Yes PLEASE BRING US THIS RAIL ASAP! Please have it stop in Madison!!!
1907	3/26/2021	Please include Eau Claire on a route like this. It is a huge population hub with little public transportation other than sporadic buses. This route seems more for travelers to and from Minnesota rather than truly serving Wisconsin communities.
1908	3/26/2021	Add stops in Madison, WI and Rochester, MN.
1909	3/26/2021	I strongly support this project! It would benefit the hubs but also the pass-through communities and reduce carbon output.
1910	3/26/2021	This would be amazing! I have lived in Chicago for 7 years and have no car. I love going to the Twin Cities but the bus is not a comfortable option and renting a car is not great.
1911	3/26/2021	Yes PLEASE this is a brilliant, public focused moneymaker. I would use it at least 5 time a year
1912	3/26/2021	Please consider providing passenger rail from Minneapolis to Chicago.
1913	3/26/2021	I encourage WISDOT to seriously consider this plan, especially with a route going through Eau Claire. It would be a much more efficient way to travel between Madison and Eau Claire and I could visit my mom more often :)

1914	3/26/2021	I strongly support a Madison stop between St. Paul and Chicago.
1915	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison! I think it would be a missed opportunity otherwise.
1916	3/26/2021	I fully support this project. It would bring commerce to the state, as well as jobs during the construction. It would allow for very convenient travel between a number of metro areas that currently require a long drive.
1917	3/26/2021	This is a great idea! I would love to have additional service on this route. I take the Empire Builder a few times a year and I would do it more often if the times were better. Usually leaving wherever I am is easier in the morning and right now the west bound departures are all in the afternoon or evening.
1918	3/26/2021	Madison stop please!
1919	3/26/2021	Please add madison to the route
1920	3/26/2021	This is a good idea to get something done over established (old) infrastructure at a reasonable cost. It isn't fabulous and won't impact car or air travel, but it might be useful to set the stage for a more improved initiative later. Given those limitations, in order for this to be anything useful it'll need to maintain schedule and BE ON TIME. Without that, the line is utterly pointless.
1921	3/26/2021	I live in the Chicago suburbs. I have never been to Minnesota and have only visited Milwaukee once. Having a second rail service connecting Chicago to Milwaukee and the Twin Cities would make it easier for me to travel to either region and back in a timely fashion. More broadly speaking, the TCMC route and its various stops would increase interstate travel access to residents who do not own a car or who live in rural areas. This would lower economic barriers to travel that would allow people to spend time with loved ones, explore new places, and stimulate the economies of Midwestern cities and towns. As our global climate emergency continues to worsen, having a second train route as proposed in the TCMC Project would reduce pollution by residents choosing to ride the train rather than drive their cars. From an economic, societal, and environmental perspective, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois residents want and need the TCMC Intercity Passenger Rail Project.
1922	3/26/2021	While I would love to have train service closer to Madison (even Sun Prairie would be great), I use the Amtrak station in Columbus to travel. Just this month I started a trip in Columbus with my girlfriend and our two bikes and ended up in New Orleans. I've done this multiple times. Last year we took Amtrak to Austin, TX and Tucson, AZ. The biggest inconvenience right now is that taking Amtrak from Columbus to St. Paul is in the evening with a scheduled arrival at 10pm. That is a difficult time to show up, especially if you travel with bikes as I do normally. So I'm here to first advocate strongly for increasing the schedule frequency. Smaller headways would be really great. Eventually though, I think there is unrecognized demand for train ridership from Chicago to Milwaukee, to Madison, to Minneapolis/St. Paul. Roughly 15 million people live in those MSAs.
1923	3/26/2021	Yes please, I would consider doing at least one trip from the Twin Cities through Wisconsin to Chicago if this project was completed.
1924	3/26/2021	It is completely ridiculous that Madison is not connected

1925	3/26/2021	I support! This addition would make it easier to visit family at a reasonable hour. I also generally support the expansion of public transit
1926	3/26/2021	LOVE this plan, but can you please consider adding a stop in Madison? Thanks!
1927	3/26/2021	With the airport in Madison we need this!
1928	3/26/2021	High speed. Not average speed. Need to make train use a superior experience. Also cost is ridiculous.
1929	3/26/2021	Please bring the rail through Madison. Many people who live here don't have a car and thus will not be able to access the rail if it doesn't come through the City. You will get much more business going through Madison because people like to visit Madison and people from Madison travel to the twin cities, Milwaukee and Chicago all the time. We want and need to have better transit options here.
1930	3/26/2021	Having another train has the potential to be more reliable than the eastbound Empire Builder because it won't be traveling on the tracks for days where it could get delayed. It would also grant welcome flexibility in trip planning by rail between the Twin Cities, and Chicago. It would be super fantastic would be if there were a car to accommodate remote work, since there will likely be some new normal with people working outside an office post-pandemic. You could spend your work day on the train, then be dropped off in a downtown for some good times!
1931	3/26/2021	Highly support this effort
1932	3/26/2021	Please make this happen. My wife and I planned on traveling by train from St. Paul to Chicago a couple of years back, only to find that our morning train was cancelled. It then became more expedient for us to drive to Kenosha and take the Metra the rest of the way down. Improving the infrastructure and having more departure times would have prevented a lot of trouble... and made it more likely that we'd use Amtrak again. We haven't bothered to use it since that event, despite having used Amtrak frequently to travel between Portland and Seattle when we lived in the Pacific Northwest. It's embarrassing that a train through cow country is less reliable than the one that has to deal with landslides and boulders.
1933	3/26/2021	Why wouldn't you include Madison? It would be most economically beneficial to have a train that connect Milwaukee, Madison, and Minneapolis
1934	3/26/2021	A very important improvement and will get lots of support from real people if you can keep the political downer out of the decision! Do it for the people!

1935	3/26/2021	Not having the train go through Madison makes it inaccessible to people who don't have cars, and those are the kind of people who need to take the train. This is primarily lower income urbanites, which makes it a class disparity. Trains go through cities all over the world for a reason. Significantly less people will use the rail if it does not come through Madison.
1936	3/26/2021	Please! We need a station in MADISON, WI!!!
1937	3/26/2021	If this railroad happens I will nut
1938	3/26/2021	This project is extremely important to the cultural development of the Midwest and our transition to a more efficient energy future.
1939	3/26/2021	I've think it would be very beneficial to have another rail, upgraded rail and /or speed rail going through this route. Not only for workers but for families wanting to relax and travel to the bigger cities on the weekends!!
1940	3/26/2021	This would be great. Needs a stop in Waukesha, WI or Oconomowoc, WI.
1941	3/26/2021	Please consider adding a stop in Madison
1942	3/26/2021	Looks good, but MUST INCLUDE Madison shuttle. Rochester and Eau Claire shuttles also very important. Ideally all three should be setup and ready with this project. I think there should also be discussion about a Fond Du Lac / Green Bay shuttle included as well, as this is a major valley & also has Packer / Door County vacation traffic.
1943	3/26/2021	I am in favor of this project.
1944	3/26/2021	Please include Madison in the route
1945	3/26/2021	I think this is a fantastic idea!
1946	3/26/2021	There is a need to include Madison on the route. Madison-Milwaukee is a major commuter route right now, and it would make sense to enable that route via rail.
1947	3/26/2021	More rail service: yes, absolutely, immediately, yesterday! More mass transit is one big, obvious way forward for mitigating climate disaster. Also, I hate driving, flying sucks, trains are great.
1948	3/26/2021	This should be high speed and affordably priced, like the European trains.. to be exemplary for the nation! Please ignore the ignoramus comments about 'branging criminals to MN from Chi-Raq'... Utter hogwash. Plenty of nice folks in Chicago.
1949	3/26/2021	This is very good it should be high speed
1950	3/26/2021	Please route this through Madison! The connection to the University and the Medical Center would be a tremendous asset!
1951	3/26/2021	I am in full support of the second train. It'll make travel to WI easier.
1952	3/26/2021	I feel that a terrible disservice will be done to our state and transportation availability if Madison, the capitol, is not made a stop on this train line.
1953	3/26/2021	I would love to have additional options to travel this corridor. This would serve as a valuable and ecologically sound alternative to driving a car or taking an airplane.
1954	3/26/2021	I understand that the route is using the Amtrak rail currently in place but I would personally use this if there was a stop in Madison. Portage and Columbus are not far from Madison, but having the line stop in Madison would draw more passengers/users.

1955	3/26/2021	Please consider including a stop in Madison. It would be a huge mistake to not do so.
1956	3/26/2021	I'm fully in support of this project. As an aging, disabled rider, I would love to have an easier way to get to Chicago and the Twin Cities. I live in Madison. I'd really like it if there was a stop in Madison.
1957	3/26/2021	A route should be added to connect to Madison, WI. There's a large need for a viable public transportation option between Madison and Milwaukee, and to both the Twin Cities and Chicago, especially with the large enrollment at UW-Madison. By not adding a route to Milwaukee this misses a major hub and source of large ridership.
1958	3/26/2021	If this route was more frequent (as proposed) and less costly than it is presently, I would be highly incentivized to use it frequently.
1959	3/26/2021	This can't come soon enough!
1960	3/26/2021	Please put a stop in Madison, WI. Don't understand any good reason why it should be bypassed, and there are so many reasons to have Madison on this path. It would invite so many more riders.
1961	3/26/2021	I was wondering if there was any way Madison could be added to this? I think rail between Minneapolis x Madison x Milwaukee would be very helpful!
1962	3/26/2021	A Madison stop would be really beneficial and help alleviate congestion on the interstate.
1963	3/26/2021	Please add a station on the NE side of Madison, with links to Columbus and Portage. This would provide both a commuter route to/from Milwaukee and another route to/from Minneapolis. The latter would be especially useful to Madisonians who attend the Univ of Minnesota. This would also allow service to/from Madison/Chicago via Milwaukee.
1964	3/26/2021	I love to see rail capacity between the twin cities and Chicago being improved, however Madison needs to be included in this route. It does not make sense to expand rail without including Wisconsin's second largest metro area, political capitol and flagship university into the transportation corridor between the twin cities and Chicago. If there is any hope of creating a highspeed rail network an amtrak into madison is needed as well.
1965	3/26/2021	Eau Claire and Madison shuttle need to be better represented on the maps
1966	3/26/2021	Two trips per day would greatly increase ridership from Winona. Station improvements are also definately needed.
1967	3/26/2021	If we are going to look at adding service we should take the time to at least consider adding this service to Madison, having easy access to rail service to Milwaukee and Chicago from Madison is something that is currently lacking and would be a great improvement for students and madison locals.
1968	3/26/2021	This is exciting project that will definitely make me more likely to travel on Amtrak. I currently averaged 2-4 yearly rides between St. Paul and Chicago before COVID hit. I miss the train and hope to ride again soon. The new departure options and improved reliability are sorely needed. I would hope that this new service is implemented as soon as possible. Infrastructure improvements tend to languish in America, please prioritize this straightforward, low-cost improvement in rail travel.

1969	3/26/2021	I love this idea. I've had to make some trips to Chicago for bureaucratic stuff from Minneapolis recently and had such a hard time staying awake for the drive. The train being once a day has also been a struggle for other trips and often necessitates staying another night out of town or leaving a day earlier than necessary which means missing more work. I'm also very in support of upgrades being made to the midway station. Union Station is beautiful but it's a bit of a pain to get to in a car and it'd be nice to have the option.
1970	3/26/2021	Please add madison, wi to the plans
1971	3/26/2021	We shouldn't waste money on an intercity network that avoids the state capitol. Add Madison to the route. We shouldn't spend money on continuing to deny true intercity transport for major metropolitan areas.
1972	3/26/2021	Yes! Love it! My wife and I live in the Twin Cities. My parents live in the Chicago area and recently retired. They're on a fixed-income and often can't afford flights. My mom has a vision disease amd no longer drives. This would PERFECT, since I still can't convince them to move to colder weather. Also, as an urban high school teacher who has taught in both Chicago and Minneapolis, I can say this transportation pipeline is crucial for higher education. This rail line would help close a little bit of that 'opportunity gap' for midwestern kids from Milwaukee, Chicago, Madison, Minneapolis, St. Paul, and others. This is a great opportunity for ACTUAL change.
1973	3/26/2021	I think this is a great idea. I was very disappointed when Scott Walker cancelled the high speed version of this idea. Will this be high speed? It does not appear so. But it is still worth doing. This is a long overdue improvement to our transportation infrastructure. It would stimulate economic activity as well.
1974	3/26/2021	Bro this sound POGGERS
1975	3/26/2021	I LOVE this idea
1976	3/26/2021	I am a strong proponent of increased rail service in Wisconsin, and I support the plan to add an additional daily train between Chicago and the Twin Cities. A connecting twice-a-day shuttle bus connecting Columbus to Madison would noticeably increase ridership since Madison is starving for a rail connection. This project will increase the growth of business and revenue across the state and should be implemented as quickly as possible.
1977	3/26/2021	The service should visit Madison in lieu of portage or Columbus.
1978	3/26/2021	Absolutely yes, do this. Keep in mind the freight rail companies will need to be held accountable each time they gum up the works, though, as pretty much every time I've ridden this route they have held up traffic and caused delays for the passenger trains. A second RT service between MSP and Chicago also addresses the higher volume of traffic in this leg of the Empire Builder and would serve more people safely.
1979	3/26/2021	Add route/station in Madison. To get access to amtrak without a car from Madison currently is impossible. I would use it much more with access.
1980	3/26/2021	You need to include Madison in that route.
1981	3/26/2021	This is an amazing thing to do and I think it will be beneficial to people wanting to go to chicago either the traffic issues!
1982	3/26/2021	Yes, but needs a spur to Madison.

1983	3/26/2021	Please include a regular stop in Madison at the Airport. This could help with tourism, conventions, etc. After all, Madison is the state capital. Easy to run shuttle buses from the airport to downtown as needed. There is no way for Madisonites to utilize the nearest stop in Columbus without a vehicle. Transport of bicycles on the train from Madison could boost tourism!
1984	3/26/2021	Would prefer route that hits Eau Claire
1985	3/26/2021	This needs to be done
1986	3/26/2021	Please consider adding Madison to the route - capitol of the State, great rail access in place to airport for transportation hub of rail, bus, and air to keep Wisconsin connected and moving in all weather conditions. Green way to travel. Please bring back rail to Madison!
1987	3/26/2021	We need rail service to Madison. This should have happened ten years ago. Now is the time.
1988	3/26/2021	About time. Do it already!
1989	3/26/2021	Yes! More Amtrak options through the Twin Cities, please! I like to travel to Chicago and this would really improve my options.
1990	3/26/2021	I believe it would be beneficial to revise the route to include Madison. It is not easy for every Chicago or Minneapolis traveler from Madison to get to Columbus to board the train.
1991	3/26/2021	Please do this. We need to build up our train schedules here and throughout the country.
1992	3/26/2021	Include Madison in this project
1993	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison
1994	3/26/2021	Having a second train choice to go to the twin cities is highly desirable. The emoure builder schedule is not as convenient to the proposed second train.
1995	3/26/2021	This would be a huge benefit to us! I have family in Chicago and we would love to use this! I am all for anything we can do to improve or expand Amtrak.
1996	3/26/2021	This project must include a station stop in Madison, WI. The point of passenger rail is to serve the most passengers, and this omission is counter to the point of the project. Commuters from the 4 major cities on the route are NOT served when one of the two state capitols included is skipped for no good reason.
1997	3/26/2021	I am very excited about this idea.
1998	3/26/2021	If there was a was a train that left during the day for Chicago and was cheaper and quicker than what would be for me to drive, I would use it. I would hope that an eventual extension to Fargo, ND be in the works as well.
1999	3/26/2021	Please add Madison Wisconsin to the route
2000	3/26/2021	Please add Madison Wisconsin to the route
2001	3/26/2021	I think it would make commutes in a multi state area far more affordable and efficient. Many people commute between the two for both business and pleasure.
2002	3/26/2021	I'm so very much in favor of this project. I've traveled on the Empire Builder so many times.
2003	3/26/2021	I think the rail way would be a great idea for Kenosha, the twin cities, and everything in between. Please build it!
2004	3/26/2021	I'm in definite support of this! The Midwest would greatly benefit!

2005	3/26/2021	This is fantastic! But please include Madison as a stop, as the capital I don't see how it can be left out. Also, a stop in the Milwaukee suburbs, maybe Oconomowoc or Goerkes Corners, is much needed! Thank you.
2006	3/26/2021	I know a bunch of people that would use this
2007	3/26/2021	I have family in Chicago, Madison, LaCrosse and Minneapolis - Amtrack Service connecting these Cities would be a great service to so many Midwest Families. Connecting people in many ways . I remember being able to take the train from Madison to Chicago for business, education and enjoyment and know what an economic boost that can be for the area! Please move forward with with increased and better Midwest Rail Service.
2008	3/26/2021	<p>Sometimes I wonder why we don't have 6+ trains a day between Chicago and Minneapolis. I feel this is a classic case of if you build it they will come. 94 is always jammed to some capacity regardless of the time of year you're traveling through Wisconsin. This is a much more equitable solution to transportation than expanding road lane miles. This connects rural communities in a way that roads simply cannot. The success of this project will give momentum to future rail projects in the region. The positives are endless.</p> <p>The Midwest used to be booming with passenger rail - and people loved it! It is a misconception to say that the Midwest is too spread out for rail travel. It's time for us to get up to speed with every other wealthy country and invest in our rail infrastructure. It's absurd to me that if I want to travel to a rural community I have to spend \$10000 a year to maintain a vehicle.</p>
2009	3/26/2021	
2010	3/26/2021	Wonderful idea! Please add Madison to the route!
2011	3/26/2021	Have a station in Madison! It's the state capital! It makes more sense than a station in the Dells.
2012	3/26/2021	We need this! It would be a huge impact. Being able to commute from the midwest's largest cities by rail is absolutely necessary.
2013	3/26/2021	<p>I supported this idea when Walker scuttled it. I had hoped that by now we would be discussing a connection to/through Green Bay & Wausau.</p> <p>Again, I am in support of passenger train service in Wisconsin, provided that there is attention to serving rural areas. That means no express routes in the near term.</p>
2014	3/26/2021	It's unfortunate that this doesn't run through Eau Claire, WI
2015	3/26/2021	The Midwest is long overdue for a project like this.

2016	3/26/2021	<p>This would be useful if all the stops and stations were open every day but they are not. I wish nothing more than to see more passengers use rail transportation but until you can make it where the stations are open I just don't see this happening besides the big cities of Chicago and St. Paul and why should WI have to assist in the funding but not IL when the main departure concern seems to be for Chicago and St Paul?</p> <p>If we are going to do it expand and include a stop in Madison as there is no good place for the southwest WI corner to use this service without having to add an additional 1.5 hour travel to their commute.</p> <p>If we invest this time and money let's do the next step and get routes for the northern part of the state as well such as Green Bay and I could see many using this system before driving to cities</p>
2017	3/26/2021	Please add Madison as a stop. We are in desperate need of this.
2018	3/26/2021	I strongly support this rail project. Part of my work requires that I go to Chicago frequently throughout the year. Reliable rail service would be a huge plus and would make the trip a breeze to do by train. Please make this happen.
2019	3/26/2021	Please allow Madison to have a stop on this train route.
2020	3/26/2021	It would be fantastic to somehow include a Madison, WI stop in this proposal. Even just a spur line that connects to the main line Portage or WI Dells would be extremely valuable to the public-transit-friendly Madison community.
2021	3/26/2021	This is very welcomed news! I highly support this project. However, it would be an even bigger boost to the Madison economy if a stop was added here. Please consider adding Madison as a stop. thank you!
2022	3/26/2021	Please include Madison as a stop.
2023	3/26/2021	Please include Madison WI as a stop!
2024	3/26/2021	A stop in Madison needs to happen. The university, the venues, etc, will bring many people to ride the rail. And it's the capitol!
2025	3/26/2021	If it becomes faster to travel by train than drive it, then more people will use it.
2026	3/26/2021	I think you would be missing out on significant revenue by not stopping or adding branch line service to Madison, WI
2027	3/26/2021	I am strongly in favor of this project and would be a frequent user of the train, as a Madison resident who likes to visit the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago. Could you please add Madison to the route though? Seems to make sense as it is a growing city along the way. This will be a huge improvement to make the area more accessible to folks without cars, improving tourism revenue, and help reduce congestion and emissions on our roads.
2028	3/26/2021	No way, just another project to benefit metro areas, bought and paid for by the rocks and cows.
2029	3/26/2021	There needs to be a stop in Madison, WI, to serve the growing population of a consistently nationally profiled city that is also a government seat.
2030	3/26/2021	This would be great I would welcome it heartily. I would especially welcome it if there was Madison stop. Friends and business in both Minneapolis and Chicago. Would to travel by rail. I have used the rail service in Europe extensively and always wished for it here.

2031	3/26/2021	I support the plan of this project and hope there will be more service options dates/times to travel.
2032	3/26/2021	Excellent idea and I hope it happens! The only thing is I'm seeing it really does not come close to Madison which was a surprise. I think that would significantly increase use and important access to a larger community of people.
2033	3/26/2021	Yes please add a stop in madison!
2034	3/26/2021	It would be amazing if there was a rail that could get close enough to the chicago airport for passengers to take the rail instead of driving. Many people could schedule their flights based on the rail schedule and it would alleviate traffic in an already overtrafficked area.
2035	3/26/2021	Please include a new stop in Madison, WI near the airport. It makes no sense to have the train stop in Columbus and bypass Madison.
2036	3/26/2021	This is the train that I've been waiting for my entire life. It would allow for easy travel between major cities and colleges in the area. It would be great if it were high speed but this is just as nice. A stop in Madison would be so powerful
2037	3/26/2021	You've given no current information for ridership or capacity. Your ridership numbers end in 2016 and leave out the past four years. Capacity was listed as near capacity during peak seasons, but that tells us nothing. This looks like a money grab to expand a service that isn't needed. The cost of a round trip ticket on Delta in the main cabin is \$225 for 4/10-4/17. The cost of an Amtrak ticket for the same dates (refundable fare) is \$144. For many people, the additional \$80 is worth having a travel time reduced by 6.5 hours. This is wasteful and shouldn't be considered any longer.
2038	3/26/2021	I would definitely use this service and the more frequent trains would make scheduling easier.
2039	3/26/2021	Having Madison included would make a lot of sense-- there's a major state university, which means a lot of college students would use this service.
2040	3/26/2021	Please add a stop at Madison, WI.
2041	3/26/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison! There re so many reasons why. They are currently re-zoning the former Oscar Meyer factory which has a lot of rail tracks. The reasons to connect Madison are plenty! It's the Capitol, the University, so many people in Madison would use this transport option!
2042	3/26/2021	I know this project is for expansion of the empire builder route and not new construction on high speed rail as proposed in 2009. Please consider future service with a Madison stop on the route instead of the columbus-portage-wisconsin dells routing. There is high demand for rail travel to Milwaukee, Minneapolis, and Chicago from Madison. Only adding bus service from Madison to Columbus will not convince many people in Dane county to switch from automobiles to bus/train travel - the route should be direct
2043	3/26/2021	Please ensure that there is a station in Madison, WI as well.
2044	3/26/2021	I love this idea of this rail option, but anything that does not directly have stations in Rochester, Minnesota and Madison, Wisconsin is the wrong path. Those are the 4th and 5th most important cities near the proposed line, and there is no reason to leave them out.

2045	3/26/2021	I would like to see this route go through Madison. If it did I would use it ~6 times a year, which compared to my current usage of 0 is a pretty significant increase.
2046	3/26/2021	<p>Electric cars destroy the environment through resource mining, manufacturing processes & going to landfill in mass droves. Their pollution is unnecessary as is the amount of urban space squandered on parking & other paved over autocratic wastes. They also perpetuate urban sprawl, & cities that aren't navigable as a pedestrian or bicyclist & are inhospitable to humanity. Electric vehicles add to traffic congestion. Putting the financial burden of transportation inefficiently on the individual isn't right & hasn't been the norm for even 80 years. We need to invest in rail that's properly implemented as it is overseas. The American people are disgruntled from decades of disenfranchisement & a lot of that marginalization (eg Robert Moses's racist urban renewal) is through divestment of public infrastructure, utilities & programs to help the American people. The government showing that it can do things that work for the taxpaying citizenry that make their lives materially better will bolster patriotism. We need to know we have a future & an equitable shot at thriving. Transcontinental High Speed Rail should integrate seamlessly with commuter rail networks so it can even function as one cohesive system & this will convert flyover country back into a thriving heartland which will reduce clustering on the coasts. Similarly, wholly integrated circuits of commuter rail blended with light rail, street cars & even trolleys would prevent people from having to live on top of each other in city centers in order to have quick access to urban cores & local economies downtown. Our roadways are overcrowded & no amount of widening them and adding lanes will do anything to help it because it just leads to induced demand that inevitably grinds to a halt at snags & bottlenecks down the road. We can rebuild cherished structural heirlooms of civic pride destroyed by financial & environmental disaster on space reclaimed from motor vehicles to serve purposes of social capital & green initiatives.</p>
2047	3/26/2021	Extra set of trains would be great. I am a regular rider on the Empire Builder from SE MN (Red Wing. or Winona stations) and I've often seen in the summer months the train can full or overbooked between Chicago and MSP. With this, this will ease the load, and also allow more people to take the train since the Empire Builder can be sold out.
2048	3/26/2021	I am so glad to see this being done, but I would really like to see the route go through Madison, perhaps out by the airport, so as to not have to try to go through the Isthmus. We're the states second largest city, and a large driver of economic activity. Adding Madison to the route would really drive adoption of this and drastically increase the amount of fares paying passengers that would use the line.
2049	3/26/2021	I would strongly suggest adding Madison to this route. There is a large community that travels between Madison and Milwaukee as well as between Madison and the Twin Cities in Minnesota. A stop in Madison would be very much supported by folks in Madison. It is likely that while there would be additional construction costs, these would be more than paid for by customer use on these important corridors.

2050	3/26/2021	The train should go through Madison. Otherwise we won't take it. We're not going to drive to Columbus to get on a train to Chicago. We'll just drive to Chicago if that is the case. I oppose this train if it is going to be useless by not going through the capital city
2051	3/26/2021	Please add a stop close to Madison WI
2052	3/26/2021	This is an important improvement for passenger rail in Wisconsin. The better service that is provided, the more likely people will be to use rail for travel, which is essential for reducing the environmental costs of transportation associated with cars.
2053	3/26/2021	1. Didn't Scott Walker kill this 10 years ago? 2. Also wtf, Madison doesn't get a stop? 3. I mean, there's nothing but farms between Sun Prairie and Madison, this isn't a right of way thing.
2054	3/26/2021	Yay to more trains! My parents live in Beaver Dam, I have lots of family in St Paul and Minneapolis, and I have tons of friends in Milwaukee. Looking forward to skipping the car and taking the train soon. This train is an easy win. Do it!
2055	3/26/2021	Yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes yes !!!!!!! Yes very excited about it
2056	3/26/2021	I would like to know what plans there are to connect Madison to this line either by bus or a future rail line from Madison to the Milwaukee-Twin City route. Either way I am in huge support of this and would gladly take it several times a year to visit friends in La Crosse, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis rather than drive from Madison. I have loved my experience with rail travel in China and Germany.
2057	3/26/2021	I would love to see this implemented or we could just re-extend the Hiawatha line back to St. Paul instead of having it end in Milwaukee.
2058	3/26/2021	There should be a stop in Madison. The tickets should also be much more affordable than the current Amtrak prices. I'm from Madison and would much rather take the train to visit family and friends in Wisconsin if it were more convenient and reasonably priced.
2059	3/26/2021	This NEEDS to pass through Madison Wisconsin. It's the state capital, huge college traffic, and a second biggest population in the state.
2060	3/26/2021	I would love an option to skip flying and not have to deal with Greyhound.
2061	3/26/2021	I am grateful the Department is considering this plan. For the rail to skirt Madison however, does not make sense. That said, I suppose somewhere within the plans there would be an assumption of public transit to take passengers from Madison to the Columbus rail stop. In either case, this rail is much needed. Please carry this forward!!
2062	3/26/2021	Please consider rail service to MKE or ORD airport, or city center, to reduce road traffic congestion and increase ease and visits. This would increase commerce and utilization of business and airport options.
2063	3/26/2021	Connection is needed to Eau Claire and Madison. Speeds need to increase to 100 or more mph. The time savings won't match driving unless the train goes faster.
2064	3/26/2021	Please have this route go through Madison! It would be SO helpful for so many residents to include the capital of WI on this route.

2065	3/26/2021	I know the Amtrak is already in small cities. like Columbus and Portage, but if you were to add Madison to the route, your numbers would soar. A greater population will guarantee more riders, including me.
2066	3/26/2021	I think this is a fantastic idea. I have family in Chicago and I live in the twin cities. Driving through Wisconsin, while not the worst experience ever, is always an added 7 hours both ways on my trip. If that time could be spent relaxing rather than driving, I would use this service almost every week if possible.
2067	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison. I don't understand why it would stop in portage so close to the dells and miss madison with a population of 500k people
2068	3/26/2021	Why would you skip a major hub like Madison? Madison is a no-brainer must have stop.
2069	3/26/2021	Add Madison to the route!
2070	3/26/2021	I love this idea, making it easier for folks to travel this corridor without the use of a car is a step in the right direction in regards to reducing emissions and thinking about climate change.
2071	3/26/2021	Needs to have a stop in Madison in my opinion, lots of college students from Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minnesota returning to Madison or vice versa.
2072	3/26/2021	I believe this would be a great opportunity to open another recreational route for families who do not want to travel by car and heavy traffic
2073	3/26/2021	Please add Madison to the route
2074	3/26/2021	This project is long overdue. It would be so important to extend rail to lower emissions, fewer cars needed. Also is there away to include a Madison stop. We are the capital, much business done here.
2075	3/26/2021	Please add Madison as a stop
2076	3/26/2021	Easy access to those areas. More mobility for people that don't want to use the car or fly. Increase tourism
2077	3/26/2021	Yes! Long overdue! Lets get started!
2078	3/26/2021	Make it happen!! I would be incredibly beneficial for this train to make a stop in Madison too.
2079	3/26/2021	Love to see passenger rail near Madison
2080	3/26/2021	I support TCMC and think it will benefit the madison and states economy.

2081	3/26/2021	<p>I'm a proponent of high speed rail infrastructure, but knowing that it might take a century for the US to get it's priorities figured out, increasing the ability to travel to and from Chicago where there is family there, this makes it far more feasible on weekend trips. 6+ hours to drive from Minneapolis to Chicago and worry about their crazy parking rules and toll roads or 6~7 hours train and then have access to local public transit. I'd take the latter, simply for the fact that I can stand up and stretch at any point during the trip. Though it isn't faster than driving by car directly, I think it adds benefits to a good portion of riders to be able to do other work, to those without means of driving themselves, or simply removing tired or bad drivers off the roads.</p> <p>I'm not sure what the most convenient schedules are, so no particular comment on that.</p> <p>I have taken Amtrack once, and I found the stations themselves are uncomfortable and not helpful to first-time riders.</p>
2082	3/26/2021	<p>Yes! Please add more train and rail projects! More public transportation options would be amazing! I wish, at least in the more populated areas, that we could have less need to always use cars! It would save people money and be better for the environment!</p>
2083	3/26/2021	<p>Madison! The route is not helpful to me and most of us without a stop in Madison. The stops near Madison don't even have any connecting services, some not even a taxi or car rental or bus in town. And Eau Claire! We need a useful, practical new route more than more times on a less popular route. Or smaller, connecting routes from the Empire track into Madison and Eau Claire. Or a separate track between Eau Claire and Madison. Or, at the least, proper connecting transportation services at Columbus (for Madison). (Once in 30 years I used this track to connect to another Amtrak route in Chicago; otherwise, it's easier to fly out of MSP.)</p>
2084	3/26/2021	<p>It's absolutely ridiculous that this rail line doesn't include Madison, Wisconsin. Madison is the second largest city in the state of Wisconsin and has a large number of people traveling between Madison and Chicago on a daily basis. Based on your proposed route, Madison could easily be added as a stop before Columbus without adding too much delay to the train trip. Madisonians have lamented not having a rail to take them to Chicago for years, and now when there's finally a proposal, they get bypassed entirely? Absolutely shameful and tone deaf for the needs of the south-central Wisconsin community.</p>
2085	3/26/2021	<p>Excellent idea. Consider adding Madison to the route, since Wisconsin's Capitol city is a key hub for so many people. Overall revamping of the US railways is a MUST! In my opinion, it was a real huge mistake when the US defuncted much of the commercial and passenger railroad system. The US is so far behind other countries in offering a fast, cleaner, safer and more economical rail system. With our highway infrastructure in such bad shape, including a rail system in the overall transportation picture will be beneficial to an overall improved environmental and economic solution.</p>

2086	3/26/2021	Not needed. Prices are too high and reliability is too low to make this a viable project for public use. Driving (buses included) and planes still seems like better and more economical options. Twin cities need to focus on fixing/improving the infrastructure and range of the intercity trams foremost.
2087	3/26/2021	Please add Madison to the route! We have a well-respected major university and medical institutions, plus a major employer in Epic, numerous parks and restaurants, and 3 lakes.
2088	3/26/2021	Any project that increases the accessibility to rail travel in wisconsin and to our surrounding states is an unmitigated good. there are many things that will still be lacking in the US for rail travel, but any improvement is a good thing. I would specifically like to see increased reliability and schedule keeping. I know those are not easy, as the freight companies own the tracks, but It's a major hurdle in usefulness of rail travel in the midwest.
2089	3/26/2021	Public mass transportation is critical for the advancement of the region.
2090	3/26/2021	I would love to see this!
2091	3/26/2021	Add Madison to this route!
2092	3/26/2021	Please make this happen. I have family and friends in both places, and this would be wonderful. It would also allow greater diversity skills and people to freely work in places that need it without completely up relocating.
2093	3/26/2021	I would love the idea and fully support it if it ran through madison. Columbus is NOT close enough. Hundreds of students in Milwaukee and madison do not have cars, and the badger bus fills up quickly. If you're spending all of this money already, why wouldn't you connect two if Wisconsin's biggest cities?
2094	3/26/2021	I believe there should be a stop/station in Madison, WI for us to be able to utilize this amazing service.
2095	3/26/2021	We 100% favor this expansion. We have travelled Amtrak many times including back and forth to St. Paul from Milwaukee. It is a safe, reliable and convenient way to go, as well as cost-effective. The only problem has been the unreliable times for the east-bound train after it travels all the way from Seattle. We support this expansion.
2096	3/26/2021	I believe this would be a great benefit to many people. My only thought would be if there was a way to route to (or closer to) Madison.
2097	3/26/2021	Madison should be included on this route. As the capitol and location of a UW campus, it seems silly to bypass it in favor of smaller towns such as Portage.
2098	3/26/2021	Love this! It would be indispensable to our communities.
2099	3/26/2021	I fully support the plan to expand passenger rail. We have family living in Wisconsin and Minnesota and the expansion of this service would make it easier to get around. I hope that expanding possible route options to cover additional cities in Wisconsin (Wausau) will also be considered in the future!

2100	3/26/2021	Adding another daily trip from the Twin Cities to Chicago would be hugely beneficial for anyone who wants to travel by train between the two metros and to destinations along the way! I prefer to travel by train where possible but the current Empire Builder schedule can make that difficult. Expanding route options would improve transportation choice and help people reduce their travel-based emissions by making alternatives to flying more feasible. I fully support this service upgrade and am excited about the benefits it would provide for the environment, economic development and equity!
2101	3/26/2021	This move is in the right direction, but leaving Madison without a direct station is just excessively limiting reliable service options for Wisconsinites. Millions will be lost in revenue from commuters that can't access this route in Madison without a 45-minute car ride in and out of the city from the nearest station, which means still, there's no way for people to work in Madison if they live in Milwaukee, vice versa. Bus service between the two cities is a shameful 2+ hour ordeal. Why are we catering to Chicago's ability to get directly to the Wisconsin Dells? A move that raises money for the Kalahari and that micro-specific tourist trap industry rather than fosters the region in which this line mostly operates. Unfortunately for us, this line will experience limited ridership if ad campaigns fail to convince these outside cities to take trips to [quote]Mt. Olympus[quote], and the project will be deemed a failure by Wisconsin republicans, who will use it as evidence that good rail service doesn't exist. This project should consider daily commuters over yearly tourists.
2102	3/26/2021	Add another!! Many more opportunities based on many different schedules that people have.
2103	3/26/2021	Would love this. Wish it was a little faster, and am slightly concerned about cost, but it seems great. I would love to use it for weekend trips.
2104	3/26/2021	
2105	3/26/2021	Madison needs to be added to this route. Why would you bypass the capital for the Dells and small towns that are only tourist traps when you could connect to Madison for both large influx of Tourism and business needs ?
2106	3/26/2021	This is a fantastic opportunity to create jobs, and invest in regional growth! There should be access to Madison, of course. As well as the ability to upgrade the infrastructure to high speed rail, and connect to Ann Arbor and Detroit.
2107	3/26/2021	Would be even more beneficial if the route went through Madison.
2108	3/26/2021	It seems like a real waste to not have the route go through Madison, WI. As this is the state capital, it could be very helpful for government employees, university students and even tourists.
2109	3/26/2021	Including madison in the route would allow even more access to the rail!
2110	3/26/2021	We need a stop in Madison.
2111	3/26/2021	Please add a station and stop in Madison, WI.
2112	3/26/2021	Why did you bypass Madison? You should almost certainly stop at Madison. It's a huge mistake not to stop there.
2113	3/26/2021	The route should include Madison instead of Columbus/Portage as that would help serve Milwaukee-Madison commuters better
2114	3/26/2021	I would love this! The more rail options the better. If you also connected up to green bay that would be amazing.

2115	3/26/2021	RETHINK - you would want an evening departure from each location!!!! It would be so nice to have an overnight from Minneapolis to Chicago and vice versa! That is why we love taking the train west. I don't want to spend most of my day on the train to Chicago. I will drive instead as I can get there in 6 hours. If you want to make improvements think about what time people would want to ARRIVE at the destination.
2116	3/26/2021	I think overall this is fantastic. I understand that there may be logistical difficulties for incorporating Madison onto the route but I would implore that it be added, even if a branch point. Since it's the Capital and home of the state's flagship university, there would be a lot of benefit in connecting to the Twin Cities & Chicago. Current bus transportation is not always reliable.
2117	3/26/2021	This is a great idea. I live in the Chicago suburbs and would love a convenient way to visit the Twin Cities.
2118	3/26/2021	Yes!!! Please do this! This will help so many people and I would pay to ride it every weekend! This would be such a great project!
2119	3/26/2021	I strongly support this idea.
2120	3/26/2021	I fully support this plan. I think many people in the Twin Cities area would benefit from having a daily train service between Chicago and the twin cities. Perhaps one day the service may become popular enough that there can be a direct train with no stops between the twin cities and Milwaukee/Chicago.
2121	3/26/2021	Madison is a major city in Wisconsin and having any intercity railway without a stop there does not make sense. I love this project and fully support adding in a passenger rail, and would plan to utilize it regularly if it went through my city.
2122	3/26/2021	2nd train long overdue. Definitely needed
2123	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison!
2124	3/26/2021	I travel between St Paul and Chicago 2 to 3 times a year. I typically fly, but flying uses a lot of time for such a short trip. I would happily travel by train for these trips.
2125	3/26/2021	I would love to see a stop in Madison, WI
2126	3/26/2021	I would like to ask that serious consideration be given to change the route and delete Portage and Columbus in Wisconsin and go from Milwaukee directly to Madison. I think the Madison to MKE route would have added ridership. From Madison, the rail route could turn north to the Dells. Thanks for the opportunity for input.
2127	3/26/2021	The route now is on the Amtrak rail line. If it is going to be effective for students at UW, Madison College, and Edgewood, as well as legislators and shoppers it should go through Madison. Otherwise a huge revenue loss for the line will be lost.
2128	3/26/2021	I think it is absolutely critical that this routes through Madison, WI. I do not understand why the proposed route bypasses this city.

2129	3/26/2021	Not sure what to say here, only that I was born and raised in Wisconsin, and any railways built in our state would be a game changer. I would love to use a rail to expand my job opportunities, travel for shopping, recreation, and visiting family. We've been ready for this for 20 years. Please let us enter the 20th century like the rest of the world has done for over 60 years now. Maybe from there we can enter the 21st century (rail lines throughout all of Wisconsin, get more bus routes)
2130	3/26/2021	Add Madison as a stop
2131	3/26/2021	It would make a lot of sense to add Madison. As a long time resident of downtown Chicago (in Madison since 2013) it is ridiculous to drive there. I think it would really benefit Madison financially to have a train from Chicago and Minneapolis.
2132	3/26/2021	Having the proposed route completely bypass Madison is extremely short-sighted. It's the state capital, the second largest city in Wisconsin, and home to a large university and a number of large businesses
2133	3/26/2021	Please add a railway stop in Madison for this very important route between Chicago and the Twin Cities. With very little effort a major hub of Wisconsin could be included in this route. Ridership would increase dramatically and the improvements would pay for themselves.
2134	3/26/2021	Add a station stop in Madison, WI, to the route, with baggage handling, so people can get to and from Madison and the Twin Cities, Madison and Chicago. Madison is the State capital and it is very strange that passenger rail service bypasses Madison.
2135	3/26/2021	This would be so amazing. I ride Amtrak pretty regularly, but the way that the schedule is makes it very hard for me to take off work to grab the train. And then sometimes it's so late (5+ hours) that it's VERY FRUSTRATING that I took off work to catch an unpredictable train. Adding another service would make it so I continue riding the train instead of taking a car or bus.
2136	3/26/2021	I can never travel to see my family in Chicago and Minnesota because it's too hard. If we had an easier way I'd take this ALL THE time! Please do this!
2137	3/26/2021	This would be absolutely great for commuters and college students etc. Our country is behind in easily accessible public transportation, and we need this. These major cities in the Midwest are in dire need of this system.
2138	3/26/2021	Looks great! I support this project.
2139	3/26/2021	Please include Madison on this track.
2140	3/26/2021	Bring Madison into the route.
2141	3/26/2021	Please include Madison on the route!
2142	3/26/2021	I love this idea, long time coming. Would help so much for regional connections
2143	3/26/2021	I live in Madison. I have business in Chicago and all my family is in Minneapolis. If Madison were added to the route I would ride it at least a dozen times a year.
2144	3/26/2021	
2145	3/26/2021	I love this idea. It does not make any sense to go to Portage and skip Madison though.
2146	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison.
2147	3/26/2021	PLEASE DO THIS!!
2148	3/26/2021	This sounds great! We always need more passenger rail in the US.

2149	3/26/2021	Please add Madison into the route/station! I go to Chicago for business on a regular basis and this will be very helpful.
2150	3/26/2021	Glad you are including La Crosse. It might be smart to include Rochester, though, for Mayo patients.
2151	3/26/2021	I am very excited at this prospect. We have friends and family in Chicago, and would definitely use this service if it was more convenient. I wonder if perhaps there is a way to divide the stops between the two trips, so that the trip could be shorter? I suspect that would increase ridership.
2152	3/26/2021	Why leave Madison out? It's the capitol and there are tons of young professionals around Epic. Its a huge mistake.
2153	3/26/2021	I love it, such a good idea! I wish it stopped in Madison too but overall very supportive of the project.
2154	3/26/2021	Please make a stop in Madison! This will get so much more attention and use if it stops here.
2155	3/26/2021	I support this proposal. We need to return to the efficient transport of persons by means of reducing carbon footprint.
2156	3/26/2021	I want more passenger service across the board, and this is an excellent first step until we can get high speed rail. This is exactly what state governments should be doing. This project would provide incredible public benefit, and I'm all for it. Once this is established, a branch that runs through Madison and Rockford would be even better!
2157	3/26/2021	when are we going to discuss passenger rail between the Twin Cities and Eau Claire? This is clearly an excellent space for light rail and will greatly impact WI in a positive manner. As a former employee at the City of Portland OR who worked on light rail and the related economic stimulus that it created Wisconsin is missing out
2158	3/26/2021	The route MUST include a station in Madison.
2159	3/26/2021	Please, please, please add a Madison (or at least Madison metropolitan area) station for passengers. There is so much travel between Madison and St. Paul--for business, meetings, UW and U-M students, conferences to name just a few. Interior renovations will be nice, and are needed,
2160	3/26/2021	We are in favor of all passenger train service.
2161	3/26/2021	This project is for our children and grandchildren. Very important! We would hope a connection to the Dane County/Madison area would not be overlooked for a station.
2162	3/26/2021	I support adding the additional service. While I wish the rail service included Madison, I understand it is outside the scope of this proposal.
2163	3/26/2021	Please put a connector through Madison. I've used trains in many other countries and it works well. I would especially be interested in a route from Milwaukee to Madison. Gov. Walker made a huge mistake in rejecting high speed rail.

2164	3/26/2021	Support for efficient and well-maintained public transit is important for the environment, connecting people, and advancing transportation. I would be so excited to utilize this route, and am looking forward to a trans-America route that is equally easy to use, connecting to other forms of transport, and efficient. My siblings used this route east bound often to come home to Milwaukee from La Crosse and we always knew the time on the ticket didn't mean much - we still used it, but hope for efficiency and that we can share with others how the rail service is improving.
2165	3/26/2021	Can Madison be included? That is my main place of travel.
2166	3/26/2021	Please don't bypass Madison- this train is desperately needed here. Madison is the second biggest metro area in Wisconsin. Madison also has a large population of people who prefer to avoid the use of gas powered vehicles. As such, we could reduce Madison created traffic in these corridors. Truly, only good things can happen if you put Madison on this route.
2167	3/26/2021	This is a very exciting project and I look forward to being able to take this train. It offers a fantastic option and is much preferable to driving.
2168	3/26/2021	Please consider adding a Madison into this high speed route!
2169	3/26/2021	What we really need is a high speed rail on this line that makes a stop in Madison. It is too inconvenient for Madison people to have to drive to Columbus to get to the Amtrak station. There is not a rental car business in Columbus, or bus service to Madison. Young people, especially the who have been on the rails in Europe, expect to have fast and convenient. service on public transportation. I doubt many more people would ride the service you are proposing because it is too slow and inconvenient.
2170	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison!
2171	3/26/2021	It seems logical to include Madison as a stop on the route. Madison has an active regional airport, Portage and Columbus do not.
2172	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Madison
2173	3/26/2021	This project is fantastic.
2174	3/26/2021	I occasionally take the Empire Builder to visit family in western Wisconsin using the Red Wing station. I would take it far more often instead of driving if the return trip was more reliable and the arrival time for the westbound train was earlier in the day - - Something like the proposed schedule My western Wisconsin relatives have only used the Empire Builder once due to the inconvenient schedule and more importantly, the very long wait they experienced for the eastbound train due to delays in the Dakotas. In addition to my personal complaints. It seems obvious that the current Empire Builder schedule is useless to business travelers between MKE and St. Paul. The proposed schedule would be very competitive with flying when you factor in travel time to/from airports.
2175	3/26/2021	We need the inter-city rail! I've been wanting this for years - to be able to visit these cities without driving will encourage so much more tourism!

2176	3/26/2021	Yes, I support having another passenger train between St. Paul and Chicago, with all present stops on the route plus Milwaukee Airport. We have talked about a train trip to Milwaukee or Chicago. This would make the scheduling options more feasible.
2177	3/26/2021	Madison must be connected. If not as part of the main route then by a spur or bus route.
2178	3/26/2021	I live in Madison and think it could useful to take this train. It would be nice to have a stop in Madison, but if that is not feasible, maybe there could be a convenient shuttle between Madison and the nearest stop or free/secure long term parking there, etc
2179	3/26/2021	Madison, the capital city and a major campus of the UW system, should have a station on routes between these major cities.
2180	3/26/2021	There needs to be a consideration for adding the line to connect to the Madison area. It's one of the state's fastest growing metropolitan areas and is doing a disservice to ignore the impact the rail would have on serving the Madison area. This project is going to determine the access to transportation and access for millions of people, have long term effects on the environment, and connect key urban centers to rural communities. It is vital that our representatives find a way to connect the Madison area to the line.
2181	3/26/2021	We really need this with a stop in Madison.
2182	3/26/2021	Please add a stop to Madison! It would make traveling so much easier, it's bigger than some of the other cities with stops!!
2183	3/26/2021	It's about time we get more rail systems, way easier to travel around different countries in Europe than it is to travel around our own country. All for it & way less air pollution
2184	3/26/2021	It would be amazing if this made a stop in Madison! Seems like a city people would want to stop in, and as a resident I would love to be able to get the train to Chicago or Saint Paul from Madison.
2185	3/26/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison, WI. I know so many people in our city who would love to have train access as part of this project.
2186	3/26/2021	Hello! It would be extremely beneficial to add a stop in Madison. Not only do many people commute between Madison/Milwaukee and Madison/Chicago for work and school, but this would give much needed public transit access to Madison residents for economical and sustainable travel! Not everyone has a car when you live in the second largest city in WI! Additionally, many government workers travel to and from Madison on a daily basis. With a rail option, this would help decrease road traffic and therefore pollution as well. The people of Madison were in such strong support of the original inter-city rail plan, only to be thwarted by Walker. To shaft them now would be very disappointing. I sincerely hope the stations are reconsidered and a Madison stop will be added.
2187	3/26/2021	Would you please put a train station at Madison WI for this route? At least once or twice a week. Thank you.

2188	3/26/2021	While I whole-heartedly support this planned expansion of the TCMC Service, I would be even more enthusiastic (and a more frequent rider) if you also added a route that follows the old Chicago-Northwestern [quote]400[quote] service between Chicago and the Twin Cities. Those tracks already exist to support passenger trains through Hudson, Baldwin, Menomonie and Eau Claire. And, with the large number of college students who attend River Falls, Stout and UW-Eau Claire, there would be sufficient ridership to support it. Perhaps not daily, but certainly 3-4 days per week. Think of the traffic that could be diverted off I-94 from the Wisconsin border all the way to Tomah if people had this option, too.
2189	3/26/2021	Have high interest and ridership potential for service on line serving Hudson, Eau Clair and east
2190	3/26/2021	A great idea providing transportation option for those who don't want to drive long distances and for those who don't own a car to travel between multiple cities. Less cars on the freeway system creates less wear and tear on the roads.
2191	3/26/2021	What a Godsend this would be for family and it certainly would encourage tourism.
2192	3/26/2021	Please add Madison WI to the route. It was supposed to be a few years ago. Thanks to everyone that is working hard to get this wonderful project underway. ♥
2193	3/26/2021	Adding a route that goes through Madison, our capitol city, would be of great benefit to all. Even if it is only 2 or 3 times a week, it could make a huge difference. A route that wne t daily between Milwaukee and Madison would always be full, and could ease traffic on I-94.
2194	3/26/2021	Please add an Eau Claire spur. We have a college age population of 10,000 and a high percentage of over 50mage people who would welcome rail travel to minneapolis where many of us have relatives. As it is, we have to drive at minimum one hour to access rail from Eau Claire to LaCrosse, Minneapolis or Tomah. Our town is booming . We need rail!
2195	3/26/2021	
2196	3/26/2021	Make Madison, WI a stop.
2197	3/26/2021	This needs to be routed through Madison, WI.
2198	3/26/2021	This is greatly needed and will make intercity travel much more accessible. I am in full support.
2199	3/26/2021	This is a great idea! I would use this with my family once or twice a month starting in Saint Paul riding to Milwaukee or Chicago.
2200	3/26/2021	I like the idea of adding more time slots to the existing rail. I live in Milwaukee and have wanted to take the line to Chicago numerous times but the lack of options led me to using my own vehicle. I would like to see this happen and would most likely utilize it within the first year of operation.
2201	3/26/2021	This is such a good idea and eco-friendly!
2202	3/26/2021	My family and I take this route once or twice a year between Chicago and Minneapolis. I'd be happy to see a second departure time to have more choices on scheduling. It would also be great to see faster speeds on the tracks and less waiting on freight trains.

2203	3/26/2021	I fully support this project. We hope it passes fast and things are operating as quickly as possible.
2204	3/26/2021	
2205	3/26/2021	I am in favor of expanding rail throughout Wisconsin. It provides an affordable, clean transportation option to all citizens.
2206	3/26/2021	Madison needs to be included on this route, with multiple stops per week. Madison is a vital city in Wisconsin. Being the Capital and with UW, it would add substantial ridership.
2207	3/26/2021	Please make Madison Wisconsin a stop too!!!
2208	3/26/2021	Would like to see Madison added as a stop on this route.
2209	3/26/2021	Please add a stop for Madison, WI, the 2nd most populous city in Wisconsin and the state capitol. It doesn't make sense to have the route run right past Madison!
2210	3/26/2021	Yes! This is long overdue. In fact, this project isn't ambitious enough - we need much more infrastructure like this. The fact that you really can't get around our country without owning a car or flying is a national embarrassment. All other developed countries have passenger rail services that allow one to travel in comfort and dignity. This is the future we need. Can we think bigger than this project? The more reliable and frequent such services are, the more likely that they will be used.
2211	3/26/2021	Invest in a higher speed train. 79 mph is hardly convenient and it won't dissuade anybody from driving. Invest in a modern, high-speed train.
2212	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Madison!!!!
2213	3/26/2021	Not sure if this is even possible, but a way of connecting in Madison would be swell. Perhaps Amtrak could partner with someone to add in a specific shuttle from a nearby station to make this easier for college students to use?
2214	3/26/2021	This route not coming into Madison is a huge mistake. Madison is the second largest city in the state, and the number of eligible riders interested in paying for a ticket to Chicago or Milwaukee is astronomical. Please consider rerouting through Madison, if not for the peoples' sake, than at least for revenue's sake.
2215	3/26/2021	I would love to have this additional route—I have many friends and family in the Twin Cities and often do not have access to a car
2216	3/26/2021	Add Madison as a station stop for passenger rail. This addition would benefit the railways due to use by the students, faculty, and staff of the University and the broader, eco-minded community. It would benefit the environment. It would benefit commerce. It would improve the overall transportation diversity and infrastructure of the region.
2217	3/26/2021	In favor of increased rail options (times) between St Paul & Chicago.
2218	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Madison
2219	3/26/2021	Support the whole project and the planned shuttle connection to the Eau Claire area. The proposal will be beneficial to the economy of Eau Claire and the Chippewa Valley by adding additional mobility options.
2220	3/26/2021	I completely support a rail service connecting these cities. Has a high-speed rail system been considered? This seems like a step in the right direction but why not invest in a more modern, high-speed rail system. Also, could this route be expanded to include Duluth?

2221	3/26/2021	Please increase passenger train travel. A line that would link Chicago and Minneapolis would increase travel between the two and to other cities that the line would stop at. I would use to visit friends on the route.
2222	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Madison wi!
2223	3/26/2021	This does absolutely nothing for me. If you are going to run the rail service through Eau Claire, WI. you are going in the right and proper direction.
2224	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison.
2225	3/26/2021	This is an amazing idea. We love using the train, and if it were more convenient, we would use it more often! I would like to suggest a stop in the western suburbs of Milwaukee to better access the population in that area!
2226	3/26/2021	As someone with family and friends in the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago, I fully support expanding passenger rail options along this route! If trains were more frequent and there were more options, I would rather take the train than drive. I would hope to see more than two scheduled trips per day, but this is a good start! Better yet, reroute through Madison and give connect the biggest cities in the region!
2227	3/26/2021	I would use the Empire Builder route. However, I would prefer that a high speed train be available.
2228	3/26/2021	I have traveled extensively in Europe. Our goal should be to have good to great train service throughout the USA. This is a small step in the right direction. I would definitely use it assuming the fare is reasonable.
2229	3/26/2021	It's ridiculous to leave out Madison from this plan. We have a large population that would greatly benefit from this rail project and driving an hour to one of the smaller cities ranges from impractical to impossible.
2230	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison Wisconsin
2231	3/26/2021	I really enjoy this route, and having two options for time of day could make this a more flexible alternative to driving MKE-MSP. We need to do all we can to encourage train use, and it's not an uncommon complaint to hear that [quote]cars give me more ability to travel on my schedule.[quote]
2232	3/26/2021	Can you please consider adding a stop in Madison for this rail project? We have been wanting this for some time, and it would create a much-needed, often-used resource for our city and state. Thank you!
2233	3/26/2021	I would be in favor of the drive is long and having more availability of time. Speed and affordability would be the consideration.
2234	3/26/2021	The route really needs to go through Madison, WI. It is a large city that a lot o people would use and it would increase the amount of riders since it will be more convenient. Having to drive 40 minutes to get to the train station does not make sense. Why drive north to catch a train? It doesn't make sense.
2235	3/26/2021	Please include Madison as a stop on the train between Chicago and St. Paul. Madison needs to be re-connected to intra-city rail transit. Many of us would find it much more appealing to visit the bigger cities without a car since we don't need one when we get there.
2236	3/26/2021	Please include Madison on the rail route.
2237	3/26/2021	Please please please include Madison on this line.
2238	3/26/2021	I am in support of additional reliable rail service connecting the Twin Cities and Chicago.

2239	3/26/2021	I am in support of additional reliable rail service connecting the Twin Cities and Chicago.
2240	3/26/2021	The addition of an Eau Claire- Twin Cities commuter rail would open job opportunities to individuals living in both cities
2241	3/26/2021	This means so much to me as a Minnesotan who has long wanted to take my kiddo on day/weekend trips, by rail, to our sister state. La Crosse & the dells, here we come!
2242	3/26/2021	Please include a stop to Madison!
2243	3/26/2021	Can you add Rochester, MN?
2244	3/26/2021	Is there any way to get a route thru to Madison? It would be nice to not have to travel north to Columbus just to go back south to Milwaukee or even to travel to the Twin Cities
2245	3/26/2021	I would definitely support these improvements in rail service.
2246	3/26/2021	Why doesn't it go through Madison? It's the biggest city in central Wisconsin and it's the state capital. I think passengers from the twin cities or Chicago might want to visit Madison. And having a stop in Madison would serve more patrons from Wisconsin.
2247	3/26/2021	I would really like to see Madison added to this route. I know quite a few families who would take advantage of traveling on this train. Also Madison being the capital of Wisconsin I would think we would be considered as a key location for a stop.
2248	3/26/2021	Yes, please more train travel options.
2249	3/26/2021	I would LOVE this. I have family in MN, and my best friend lives in the area. With another route I'd definitely visit more often. And I don't have a car, so this is how I visit people.
2250	3/26/2021	This is a great option to improve into a high speed rail route. The Midwest is a fast growing region with the Twin Cities and Chicago being the top metropolitan areas driving the growth. A high speed option enables more business commutes but also for tourism purposes. The upper Midwest is also notorious for its harsh winter and ice and car commute can be dangerous and flying could also be restricted. All in all, high speed rail is the most efficient and safe option.
2251	3/26/2021	This needs to go through Madison

		<p>I am extremely pleased to hear about the plans for a high-speed rail between Chicago and the Twin Cities. As a Wisconsin resident with family back in Minnesota, this would be a huge boon for our communities.</p> <p>I am baffled, then, that Madison is not included in the planned route. While the plans seem to - understandably - favor straight lines, the urban population of the capitol is likely to be the one of the most enthusiastic users of the new line. Efficient, easy travel from Madison to Chicago, Milwaukee, or St Paul would be ideal, for everything from supporting arts and culture in different locales to reaching international airports.</p> <p>Adding a leg to ferry passengers from Madison to the proposed Columbus station would be a welcome improvement. When I was attending college in Phoenix, a huge factor for me was easy transportation. The Phoenix light rail had convenient stops on campus that went directly to the airport. As someone who didn't have access to a car for several years, I cannot overstate the importance of accessibility as an economic consideration.</p> <p>If the rail is built without service to Madison, it is missing a perfect opportunity to tap into a large, active, urban population that is eager to use its services. Even a relatively small addition to accommodate capitol-dwellers could make a meaningful difference in use, which would help speed the return on investment for this project that so many of us would otherwise support wholeheartedly.</p>
2252	3/26/2021	
2253	3/26/2021	Include Madison WI as a stop on this route!
2254	3/26/2021	Adding stops in Madison and Chicago
2255	3/26/2021	MADISON!!!!
		<p>The Roman Empire knew the road to prosperity was the road. Cross country rail united the United States and built a great Nation. Enlightened nations have built high speed rail because it is faster, cleaner, healthier and more efficient than any other form of travel. There is no free lunch! You must INVEST in greatness. Lots not blow an opportunity and regret the cost of losing this opportunity for productive growth. If you're not growing, your dying. Let's try and catch up with smart modern travel.</p>
2256	3/26/2021	
2257	3/26/2021	
		<p>YES!!! Do it! Please! What is there even to think about? Are you nervous that it would be TOO good and then we'll hold you to a higher standard? It's such a no brainer. Even having to open it up to comment is silly. Just do it. Today. Thank you!</p>
2258	3/26/2021	
2259	3/26/2021	Madison. One of the largest areas in the state is not going up have a station? This seems absolutely a terrible idea.
		<p>This idea should have become a reality long ago (again) . Now, Madison, capitol city of the state, must be added. A shuttle just doesnt quite cut it. Now more than ever, stop paving over good land and throwing money to the highways and air industries and give us a great, green solution. All over the state would be great, but adding Madison a good start. Bravo to whomever revived this project.</p>
2260	3/26/2021	

2261	3/26/2021	Many people including myself don't fly or drive long distance. I have loved train travel and would like to see more trains to more places including a stop in Green Bay and Appleton. My Dad used to take a train from Appleton to Chicago many years ago for work. I would also like to see the train cars be really nice. Everything about trains including the food has gone downhill since I started riding. We need to get on track in this country!
2262	3/26/2021	It sounds good in theory but, there is virtually no public benefit. No one will ride it unless incentivized (loss of money). Everything is telecommuting, if a need to go to Chicago arises flights are <\$100 or drive and make it in less time. Make a train that goes 300 MPH with less stops then maybe and tickets will need to be significantly less than a flight. This project is unfortunately dead on arrival.
2263	3/26/2021	A second trip to Chicago in the afternoon would provide a better way to go there for the weekend without having to take a day off from work or fly. I would definitely do that several times a year.
2264	3/26/2021	I believe this rail project is long overdue and would not be properly executed if the city of Madison, WI was left out of the loop. I realize that Columbus ,WI is close, but Madison is a central hub for passenger potential. In my opinion, it would be safer and eventually more efficient to not have the driving commute back and forth between Madison and Columbus for the major customer base that lives in Madison.
2265	3/26/2021	This second route would be immensely valuable for Midwestern rail travel as a whole, and I would be likely to use it for a round trip roughly once a month. I am a Minnesotan living in Chicago. With just one route run, it's convenient to get from St. Paul to Chicago on my timetable, but not the other way around. A second run would fix this problem.
2266	3/26/2021	This is a wonderful idea, happy to pay in via taxes to make this happen.
2267	3/26/2021	I personally would LOVE this! I am always looking for easier ways to travel than driving solo and this would be such a great option. We can't fly due to health issues so this would open up so much!
2268	3/26/2021	It feels wrong to completely bypass Madison. It's one of the largest cities in the state, and people commute between these cities at high volumes. This would also inherently make the Madison airport more accessible for those in the surrounding areas.

2269	3/26/2021	This would be very helpful for students, workers, and families. It would connect an entire region that is severely lacking in transportation options. Not only are we far behind globally on rail transit but the midwest is far behind the northeast and mid-atlantic regions as well. It's honestly kind of pathetic that there is only one train from Saint Paul to Chicago. Especially considering the historical significance of rail in the evolution of the two cities. I would use this train at least 5 round trips per year and I have plenty of friends who work in Chicago but hail from the Twin Cities (or vice-versa) who would use this frequently to go home and see friends and family. Connecting towns like La Crosse and Winona who have large student populations is really important for their continued growth and development. Having an aesthetically pleasing station with a hopefully shortened trip time would increase ridership so much I'm not sure why the counter-argument against funding these priorities is even taken seriously. Infrastructure improvements like these go a long way in improving people's lives and have a large ROI compared to other projects.
2270	3/26/2021	I live in Michigan and this would be a fantastic way to visit friends in Minnesota. The issue with Amtrak is the scheduling is so darn inconvenient. This would be great.
2271	3/26/2021	Madison, WI should be a stop along the route.
2272	3/26/2021	No reason for a second train. The Empire Builder runs light and there are buses that run much faster.
2273	3/26/2021	Please stop in Madison! If you want people connected to jobs, cultural centers, attractions, and universities...well Madison has all 4. Dont know how you could have an Illinois-Wisconsin-Minnesota line without it.
2274	3/26/2021	I support this expansion project.
2275	3/26/2021	I have family that lives in Chicago. I could drive to visit them. I could fly to visit them. I could take the Empire Builder, but I have heard multiple times that the Empire Builder often takes longer than driving or flying. Please increase service on this route. Please increase frequency on this route.
2276	3/26/2021	Please connect Madison to this line.
2277	3/26/2021	Love it please do it
2278	3/26/2021	Living in the Twin Cities, this would make it so much easier for me to visit my family in northern Indiana, so I am very much in favor of this. I would like to see reliable free Wi-Fi included, so I can do work on the train rather than use my limited vacation time. This would be a major bonus for train travel over traveling by plane or car, and would make choosing the train a lot more attractive than those other two options.
2279	3/26/2021	We need more service between Chicago, Milwaukee and the twin cities. Good for business and tourism.
2280	3/26/2021	This is a fantastic idea. Long over due. This will cut down on car traffic and CO2 by making 4 major metropolitan areas easily accessible.
2281	3/26/2021	This would be a wonderful addition to increase travel between several major cities in the area. I'd love to be able to do a roundtrip via train to LaCrosse or Mneapolis in one day, like going to Chicago. Currently I'd have to pay for an overnight hotel which makes it a weekend trip instead of a day trip. Travel and tourism would increase with a daytrip option.

2282	3/26/2021	Yes go for it! We have taken train to Mpls before and my daughter did while attending school there. Also take train whenever we go to Chicago. No parking worries. We live in McFarland. Wish a train would stop in Madison.
2283	3/26/2021	I am so excited for additional rail service in the region!
2284	3/26/2021	This is wonderful. Please add a station in Madison! So many would use it, and it would cut down on car traffic between Madison and the other Wisconsin stations.
2285	3/26/2021	I would support an expanded level of service and availability of intercity rail. These cities would greatly benefit from additional rail travel service if there is also additional effort to increase station connectivity to the local public transit services from the station to key attractions around Wisconsin stations.
2286	3/26/2021	Why won't there be a station in Madison? I feel that having a train route for students to attend the university would be extremely beneficial to help reduce our carbon footprint. At UW-Madison, students can easily live without a car and having a rail system for easy travel would also encourage students to live without a vehicle. Also, many students already look for flights home out of Milwaukee or even consider driving to Chicago for international travel. It's seems logical to include Madison in the project. In my home state of New Mexico, a train project was completed to run service between Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Because of the multiple stops and the speed of the train, it's still faster to drive and many people don't bother using the train. Please consider the benefits of high-speed rail travel or implementing direct routes with less frequent stops otherwise this project will not pay itself off.
2287	3/26/2021	I am strongly in favor of adding more public train transit.
2288	3/26/2021	Make it fast and give it its own track. Use extra taxes on cars in the I94/I90 corridors to pay for it.
2289	3/26/2021	Hasn't this project already been approved???? I am all in favor of increasing the ability to travel between these midwest centers. I would love to be able to make train trips when visiting friends. Depending on the start date, I will definitely use this second daily trip to travel between St Paul and Chicago.
2290	3/26/2021	It might make sense to figure out a way to include Rochester; its much larger than Red Wing and the potential for employees who live in the Twin Cities to use as a commuting train. It also might serve visitors to Mayo, etc. The rest of the route is pretty good, but can't you get it closer to Madison? It is still a haul for people to take it from Columbus. Outside of Milwaukee and the Twin Cities, Rochester and Madison are two next largest cities (Madison being larger) and to have them left out seems wrong, and may cut into usage significantly.
2291	3/26/2021	I would like to see the west side of Madison be added as a stop
2292	3/26/2021	Add Madison as a stop!!!!!!
2293	3/26/2021	Yes. Please make a second train. The timing is not great right now with it arriving from Chicago so late. This would be a huge boost to transportation in the region.

2294	3/26/2021	The Rail Project should consider [quote]Madison[quote]. It is the second most populous city of Wisconsin.
2295	3/26/2021	I absolutely love this idea it would be so helpful to see family at a better cost. Thank you for even proposing this idea.
2296	3/26/2021	This looks like a fantastic opportunity for more transit options.
2297	3/26/2021	Adding a stop in Madison would be a huge improvement! For being a state capital, we need more connection to efficient public transit.
2298	3/26/2021	<p>This will be a great project for the entire state. Wisconsin and our neighboring states need reliable interstate transportation options to further integrate the major regional economic hubs of the Midwest with each other, as well as with the smaller communities in-between. Further, this is a safe and extremely cost effective solution to our transportation needs.</p> <p>My only suggestion would be to add a stop in the western suburbs of Milwaukee, such as Hartland or Oconomowoc. Many business travelers will be looking to travel to Chicago or the Twin Cities from the Milwaukee suburbs, and I believe a stop in this area will increase both usage and convenience.</p> <p>To reiterate, this project will be a long-term yet cost effective solution to the regional transportation needs of Wisconsin. I urge the WisDOT and all relevant authorities to fully support the development of this project.</p>
2299	3/26/2021	<p>Instead of limping along with a dilapidated slow service, can we consider a highspeed rail from primarily the major cities of Minneapolis, Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago? Something faster and more direct.</p> <p>It's absurd how slow and economically unviable the current rail system is... adding a second daily trip will not fix this.</p>
2300	3/26/2021	I would love to see some sort of service added that includes Madison in this proposal - perhaps a shuttle service from Madison park-and-ride to the Columbus station.
2301	3/26/2021	very supportive of this project, I would travel for recreation in WI much more if this was in place!
2302	3/26/2021	This is a great idea.
2303	3/26/2021	Please move forward with this! We missed a huge opportunity when the previous governor rejected federal funds to build high speed rail along this same route.
2304	3/26/2021	This project is very important and provides necessary regional connections for both commerce and tourism. However, the project would be substantially improved if a connection through Madison was established.
2305	3/26/2021	Adding a Madison stop and a Rochester stop would make this a great option for college students! I commuted between Madison and Milwaukee for three years--having a rail route would have been a lifesaver
2306	3/26/2021	You HAVE to find a way to get Madison connected. It is so ridiculously stupid to not have Wisconsin's capital connected to an intercity rail.
2307	3/26/2021	Please consider adding a stop in Madison, WI!!!

2308	3/26/2021	I am highly in favor of the proposed increase in services for the Empire Builder passenger route.
2309	3/26/2021	No. Invest more to build new rails that allow for faster service and include population centers in Rochester and Madison.
2310	3/26/2021	I think it would be a fantastic addition to our state!
2311	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in or near Madison WI.
2312	3/26/2021	Adding a stop through Madison, with its major economic players of UW and Epic, would dramatically increase ridership!
2313	3/26/2021	This is desperately needed here! I would use this multiple times a year to get back-and-forth between Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago. It would be a Boon all cities economies and is long overdue. My biggest suggestion for this would be to include a stop in Madison, Wisconsin.
2314	3/26/2021	I do not believe a passenger rail system is worth investing in unless we create a true high speed rail system. The current passenger rail system speeds are capped by the rails the ride on. I believe that should this rail system be approved, that the states should invest in making a new dedicated high speed rail line and modern bullet trains. Re-using the same rails and technology from 40-50 years ago is not preparing ours and the next generation well enough. Also I think that the rail should be routed through Green Bay since the amount of traffic to and from Green bay is significant during football season and a passenger rail could transport people across state in a way much more environmentally safer by reducing the amount of cars going that way.
2315	3/26/2021	I am in favor of this daily rail service, I wish Madison could be incorporated to the route it has the highest population density outside of Milwaukee.
2316	3/26/2021	The route should include Madison to bring a greater benefit in back and forth travel. Otherwise, Madisonians will need to drive to another city to take advantage of the rail route to Milwaukee.
2317	3/26/2021	I've been wanting a line between Madison, Milwaukee, and Chicago for most of my life as I have lived in and have ties to all three cities. I would love this system. That said, I think a connection in Madison only makes sense as it would be used by college students and professionals who live and work in the capital.
2318	3/26/2021	It is pure madness to not put Madison on the route. It is the second-biggest city, the state capital, and home to many people, notably students, who do not have cars. If you're going to do it, do it right.
2319	3/26/2021	Great idea!
2320	3/26/2021	Hi there, As someone who travels between Chicago and Minneapolis to visit friends, in addition to being someone actively trying to reduce my carbon footprint from flying, more options to travel efficiently, affordably, and sustainability are greatly needed!
2321	3/26/2021	I think Madison should be a departure city
2322	3/26/2021	A route through Madison needs to be part of this interstate rail system.
2323	3/26/2021	
2324	3/26/2021	Please, please, please add Madison to this route!

2325	3/26/2021	What possible reason do you have for not connecting directly with Madison? Not only does my Madison family view the idea of a direct train to Chicago or Minneapolis with great enthusiasm, but I have friends and family in both cities that feel the same. Madison is quickly growing, has major corporations and adjacent business making their homes here, and so many young people who would travel every weekend if they could. What sort of demand do Wisconsin Dells and Portage have that would make them better choices than Madison?
2326	3/26/2021	I think it's a great idea
2327	3/26/2021	This is something that would improve the lives of all people in the midwest, and could really make a positive impact on the environment by inviting more people to use public transportation!
2328	3/26/2021	please please please add a stop for Madison! Train service would be a gamechanger.
2329	3/26/2021	Please include Madison in this proposal, or at least connect via Waunakee (north side of Madison); thank you!
2330	3/26/2021	I have been excited about this proposition for years and wished the previous administrations wouldn't have shut it down. Adding a stop/location in Madison would be really impactful economically. There's also the opportunity to better connect the airports in these cities by adding that stop.
2331	3/26/2021	This rail should make a stop through Madison. Many residence of Madison area utilize public transit as their primary mode of transportation. Having a rail through Madison would increase use and further tourism to the major cities on the rail line.
2332	3/26/2021	Please consider adding a pin for Madison as a suggested stop!
2333	3/26/2021	Not going through Madison seems ridiculous. A [quote]potential[quote] shuttle service is laughable for the second largest city in the state. Especially then the line could easily be moved to include it.
2334	3/26/2021	It would be great to add a feeder from Madison somehow. It would be a very popular destination from points both east and west.
2335	3/26/2021	A passenger train between the Twin Cities would be super useful for me, as Chicago and Madison are the cities I visit most often for work and I would love to be able to take the train instead of driving. A consistent bus from the station in Wisconsin to Madison would be especially useful.
2336	3/26/2021	I strongly favor this project. Improved rail transportation between Chicago and St. Paul would be both a great benefit to the public in providing better alternatives to highway travel, and would be an economic boost allowing more commerce between those cities and the Wisconsin cities in between.
2337	3/26/2021	It'd be a massive missed opportunity to miss connecting Madison to this project. Between the Twon Cities and Chicago, this is the most walkable and transit oriented city. Many people here don't own cars and would truly utilize a downtown to downtown line. Please add a Madison stop.
2338	3/26/2021	Added another pin on the map.
2339	3/26/2021	
2340	3/26/2021	I would use this often for recreation and to visit loved ones.

2341	3/26/2021	Please add a Madison stop to this route. There are many who are from Twin Cities, Chicago, and Milwaukee area who attend UW-Madison and this would be an efficient way for them to travel to and from school.
2342	3/26/2021	Is there any discussion about a direct (no stops) between MSP and Chicago? I think the reason it's underutilized is all of the stops, making it faster to just drive.
2343	3/26/2021	I would love to have a second daily train for the Empire Builder. My elderly mom lives in northern Illinois. My best friend lives in Portland, Oregon. Being able to get a more convenient train in both directions, or the ability to catch a second train when dropping off a minor child with grandma, would be a great improvement. I generally do an Amtrak round-trip at least once a year.
2344	3/26/2021	Why is this not already done?! My girlfriend's family lives in Chicago and we make the trip from Minneapolis close to 8 times a year. Would love to ride a train but right now it's too unreliable and expensive. Expand transit, and while we're at it please work on high-speed rails to make trips to all US cities more efficient
2345	3/26/2021	Go through Madison, dummies. Portage AND Wisconsin Dells stops even though they're right next to each other but no service to the major metropolitan area 30 miles away. Fricken duh.
2346	3/26/2021	I think this is a fantastic idea. I would be even more thrilled if there was a connection to Madison, WI. I will take what I can get for now.
2347	3/26/2021	Added another pin on the map.
2348	3/26/2021	Please make the tiny detour to add a stop in Madison! It would be popular and we desperately need it!
2349	3/26/2021	It is exciting that the frequency of such service will be increasing. The route offers connection to otherwise difficult to reach towns without the use of a car. This connection will benefit many off the typical route from Milwaukee to Madison to the twin cities.
2350	3/26/2021	I support this project!!
2351	3/26/2021	I would definitely like to see more regional passenger rail routes in the Midwest like this proposed route. My only concern seeing this now might be that it does not route in or close to Madison and transit from those destinations would not be as good to Madison. I mention this because I believe ridership would be higher if Madison was included assuming that routing to there is economically feasible in the first place. Super exciting and I would love to on Amtrack or other routes more often if tickets are comparable to flying.
2352	3/26/2021	This is a no brainer as there is already a market that could be sustained as well as new markets created if the Midwest essentially operated as one. This allows for people who are qualified to go to places and people they can serve. It will expose and alleviate siloed endeavors necessary to sustainability of waterways, other transportation and public events. The projects also allows for major upgrades to the station in which will take on this project. The jobs created should absolutely go to the communities lacking and there should be minimum career needed as this will allow more people with the skills but not the education to apply! In short do the shit and also fix the local buses as they will get people to the trains!

2353	3/26/2021	Add Madison
2354	3/26/2021	This is a worthy project in an age when car and air travel are damaging to the environment. Train service can also cut down on the large crowds found at airports that are havens for viruses.
2355	3/26/2021	As someone who lives in Madison who would love: 1) a train route to MKE 2) a train route to Chicago and 3) a train route to the twin cities, I am confused about why Madison (a major city with lots of potential riders) is not included in this proposal. We'd love a train option in Madison, especially since the interstate corridor between Madison in Milwaukee is hugely congested and a drag to drive. In conclusion: Madison too, please! And thanks! :)
2356	3/26/2021	If no changes to the current route are made to bring the train to Madison, I feel that it would be important to provide an additional bus connection from the Columbus station into downtown Madison (in both directions). I think that this project would be very beneficial overall.
2357	3/26/2021	Please include Madison WI on the route.
2358	3/26/2021	Add Madison to the stop
2359	3/26/2021	I love the idea of increasing passenger rail availability in this corridor. I know that you are using the Amtrak route, but I think it should merit serious consideration to apply for federal funds to detour through Madison. The college student population would absolutely love and use this corridor (particularly MN-Madison and Madison-MKE) if it's even remotely convenient to do so. They don't have cars, and they move frequently! Given that you will likely depend on funding based on ridership numbers, this should be more than an incidental consideration. Young people want quick and reliable transit. If you build it they will come.
2360	3/26/2021	I am in favor adding a second daily round-trip passenger service. I hope that this rail line will eventually receive support to expand to Madison and SW Wisconsin
2361	3/26/2021	This rail system needs to go through Madison. It would be a huge oversight to not have Madison added.
2362	3/26/2021	Please keep the trains affordable! We'd love more transit in the area!
2363	3/26/2021	Please route the train through Madison. WE would use it, as would many many others. I have never understood why the train currently does not go through Madison!!!
2364	3/26/2021	This project is an absolute necessity. There are so many ways this improves peoples' lives and economies of the states involved. As the population ages, a project like this could keep everyone safe; less cars on the roads, less pollution, and is a cost-effective way to achieve those and other measures! Please make this a reality! I am in total support.
2365	3/26/2021	I'm a Madison resident, and would greatly value a station through Madison WI! Not only would I use it frequently, I would seriously consider opening up a business near the station.
2366	3/26/2021	Please please please add more regular service between the Twin Cities and Chicago!

2367	3/26/2021	I support this proposal
2368	3/26/2021	Please move forward with this!
2369	3/26/2021	WHY haven't you done this already? A morning run to Chicago and late night run from Chicago would complement the daily Empire Builders. The rest of the world is building trains , and even FINLAND has more true high-speed rail that the U.S. So does Spain. So do Turkey and Sweden. And all of that is new. We are falling behind the rest of the world because idiots think doing anything right costs too much money. Just like blowing the COVID response, catching up costs far, far more than doing right in the first place.
2370	3/26/2021	Can't come soon enough
2371	3/26/2021	This would be amazing. I have family in Chicago, Milwaukee and Twin Cities area. I've taken the mega bus from Chicago to St. Paul more times than I can count. This would be so helpful for all of those who need a fast way to get around these Midwest states.
2372	3/26/2021	I am in favor of adding this additional rail service between St. Paul and Chicago.
2373	3/26/2021	It's absolutely ridiculous to leave Madison out of this route. The route starts in the Twin Cities and bypasses Madison in favor of smaller towns on the way to Milwaukee and then Chicago. Madison needs rail access!
2374	3/26/2021	If it could pass closer to Madison I would use it often to get to Milwaukee and back! If Columbus is the closest station I don't think it would make sense for me just due to the increase in commute time when compared to driving from Madison to Milwaukee. Just placing the pin near Madison. I still could opt for utilizing this service from Columbus if it had a lower footprint than my Prius for the drive to Milwaukee, was cost effective, and left at a time that made sense for a weekend trip. So demanding :). I appreciate the investment in public transport from a green perspective!
2375	3/26/2021	Yes! This is a great idea!
2376	3/26/2021	As someone who travels in the region frequently, adding stops in Madison and Minneapolis would make this project 100x more valuable for region's economy - connect the rural areas with the economic hubs, don't try and avoid them
2377	3/26/2021	YES YES YES please make this happen. However it would be wonderful if there was a convenient way to get from Madison to Milwaukee, Chicago, and Minneapolis. I think that it ridiculous that the 2nd largest city in Wisconsin has no train service.
2378	3/26/2021	It seems completely insane that this project will avoid Madison in favor of very small towns like Portage. If the goal is to benefit the public in Wisconsin, it seems like traveling closer to the population centers would be more beneficial than wandering through the sparser areas.
2379	3/26/2021	Please support TCMC project to provide railroad improvements and interior renovations at St Paul as a vital link between these important locations.

2380	3/26/2021	It is extremely short-sighted to skip Madison.
2381	3/26/2021	Please add Madison!
2382	3/26/2021	Please add Madison!
2383	3/26/2021	FORWARD!! By all means do it.. Retain the Tomah stop.
2384	3/26/2021	A reliable and more accessible mode of connecting these cities as well as the potential cost comparison makes year round cross county and state travel so much safer, environmentally friendly, and appealing! Weather won't deter travelers from driving conditions and schedules the way one would expect driving in winter. And the increase in travel/tourism/work seem more accessible for people even wanting to travel in state or making smaller trips. Some areas are only desirable during summer but the ability to easily travel during off season means and increase in their hotel and restaurant life for those seeking to travel during off season when the revenue is traditionally lower.
2385	3/26/2021	This would be an excellent project, as it would improve transportation to Chicago at significantly less pollution than driving or flying, and significantly easier.
2386	3/26/2021	Would be better received if it stopped in Madison!
2387	3/26/2021	Please add Madison!!
2388	3/26/2021	Madison is the capitol of Wisconsin, one of the fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the Midwest, and home to one of the great universities of the country. It is vital that a rail corridor connecting Chicago to Minneapolis connects to Madison as well. Given the size of the city, and the amount of people in Madison oriented against using cars (especially in the student body of the colleges in the area), an extra round-trip passenger rail to the city seems like a no-brainer.
2389	3/26/2021	Please make this happen. I am in full support. I lowlife love to take the train from Milwaukee to Minneapolis. It would be so convenient.
2390	3/26/2021	There should be a stop in the Madison area.
2391	3/26/2021	From having one student at UMN and another contemplating for 2022- I would welcome more service in this corridor as we would run up against no seats available as well as the departure times, leave MN in the AM, when wanted to leave in the PM. My son much preferred train travel in this corridor instead of bus. We would also have used it to visit as it is so convenient. (Mke - Mnpls)
2392	3/26/2021	Good idea!
2393	3/26/2021	I am a Wisconsin resident and a big supporter of expanded rail access between Chicago, Milwaukee, and MPLS. But while this project is being implemented, why isn't Madison included on the route? It seems like a big shortsighted mistake to cut Madison out of this route given the number of students and tech workers clustered in the city whose economic, educational, personal and professional lives would be enhanced by rail access between MPLS and Chicago. The longterm economic impact alone of connecting Madison to MPLS, Milwaukee, and Chicago would make a very strong argument for making the investment upfront to include Madison in the route.

2394	3/26/2021	I would like to have passenger rail service through Eau Claire from Chicago to Saint Paul. It would open up so many opportunities for the people in the Chippewa Valley.
2395	3/26/2021	This needs to go through Madison. Love this idea. Would take multiple times per year Madison to Chicago
2396	3/26/2021	It seems unconscionable to exclude Madison in the railway expansion. Madison needs commuter trains!
2397	3/26/2021	How is it that this route does not go through Madison? Please fix this.
2398	3/26/2021	This route does not include Madison, which is extremely disappointing as it is the state's second largest city and is a community that would be very enthusiastic to use this train route as an alternative to driving. While understandable that the project is based on existing rails, it should as a minimum include a shuttle from Madison to Columbus to ensure that Madison can benefit from the enhanced service and longer term planning and funding should be dedicated towards including Madison on this corridor. While it is exciting to see expanded rail service in Wisconsin, this project's route excludes a number of Wisconsinites who would use and benefit from rail in Wisconsin.
2399	3/26/2021	Why would anyone want to ride a rail car to go up north when they can drive their own car listening to their own music stopping at local restaurants and bars for food bathroom etc. This is a giant waste of money and will hurt local businesses along the way. Besides after someone is riding on the train and gets to the destination are they suppose to uber around town since they wont have a vehicle now to sight see. We need to move on from railroad this is not the 1800s.
2400	3/26/2021	1. Don't bypass Madison. 2. Include O'Hare.
2401	3/26/2021	This is a great idea
2402	3/26/2021	I am very in support of increased service on passenger rail routes. I've used passenger rail in the past and the main barrier to me using it more has been there being only one service on the route serving my area and making it easier to find a service that fits my schedule would increase my use of passenger rail in the future! I especially like how this route connects in St Paul to the Twin Cities light rail to get to the airport, umn, both downtowns, etc. I see myself visiting Wisconsin more with increased service on this route.
2403	3/26/2021	Great idea. It would be wonderful yo have a stop in Madison.
2404	3/26/2021	Please include Madison as a stop on the route. It's unconscionable to me that the capital city would be sidelined from this route given the amount of highway traffic and emissions that could be relieved with this additional stop.
2405	3/26/2021	This looks GREAT! Would love to see such a line in IL, WI, MN!
2406	3/26/2021	This is a wonderful idea that will connect the region that will increase economic activity and mobility for workers and students. This will create labor jobs while being built and permanent jobs once completed. I look forward to having this finished.
2407	3/26/2021	I would be thrilled if there were a way for this line to run through Madison, WI.

2408	3/26/2021	It makes absolutely no sense to not have Madison included on the route.
2409	3/26/2021	
2410	3/26/2021	<p>I am strongly in favor of altering the proposed route to include service to the Madison area. Not only is it a population center, there are many residents (including many students) who do not own vehicles and would not be able to access the rail; students in particular may come from other parts of the state and would heavily utilize the rail to travel from Madison to their homes and back. As a car-less student who took Amtrak to travel to the west coast, I had to take the bus from Madison to Chicago to catch the train, adding nearly 8 hours of travel onto an already 2-day trip. I did not do so again.</p> <p>Continuing to exclude Madison from the passenger rail misses out on a prime market segment already willing and eager to take mass transit.</p>
2411	3/26/2021	I support the project with a focus on funding towards improvements and service.
2412	3/26/2021	This sounds great!
2413	3/26/2021	I think this additional Twin Cities-Milwaukee passenger rail project is a GREAT idea! I would love more options for getting from Minneapolis to Chicago!
2414	3/26/2021	LOVE THIS!!!! Absolutely 100% would make life better and easier!!! However perhaps put a stop in Madison to also connect Madison and Milwaukee for more commuting and travel within Wisconsin?
2415	3/26/2021	This is a great idea this will make it easier to travel these long distances and more environmentally friendly because less people will take cars to drive these long distances
2416	3/26/2021	If it's tax payer funded in any way the answer is NOOOO!!!!!!
2417	3/26/2021	Hello, thank you for considering this project, and for considering Madison as a stop.
2418	3/26/2021	Bypassing Madison, WI is a ridiculous move. The capitol is the hub of activity and culture in southcentral WI. If the goal of this project is to [quote]provide residents of Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Illinois convenient access to jobs, cultural attractions, top universities, and world-class healthcare[quote] leaving out Madison is a huge mistake.
2419	3/26/2021	This should go through Madison! Not everyone has access to a car and even if they all did, public transport is a preferred option for many!
2420	3/26/2021	This is ABSOLUTELY something that needs to happen. It's quite frankly ridiculous that it's taken this long for the question to be raised again. So many people need to make this journey but don't have personal transportation to do so. An amtrak route that passes through Milwaukee on it's way to the Twin Cities is crucial.
2421	3/26/2021	Add Madison! Near the University. Thousands of students would take advantage of it.
2422	3/26/2021	Yes, please!!
2423	3/26/2021	Please re-route it through Madison!! It seems like such an oversight to bypass Madison as it continues to grow into a metropolitan area.
2424	3/26/2021	Would love high speed rail to become a reality! A stop in Madison would be great!

2425	3/26/2021	I can't, for the life of me, understand how the present route bypasses Madison, Wisconsin, in favor of Columbus. We get a huge amount of automobile traffic between Chicago and Madison ((and, of course, between Milwaukee and Madison), some of which could be replaced by rail service through Milwaukee. Please examine rerouting the Milwaukee/Columbus line through Madison and on to Portage (or perhaps Wisconsin Dells, or bypassing those two altogether and running straight to Tomah).
2426	3/26/2021	I am in full support of this project and any project that seeks to increase rail service!
2427	3/26/2021	please do this it is so vitally needed!!!
2428	3/26/2021	Why would you bypass Madison? It's a HUGE college town, and I imagine a lot of students would make use of this line to get to and from university.
2429	3/26/2021	It would be shortsighted to not include Madison in this route, even if there's an additional cost. Madison is by many metrics one of the fastest growing cities in the midwest, not to mention the state capital. To not include it in this route would cut out a large population of users who would either prefer taking public transit or cannot afford other methods of travel.
2430	3/26/2021	Include Madison in the rail route
2431	3/26/2021	Include Madison in the rail route
2432	3/26/2021	This would greatly increase travel by rail. I think more frequent and reliable trips would exponentially increase rail travel meaning fewer cars on the road, more efficient use of energy and an overall benefit to the public and the environment.
2433	3/26/2021	
2434	3/26/2021	Please expand all options and look into a high speed line for this route.
2435	3/26/2021	It would be absolutely amazing to have Madison WI added to this rail service!!
2436	3/26/2021	Madison must be connected with the system.
2437	3/26/2021	Having grown up near Philadelphia I dearly miss a rail connection between cities for passengers with frequent convenient service. I'd love to see the line open to Green Bay! Bus service has too many links to change busses and it's too slow! Green Bay to Milwaukee and even Green Bay to twin Cities would be fabulous!!
2438	3/26/2021	Overall this project is great. Would like to see a future stop in Madison instead of using a shuttle service on the WI side of the project.
2439	3/26/2021	Please put a stop in Madison!! I'd use this all the time if I could access it in town.
2440	3/26/2021	Include Madison
2441	3/26/2021	My wife and I believe it should have been done at the time Governor Walker rejected it. Now I assume it will probably be more expensive.
2442	3/26/2021	To leave Madison out of this system is a real mistake. Yes, this is the existing route, but it needs to change OR run a high speed shuttle from Madison to Columbus. The Madison area community will provide significant support for using this system. Make it happen.
2443	3/26/2021	It would be beneficial to include Madison as one of the stops as well
2444	3/26/2021	Yes! Would be so beneficial!!
2445	3/26/2021	please include madison Imfao. who drew this line?
2446	3/26/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison.

2447	3/26/2021	This is a wonderful and needed project. I heartily endorse more train runs between these cities. I have personally used this line to travel between MKE and St Paul many times.
2448	3/26/2021	It is great to see the route service being expanded to add a second daily round trip, but it would be fantastic to add a stop in Madison. It's quite puzzling that the second-largest city in Wisconsin does not have passenger rail service. I would love to have the option to visit Milwaukee by rail without having to drive. This would be a meaningful expansion of the service.
2449	3/26/2021	Madison should absolutely be included along the route. It would drastically increase ridership because many people from Madison would use it to access towns/cities along the route, and many people along the route would want to travel to Madison. A lot of commuters would prefer to travel this way too, rather than driving individually and impacting the environment (and some don't have a car at all). Overall it would have a great economic and cultural impact on all to include Madison.
2450	3/26/2021	Please make the train go through Madison instead of portage, it makes so much more sense! People are actually trying to get between Madison and Chicago.
2451	3/26/2021	Minneapolis is now a metro area of 3 million people. Adding a second train to the Empire Builder route is a logical choice to increase connections to Chicago, Milwaukee and points in between.
2452	3/26/2021	This should stop in Madison! This would make the whole system make much more sense and it would be loved and used by many in Madison. Portage is a far drive especially burdensome for those without a car. The extra cost would be well worth it considering the entire city of people who would use the train. A stop in Madison is not only wanted but necessary, thank you!
2453	3/26/2021	Why would ever think this should Madison?!?? Columbus??? Seriously??? Again?!? What about all of those UW students that can't have a vehicle on campus because of the asinine parking rates? How do you plan on them getting to the station? Fix the stupid mistake of putting a train stop in Columbus and put one in Madison!!
2454	3/26/2021	Add Madison! Possibly get rid of Columbus.
2455	3/26/2021	I support this project. Not only will it improve transportation between its endpoints (the Twin Cities and Chicago), it will also help to serve intermediate metro areas such as LaCrosse, Milwaukee, and Racine. I will also note the great potential at the Wisconsin Dells stop; the Dells are a major regional tourist attraction, and additional service from major cities to them can only spur more growth. I would suggest that this study quantify how much expense would be required to route trains through Madison instead of Columbus. Madison-Milwaukee and Madison-Chicago would be major city pairs. That estimate could be the basis for a future expansion of Hiawatha service to Madison, even if this train cannot serve that city feasibly.
2456	3/26/2021	Madison is the second largest city in WI, home of the UW, and the state capital, and should totally be on this route!

2457	3/26/2021	Add a line through Madison, WI
2458	3/26/2021	Madison deserves to be one of the stops! there are a higher percentage of people in this city without cars, this SERVES THEM MOST!
2459	3/26/2021	I think a rail system like this is a great idea. I have taken buses between Chicago, Madison, and Minneapolis for many years, and a rail system would be much more pleasant and reliable. I think the route should include a stop in Madison as well.
2460	3/26/2021	Great start, but not planning far enough ahead. Please consider parallel or separate planning for a true high-speed rail corridor. That is, plan now for purchase and/or condemnation of right-of-way for a more rural route that can operate at high speeds with limited stops; for example: Chicago->Rockford->Madison->Columbus, etc. Please consider purchase/ condemnation of right-of-way for spur lines from major stops rather than many stops. One station in Milwaukee area and fewer stops in the north shore and lakefront cities, with spur or intermodal connections will be adequate, if longer planning horizon is used. Finally, support for national/regional transportation improvements should no longer be limited to auto fuel-based or vehicle registration-based revenue streams. They are not sustainable and does not consider all extraneous costs of auto-based transportation. Heavy and light rail should be the backbone of our transportation system, with redundancies considered for national defense purposes.
2461	3/26/2021	I enthusiastically support the proposed project. A reliable and efficient alternative to driving between Chicago or Milwaukee and the Twin Cities is needed.
2462	3/26/2021	I enthusiastically support the proposed project. A reliable and efficient alternative to driving between Chicago or Milwaukee and the Twin Cities is needed.
2463	3/26/2021	Please include Madison! I understand the infrastructure and reasons behind the proposed route, but bypassing the next biggest city is a short sighted and detrimental move. Add Madison for far better inclusion of a much greater volume of people, including students, healthcare workers, IT industry and others who travel regularly (especially to the twin cities, Milwaukee, etc) and would help drive and support this excellent transportation alternative.
2464	3/26/2021	Add Madison as a stop on this line.
2465	3/26/2021	I lived in Saint Paul for years and can say that rail service is desperately needed along this corridor. Also, where is question 2?
2466	3/26/2021	Yes I 100% support and champion this! We live in the Twin Cities and one set of grandparents live in Winona and it would be so amazing to have additional options to travel via rail with young kids. We also love the idea of traveling to other stops along the route including Wisconsin Dells and Chicago and this would also open up our options further.

2467	3/26/2021	I strongly support this proposed additional passenger service between Chicago and the Twin Cities, and particularly the additional service between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities where only the Empire Builder currently operates. The additional service will add scheduling flexibility---particularly eastbound since the Empire Builder is often running late by that point, sometimes very late. It is also important that the intermediate stops be retained, as proposed. Columbus is a fairly short distance from Madison, Wisconsin and with free parking available is a good alternative to Milwaukee or Chicago as a starting point for Amtrak trips, but its usefulness is currently limited by having only one train, especially in cases where the ultimate destination is not along the Empire Builder route. I would also hope that if the new service is a success, that perhaps even more service might be considered in the future.
2468	3/26/2021	Please, please include a Madison stop! Or at the very least, people in Madison should be able to buy one ticket that gets them from Madison to Chicago, or Madison to the Twin Cities (i.e. they would take a bus to Columbus Station before getting on the rail but would not have to buy 2 separate tickets)
2469	3/26/2021	Please add Madison to the rail route
2470	3/26/2021	We would like to see a Madison stop added if at all possible. Madison is the Capitol and 2nd most populous city in Wisconsin. Preferred stop would be downtown, but by the airport would be a good 2nd alternative.
2471	3/26/2021	Please include a stop in Madison, WI. As the second largest city in WI, Madison should be included both as a way to serve more Wisconsinites and as a way to make sure the trains have a higher level of ridership to make them fiscally viable. Thank you.
2472	3/26/2021	Please consider adding a loop to Madison, WI.
2473	3/26/2021	It should connect to Madison - one of the fastest growing cities in the state.
2474	3/26/2021	I believe that a Madison stop on this line would be extremely valuable, both to area residents and to the profitability of the line.
2475	3/26/2021	With family in Minneapolis and La Crosse, we would use this service. The current Amtrak schedule is not convenient for traveling between these two cities.
2476	3/26/2021	Another massive waste of taxpayer dollars!
2477	3/26/2021	Why bypass Madison, a city with a lot of commuters who don't own vehicles, and instead pass through Portage and Columbus, with much smaller populations and who have vehicle access? This route would be much better served going through Madison, and could compete with many of the Madison-Milwaukee or Madison-Chicago bus routes currently used.
2478	3/26/2021	

2479	3/26/2021	I love being able to board at St Paul in the evening and sleep on the train and wake up in Chicago! also love eating dinner at sunset watching the river from the dining car window. for me the train is just so much more fun than an airplane when I have the time to spend. I've had trips cancelled twice when train was stuck at Glacier Park so I quit booking when there's a chance of snow. it would be great to have more predictable schedules with a train departing direct from St Paul And I love the idea of an MOA station! I'd ride it from Bloomington where I live to get to downtown St Paul if that were possible! a commuter option would be really cool like in Chicago!
2480	3/26/2021	This is a good start however once completed or even before. There needs to be plans on expansion to communities such as Eau Claire & Green Bay. Possibly even beyond.
2481	3/26/2021	That route follows the exact route I take often on my trips to Chicago. It would follow the corridor a lot of us use already.
2482	3/26/2021	Hearing about adding the second daily train and proposed La Crosse connection is very encouraging to me. I fully support this endeavor and think it would get many more people using the train who otherwise wouldn't or couldn't have.
2483	3/26/2021	Fully support the creation of a rail line between these cities - public transport is key to reducing our carbon footprint. I feel like it's missing a huge opportunity to connect directly to Madison, WI. Please consider the possibility of a change in route through the city.
2484	3/26/2021	Do this please.
2485	3/26/2021	Please add Madison to this route. Public transportation between these cities from Madison would not only boost Madison tourism, but would boost tourism in these other cities even more cause passengers from Madison could use this rail system.
2486	3/26/2021	This needs to go through Madison. With the high number of commuters from Chicago and Milwaukee, this is a major oversight. No one is going to take a train to the Wisconsin Dells and then drive to Madison. This feels like a major oversight without any sort of thought given to the Capitol of the state...? Please reroute for the benefit of riders and revenue for the state.
2487	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison! I'd love to be able to go to Chicago or O'Hare on the train.
2488	3/26/2021	As a Minnesotan with a house in Saint Paul and a cabin near LaCrosse, I support any added service on the Empire Builder line. YES, PLEASE! And if we could get some of those high speed trains like they have in Japan and France to get me there faster, all the better.
2489	3/26/2021	I suggest making Madison a stop along this route. I regularly commute into Chicago and would strongly prefer taking Amtrak over driving or a bus.
2490	3/26/2021	I am requesting you look at the option of including Madison in the line. You will be missing a large segment of the population that would use this service in each direction.
2491	3/26/2021	This would be something I would take advantage of to go to Chicago or even Milwaukee.
2492	3/26/2021	Please connect Madison to the line!

2493	3/26/2021	I hope this TCMC Rail Project succeeds. The U.S. must find ways to take passenger rail traffic off of rail freight lines. Then we could have shorter time travel with faster train speeds when dedicated passenger lines are used and not shared with freight.
2494	3/26/2021	I would love a Madison stop so i can visit family!
2495	3/26/2021	I believe the route should run more than twice a day and that it NEEDS to service Madison
2496	3/26/2021	High Speed Rail please.
2497	3/26/2021	I think this is a fantastic idea. I'm a Chicagoan who has spent a lot of time in Minneapolis and would love another option to travel there. It would help both recreationally and for business purposes.
2498	3/26/2021	Add Madison
2499	3/26/2021	Why does the route stop short of Madison? I have lived in both Madison and the Twin Cities and I always hear about people taking trips between Madison and Minneapolis/St. Paul. Likewise, I think a LaCrosse to Madison connection and Madison to Milwaukee would be in high demand. As it stands, I would never ride the rail as Wisconsin Dells just isn't close enough to the city. Lots of people travel from the Twin Cities to the Dells, but you can't really get around the Dells without a vehicle once you arrive. Madison has the additional commuter infrastructure to make this trip worth riding the rail.
2500	3/26/2021	It seems like there should be something in place to connect southern mn to the cities as well. I would be interested in something like that.
2501	3/26/2021	Please include Madison on the route! It is a city that would greatly benefit from inclusion in this endeavor.
2502	3/26/2021	Please include Madison on this route.
2503	3/26/2021	I believe it's time for Wisconsin to come into the 21st Century in terms of public transportation as well as mitigation of climate change gas-guzzling vehicles. As the state's population ages, passenger trains give seniors a safer and more efficient way of travel. Let's just do it... FINALLY!
2504	3/26/2021	Please add a stop for Madison WI for commuters. The Hiawatha line is heavily used between MKE and Chicago. The same could be built for Madison to MKE.
2505	3/26/2021	It will never work because, the infrastructure for high speed rail was never instituted as it was in Asia and Europe where each route has the potential of 10 or more round trips a day (yes! 10 RT a day! And the trains travel at 150 MPH. sometimes approaching 200 MPH. We still have 40 year old Amtrak's that are almost held together by glue and rubber bands for the most part! They hit about 80 MPH. belching thick diesel smoke also. Then comes ridership. Americans simply don't want to part with their cars. In Europe and Asia, it's a given. In fact, most people on those continents don't even own cars at all. Most hotels actually charge guests to park their cars. I love it! The line will only exist dependent on subsidies from the federal government like Amtrak has always depended on.
2506	3/26/2021	This would be so great. I have family in the Twin Cities and in Milwaukee. Please make this happen! Thanks. Mary Crawford

2507	3/26/2021	Madison needs to be on this route, please! As Madison is an urban and population center, it doesn't make sense to route around Madison, in terms of common sense, customer service and accessibility for those most likely to use the rail, as well as using this project to reduce overall carbon footprint.
2508	3/26/2021	This is a great idea but Madison should be a stop on the route.
2509	3/26/2021	I think this is a great idea that would do a lot of good for a lot of people! That said, I strongly believe that not adding a stop in Madison would disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of workers from being able to easily travel. Please add a Madison stop on this project!
2510	3/26/2021	Reroute the trail through Madison! That this is not already considered is absurd. How can no ROW be secured on the old Milwaukee Road?
2511	3/26/2021	Please consider Madison on your proposed route. As the Capitol of the state, as well as the home of UW, our lakes, and many other attractions, I would hope you would give this some consideration. Thank you!
2512	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison! We would love to have train service here and it is much more likely to have a need for mass transit between Madison and these other cities than smaller ones. Madison is the capital of the state and a major hub in Wisconsin and it only makes sense to include it in this exciting new project.
2513	3/26/2021	Add Madison as a stop. Bypassing the second largest city and the University community misses a lot of riders.
2514	3/26/2021	Hi why can't the route be diverted slightly south through Madison to capture the much larger base of users and population in southern Wisconsin (including the large student population attending UW Madison who would be much more likely to use AmTrak to Milwaukee, Chicago and St. Paul than the general population). Think of the time, energy and resources it takes for this large group of users to travel north via car just to access AmTrak. The current out of the way stops discourage use of the service through the more populated area of Wisconsin. AmTrak needs to be relevant and using the existing line through a sparsely populated area of Wisconsin doesn't make sense when there are existing rail lines and rights of way that could be used and updated to accommodate this service through Madison and along I-94 to Milwaukee and I-90 and I-94 to St. Paul. We should also be forward looking at high speed rail between Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison and the twin cities which could and should use the existing I-90, I-94 corridor.
2515	3/26/2021	I would like to see a stop in Madison. With university students and staff as well as several industries that make travel from Madison to Milwaukee, Chicago or the twin cities it makes sense to think about a way to include Madison, or something closer than Portage.

2516	3/26/2021	I fully support adding a second daily rail service between Chicago and the Twin Cities. As a Milwaukee native with family in the Twin Cities, I have traveled between these locations many times. It is an exhausting drive, one that becomes downright perilous during wintry weather. In recent years, my family and I have opted for Amtrak instead, but found the single daily service limiting. What's more, we have experienced lengthy delays because of freight train prioritization, and once were even diverted to a bus instead. The proposed improvements will make rail travel a more attractive option for many people.
2517	3/26/2021	Is there discussion to add a connector line from Madison to Portage or Madison to Watertown?
2518	3/26/2021	I am very much in favor of the TCMC project. This will give us more choices for traveling by rail between these cities and connections beyond. Increasing passenger choices will increase ridership and will help people get out of their cars and on to public transportation.
2519	3/26/2021	I'm very sorry supportive of added service, including a stop in Madison Wi
2520	3/26/2021	Add in Rochester and you have yourself a good deal for those seeking medical treatment not found elsewhere. More public passenger trains over all!
2521	3/26/2021	Love this idea but please have the route go through Madison. As the second biggest city in the state, as well as the capital and a major urban area with airport, it would make the most sense to have the train go through Madison. Please change the route. Thank you!
2522	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison. I understand the decision to exclude it is probably for legitimate financial limits, but it would be really beneficial if possible.
2523	3/26/2021	This is an excellent way to connect the Midwest and modernize the United States in a way it has lagged behind the rest of the world for basically a century. It will open up milwaukee, madison, and the twin cities to a lot of the growth that Chicago has seen too.
2524	3/26/2021	Considering how large of a population center Madison is, I'm surprised it's not included on this state-wide route. It would hugely add to Madison's ability to be a tourist spot, business hub (especially for business trips from Chicago and Milwaukee) and I would be MUCH more likely to use this if there was a stop and route through Madison.
2525	3/26/2021	Making this more accessible to Madison would be a huge boon. I travel to Chicago and the Twin Cities regularly and would much prefer to take the train than drive. However, the time it currently takes me to get from Madison to the train is too significant a fraction of my total travel time. Without a station in Madison it is significantly more economical and timely to just drive or even take a bus.
2526	3/26/2021	If offered the reliability and more convenient scheduling of a second train to Chicago, I would travel more and spend more money at each end of the line.
2527	3/26/2021	No reason to route near irrelevant places like Portage or Columbus - a path closer to the capital city of MADISON would be much more useful.

2528	3/26/2021	This is a great project but it needs to include Madison on the route. It does not make sense to exclude Wisconsin capital city and the large metropolitan area. It would benefit UW Madison students as well as Madison residents and would help bring tourists to Madison.
2529	3/26/2021	Really wish this went through or at least closer to Madison. I think you are missing the opportunity to increase passengers by serving the UW students and staff. Many of these individuals travel to/from the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago on a regular basis. Many students do not have access to a car to drive to Portage or Columbus stations.
2530	3/26/2021	This sounds good and hope Madison would have a depot as well as Milwaukee
2531	3/26/2021	We all need more trains. Trains are by far more cost effective and more pleasant than driving!
2532	3/26/2021	I lived much of my life in the Twin Cities and now live in Chicago. I drive up to spend time in the Cities at least once a year. If there were more trains on this route, I would certainly be using them. I would probably also use the route, in fact, to visit close friends in La Crosse. I can also vouch for the fact that my son and daughter-in-law would use the train as well, as they also have close friends in the Cities whom they often drive up to see.
2533	3/26/2021	This is idiotic. Like most rail projects they will be not be used and cost 10X any projections.
2534	3/26/2021	Madison should be included on this route.
2535	3/26/2021	As someone who in the past took the train from Newark to Milwaukee, I fully support the expansion of service. However, i find it incongruous that there is no stop in or close to Madison WI. This is a college town and state capital that would be well served by frequent rail service that does not require a side trip by bus.
2536	3/26/2021	It would be great if the train ran from Portage to Madison to Milwaukee. Madison is a major college town, and many students would love to be able to travel to their various homes in the midwest via train instead of needing to drive.
2537	3/26/2021	I would love to see the route include Madison in some way.
2538	3/26/2021	I consider the train a forward idea. Please include Madison a hub for it. Walker made a mistake in killing high speed rail. Let's resurrect it.
2539	3/26/2021	Route should include Madison, WI
2540	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison for this rail! It would be so useful to be able to journey between major cities, and many passengers from Madison would utilize this resource.
2541	3/26/2021	Yes yes yes. I cannot wait to have train service from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago. We would use this all the time.
2542	3/26/2021	Yes yes yes. I cannot wait to have train service from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago. We would use this all the time.
2543	3/26/2021	
2544	3/26/2021	Yes yes yes. I cannot wait to have train service from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago. We would use this all the time.
2545	3/26/2021	Yes yes yes. I cannot wait to have train service from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago. We would use this all the time.

2546	3/26/2021	Yes yes yes. I cannot wait to have train service from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago. We would use this all the time.
2547	3/26/2021	
2548	3/26/2021	
2549	3/26/2021	Yes yes yes. I cannot wait to have train service from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago. We would use this all the time.
2550	3/26/2021	I live in St Paul and travel frequently to Milwaukee and Chicago to visit family and conduct business. I prefer the train, but it is unreliable and the schedule is not convenient. A second train would address both concerns, and provide a more pleasant and environmentally sustainable option.
2551	3/26/2021	Please include a stop in Madison or near Madison.
2552	3/26/2021	I fully support this. Let's make it happen. I use the Empire Builder between St Paul and Milwaukee. 3 problems needing resolution are; Faster time. Should be 3 hours or less. Fewer delays. More frequent trips.
2553	3/26/2021	The rail line should include Madison as it is absurd to have a rail line that runs adjacent to but excludes the state capitol and 2nd largest city in Wisconsin from service.
2554	3/26/2021	I think this would be great if we could make it faster. It takes two and a half hours longer to get to Minneapolis from Chicago by train than by car. It should also go through Madison, as a large population of folks from both Chicago and Minneapolis travel there for school and sports events.
2555	3/26/2021	I think you should include a station in Madison, WI. There are currently no good public transport options to get from Madison to Chicago and I think that this route would be highly utilized.
2556	3/26/2021	Through Madison?
2557	3/26/2021	Totally support!
2558	3/26/2021	Fabulous! I support this 100%.
2559	3/26/2021	Please find a way to make a Minneapolis-Madison-Milwaukee high speed link. I know the Amtrak goes through Columbus, but Madison as a population center needs the link. Students need it.
2560	3/26/2021	A second daily round-trip train between Minneapolis / St. Paul and Chicago would, in my opinion, result in an exponential increase in the number of passengers along the entire length of this route. Currently, the only interstate travel option for most of the communities along this route is either private automobile or (limited) commercial bus service.
2561	3/26/2021	Please add Madison!!! Please!!!!
2562	3/26/2021	(1) Build it. I would use it, as would many people I know. I live in upstate NY but have many friends in Minneapolis/St Paul and others in Madison, and I go there by train. (2) It is a great pity that a previous Wisconsin governor prevented the construction of tracks through Madison which would have enabled this train to stop directly in Madison.
2563	3/26/2021	Please include Madison!

2564	3/26/2021	In order for this rail to be accessible to college students and others in Madison without cars there needs to be a stop through Madison, or connected to the rest of public transit in Madison (through a shuttle or other service). The current route is inadequate to serve this need.
2565	3/26/2021	A spur line to Madison WI should be included between Columbus and WI Dells. That would improve the overall flow from Chicago and Milwaukee and would drive more riders to the Dells.
2566	3/26/2021	I would like to see a stop added in Madison, WI.
2567	3/26/2021	Having a second train gives the flexibility to eliminate the need for a car! This is a wonderful option for traveling between Minnesota cities that I will personally use on a regular basis. The return on investment in terms of transportation options and track improvements is great!
2568	3/26/2021	If the midwest is ever going to extricate itself from dependence on fossil fuels, we must have convenient and accessible rail service. The Wisconsin state capitol, Madison, must be included in any project to expand and improve rail service in the state. Madison is home to a world class university with large population of students, most of whom do not own cars. Madison has world class health care and groundbreaking technology and is the seat of state government, but you currently cannot take a train to Madison to access those destinations. It is beyond time to have train service between Madison and Milwaukee and between Madison and Chicago. The existing rail corridors between Portage and Madison and the corridor between Madison and Watertown could be used for those purposes. Thank you.
2569	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Madison please
2570	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison, WI
2571	3/26/2021	This service expansion has been desired for many years and will be well received/utilized. I have a niece who lives in Winona, Mn. and uses the Empire Builder to Milwaukee (and back). She's been wishing for the additional train since she first heard that it was being seriously considered. The overall upgrades needed to make this a reality are not that extensive and are substantially funded already. Just do it!
2572	3/26/2021	I am 100% in favor of this.
2573	3/26/2021	I believe that adding a second run time will help curb the amount of people who are required to be on the roads between St Paul and La Crosse as well as La Crosse and Milwaukee. This also adds the ability for people to travel by train when utilizing any of the larger airports in the area. I believe the total utilization will increase due to increased flexibility which will bring in additional revenue. I only see this project as a positive.
2574	3/26/2021	There should be an additional form of transportation running from Madison to the corridor stations in WI, as Madison is a major population center and some folks may not be able to get to the station in Portage or Columbus without public transit!
2575	3/26/2021	Please, please run a route on existing rails in or near Madison. It's the 2nd largest city in the state with the largest university population.

2576	3/26/2021	I live in Milwaukee and, when we're not in the middle of a pandemic, travel regularly to Chicago and occasionally to the twin cities. I strongly support this proposal and would use this service. Before the pandemic I took the train between Milwaukee and Chicago an average of once or twice a year. Note that a spur bus route to O'Hare would make this even more attractive to me.
2577	3/26/2021	We live near LaCrosse and in [quote]normal times[quote] we travel often to Chicago, either as a destination for to connect to other trains. The one current train is often late arriving in Chicago, and an earlier train would be very helpful. We now often drive to Sturdevant and take a Hiawatha train to Chicago, but that means we have to drive extended distances, sometimes in bad weather, and we cannot [quote]work[quote] as described in the next sentences. Driving is a waste of our time. We do drive, but prefer rail travel when convenient, reliable service is available. We can use our computers on board for work related purposes, and read to catch up on recent documents. We believe that this service would be well used!
2578	3/26/2021	I remember when Madison had great intercity public transportation links by bus and train. In fourth grade classes at my school took the train to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, and in my teen years I trained down for a summer job. When I lived in upstate New York I took the train to the City on weekends. I have friends now who travel across country to visit family rather than fly. It's a shame Madisonians no longer have easy access to the train.
2579	3/26/2021	Please consider connecting this to Madison. You would make so much money by having passengers in and out of the capitol city. As a resident of Madison, I would never drive to Columbus or Wisconsin Dells to use this. It makes no sense that this would stop in a small town north of Madison and not the capitol city, 2nd largest in the state. I prefer to travel via train rather than driving, as it is much better for the environment and a more comfortable experience than driving or bus. I am from the Twin Cities and often travel there. I would change my response to very high in favor if this ran through Madison directly.
2580	3/26/2021	Please see my pin
2581	3/26/2021	I am an online student at UW Milwaukee and I live in La Crosse. I was planning on commuting for resarch uaing Amtrak and this would service me greatly. I also enjoy the theater productions in Minneapolis so it would be wonderful to commute more easily without spending so mich energy in the car and driving. If there would be any way to have a shuttle along the route to Madison, it would make UW Madison more readily available state wide for online degree takers wnating to also take advantage of campus resources.
2582	3/26/2021	Include Madison on this route, it would be hugely beneficial to may people
2583	3/26/2021	Yes! Please! We NEED THIS! Hell, we lost JOBS when high speed rail was ditched, bring that back too!
2584	3/26/2021	I love this. Would love stops in Madison as well.
2585	3/26/2021	I love this proposed project. This is a must needed transit line. The Midwest needs to invest in sustainable transportation.

2586	3/26/2021	Stop in Madison please!
2587	3/26/2021	Add Madison stop.
2588	3/26/2021	WE NEED THE TRAIN TO GO THROUGH MADISON!!! ALSO, LET'S ENTER THE 21ST CENTURY AND GET HIGH SPEED RAIL!!!
2589	3/26/2021	We live in Duluth MN and as often as possible travel via Amtrak departing at Union Station i St. Paul. This second train would make it much more user friendly to travel to the Milwaukee-Chicago area than it is now, with only the Empire Builder making that trip - with its start in Seattle & Portland making it unreliable as to time of departure.
2590	3/26/2021	I would love to have this. Traveling to and from Chicago would become that much easier. This should be completely funded.
2591	3/26/2021	There should be a station in Madison, Wisconsin. It is difficult for those without transportation to get to the stations in near by towns.
2592	3/26/2021	There should be a station in Madison, Wisconsin. It is difficult for those without transportation to get to the stations in near by towns.
2593	3/26/2021	Please add a stop through Madison!
2594	3/26/2021	Excellent project!!! Support it 100%!!!!
2595	3/26/2021	I love this idea!
2596	3/26/2021	Please add a call stop in Madison.
2597	3/26/2021	I support the intercity project
2598	3/26/2021	PLEASE do not route this amazing project without including Madison, we are already a community highly supportive of mass transportation and we would add a huge number of passengers!
2599	3/26/2021	President Biden is just proposing a tax on automobile use. I think more emphasis on high-speed rail systems would be of greater help in curbing air pollution and getting us where we need to go in less time and more efficiently.
2600	3/26/2021	I think it would be good to have a stop in or closer to Madison. I do business there regularly and would use the train to travel from Minneapolis to there.
2601	3/26/2021	I am all for rail lines to improve equitable access to our transportation system. This route needs to go through Madison, WI as well. There is a huge population there that does not have affordable methods of transportation to the surrounding major cities. It would be utilized by students and professionals. Skipping Madison is a huge loss of potential use and revenue.
2602	3/26/2021	I am all for rail lines to improve equitable access to our transportation system. This route needs to go through Madison, WI as well. There is a huge population there that does not have affordable methods of transportation to the surrounding major cities. It would be utilized by students and professionals. Skipping Madison is a huge loss of potential use and revenue.
2603	3/26/2021	Why is Madison not included in this rail project?
2604	3/26/2021	The train should absolutely go through Madison instead of Portage.
2605	3/26/2021	Please have Madison be a stop in this project. Am curious about future prospects of high speed rail for the region. In strong support of this
2606	3/26/2021	Please add Madison to the route.
2607	3/26/2021	A stop in Madison would be significantly better than portage.
2608	3/26/2021	Please include a Madison WI stop

2609	3/26/2021	A good, efficient rail system will help our country. Hopefully the proposal can be expanded to Green Bay, Wausau and Duluth.
2610	3/26/2021	<p>Passenger service should include Madison. Not necessarily downtown, but some connection to Madison's upcoming BRT route could make this rail service usable for a wide variety of regional trips. As it is, most people in Dane County would not be able to use it without arranging some form of personal transportation to either Columbus, Portage, or Wisconsin Dells. If I could connect to it without a car or a 2 hour bike ride, I would be much more likely to use it for travel to Milwaukee, Chicago, or Minneapolis.</p> <p>I want to make sure you're aware that this line parallels a network of state trails running from Reedsburg to La Crosse. Expect usage by people making bike trips, and using the train to bring themselves and their bikes one direction or the other.</p> <p>Increasing service would make it even more useful for that.</p>
2611	3/26/2021	It would be great for Wisconsin to have an increase in rail travel. I have a nephew in Minneapolis.
2612	3/26/2021	<p>I support increased rail travel!! I dream of traveling across the Midwest on electric trains powered by renewable energy.</p> <p>Can we PLEASE get a stop in Madison?</p>
2613	3/26/2021	That's great. It would be awesome to have a stop in Madison.
2614	3/26/2021	Add a stop in Madison, or at least an express spur route from Columbus!
2615	3/26/2021	This would be a waste of valuable funding that could be used towards our existing infrastructure. Roads, bridges, and highways should be our main priority not a rail that is slow inefficient and only caters to a select few.
2616	3/26/2021	That should totally stop in Madison too
2617	3/26/2021	Why not use speed rail instead of currently used rails?
2618	3/26/2021	The route should include Madison, WI, a much more populated city than Columbus, WI.
2619	3/26/2021	a stop in Madison would be nice
2620	3/26/2021	We love traveling by train! Yes, another train would be a big help. We would travel more, to both Chicago and Minneapolis. It would be even better to have it stop in Madison!
2621	3/26/2021	Very excited for this project. Would be terrific to add a madison stop!
2622	3/26/2021	Please route this rail system through Madison, WI.
2623	3/26/2021	This is long overdue!
2624	3/26/2021	Please do it. I rode the last train from Madison to Chicago. It was an obscene attack on the environment and the economy when Walker cancelled the plans for the route from Madison to Milwaukee. We need more mass transit opportunities in Wisconsin. A reestablishment of Milwaukee/Green Bay passenger service would reduce the carbon imprint as well.
2625	3/26/2021	Add stop in or near Madison. It would be used a lot by people who live in Madison.
2626	3/26/2021	Madison and Rochester stops?
2627	3/26/2021	I support this project and would regularly use
2628	3/26/2021	Please include Madison in this!

2629	3/26/2021	
2630	3/26/2021	Please connect through Madison instead. It is not as valuable to connect through cities north of it. This is a wonderful idea.
2631	3/26/2021	Please give strong consideration to adding Madison as a station stop. The route is a relatively good shape and can be located closer to downtown than the airport like the conservatives wanted. We would most certainly use this!
2632	3/26/2021	At long last!!! I was born and raised in Wisconsin and always wished there were trains like our grandparents remembered that could take you from Milwaukee to Madison to Minneapolis and all the places in between. This is a project that is long overdue and I'm proud that Wisconsin is finally going to make it happen!
2633	3/26/2021	This Twin Cities-Milw -Chicago project feels so encouraging for folks in Madison like us! Access to more train options is exciting for the public, the economy and the environment!
2634	3/26/2021	As a Chicago transplant living in Milwaukee with family back in Chicago and in the Twin Cities, an extra service time would be extremely beneficial for myself and other passengers who utilize Amtrak for long trips. I have used the Hiawatha Service for five years consistently and Amtrak runs a tight ship with few delays and comfortable traveling quarters for their commuter and long distance travel routes. I wholeheartedly support the second daily service.
2635	3/26/2021	Please include Madison. This makes no sense.
2636	3/26/2021	Hooray, too long delayed. Rural communities and limited budgets left in the dust
2637	3/26/2021	Madison WI needs a stop! But otherwise this idea is great
2638	3/26/2021	<p>Please expand the service as more people want to expand their travel choices beyond flying, driving, or taking a very uncomfortable coach bus. Trains are more reliable than bussing or driving because there aren't highway accidents or construction that can cause a major delay. A lot of people use the train if they want to go to a concert in Chicago or an event in Minneapolis without breaking their budget. I previously looked into the train ride before for an anime convention event in Minneapolis during the weekend going from Milwaukee and the travel times were very limited where I ended up not choosing the service. If there were more travel times, I would've highly considered it over a coach bus or driving. Please expand the existing service and give more funding for train upgrades.</p> <p>People want to use trains and the Midwest is taking behind Texas, which is building their own high speed rail system.</p>
2639	3/26/2021	Please go through Madison. Makes no sense to skip Madison, at the very least provide a spur to it.
2640	3/26/2021	Please make a stop in Madison!
2641	3/26/2021	I'd love to see amtrak service! When we lived in CA and Chicago we used amtrak a lot. I'd love day-time schedule so we can travel with the kids.
2642	3/26/2021	Please add a stop in Madison!
2643	3/26/2021	Please stop in Madison! It's needed badly!

2644	3/27/2021	I am very excited to hear of an additional time to go the Chicago and Saint Paul. I live in Milwaukee and have used this route. My hope is that a late night train on the weekend could be added. I was forced to take a bus home from Chicago when I went to see a performance on a Friday evening. Not fun! Also can there be a small spur that goes to the Mayo Clinic? Now folks have no option but to take a taxi when they use the train to get treatment or to see friends in Rochester.
2645	3/27/2021	I am 100% for this project.
2646	3/27/2021	Please include Madison, WI in the route
2647	3/27/2021	The addition of a second passenger rail service would be very beneficial for this route. I prefer to travel by train to visit my family in Indiana, but with only one time a day, the connection in Chicago is difficult. A second option would make connections easier and would make me, and probably many more like me, much more likely to travel this route more often. In addition, I would be much more likely to utilize the train service to travel to Minneapolis as well (I'm in La Crosse).
2648	3/27/2021	I would love to see Transportation options in this corridor like this rail line.
2649	3/27/2021	This will be an amazing service for rural Wisconsin and the upper Midwest. It will be a great way to help reduce traffic congestion and give rural communities served by the route more economic strength. A catchy name for the service would be the 'Twin Cities Hiawatha'! I would use this service to go to the Twin Cities to see friends or for a fun weekend. I would be using La Crosse, WI to board the train. I also would like to go to the Wisconsin Dells and this would be a great way to get there!
2650	3/27/2021	Im for it. If Scott Walker wasn't such a crook it'd already be done.
2651	3/27/2021	Add Madison to the route.
2652	3/27/2021	Stop in Madison (a major city in WI) please!
2653	3/27/2021	Bypassing Madison would be a huge economic and social miscue. The opportunity to link our greatest population centers and research institutions by regional transit is invaluable. Let's not discount the reality of dane county's ridership potential. You want this to succeed, then there is only 1 option a Madison passthrough.
2654	3/27/2021	I would be much more likely to use this if the Madison connector is added.
2655	3/27/2021	Add service to Madison, please!! I frequently travel from Madison to both Minneapolis and Chicago and would love to be able to take a train as long as it doesn't add a huge amount of time.
2656	3/27/2021	Please please build this! Take WI into the world! Don't leave our state behind! There is also benefit to the environment.
2657	3/27/2021	It's absolutely ridiculous that this would not go through Madison, the state capitol and an economic powerhouse of the state. So many more people would use this route if it went through Madison.
2658	3/27/2021	Enough of the perfunctory public input -- JUST BUILD THE GOSH DARNED TRAIN!!!! I WOULD LOVE TO TAKE THIS TRAIN!!!!
2659	3/27/2021	Madison should definitely be made a stop on the passenger rail.
2660	3/27/2021	Please add Madison, the state capital, to the train route!
2661	3/27/2021	Please consider having this run through Madison. There would be greater usage having this run through another city
2662	3/27/2021	Please consider a loop nearer to Madison. I would definitely use that.

2663	3/27/2021	I really think you should include Madison in the route. You are skipping over a big user group.
2664	3/27/2021	
2665	3/27/2021	Please include Madison, WI in this train route
2666	3/27/2021	Please do this! It is beyond ridiculous that this service doesn't exist. Make sure that there is a better connection to Madison than Portage or Columbus. I would also hope for more than one train a day in either direction.
2667	3/27/2021	I greatly support this project. As a student from Milwaukee going to school in Saint Paul, the project will greatly reduce the stress of driving and make it more accessible for me to return home. One improvement I would make is to have the line go through Madison. Madison is a big hub and would attract a lot of college students.
2668	3/27/2021	PLEASE add a stop in Madison to your proposed route!
2669	3/27/2021	It should definitely stop in Madison!
2670	3/27/2021	
2671	3/27/2021	Please include a stop in Madison! We would use this so much!
2672	3/27/2021	Please include Madison in this.
2673	3/27/2021	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Stations: Investing in the route in order to pass by Rochester & Madison would make an additional rail service *much* more worthwhile. The route is currently missing out on two big population centers. 2. Improvements: A train moving at conventional speeds is probably equal in speed or slower than simply driving since there are several stops. Boost the speed? 3. Any big expenditure should improve the quality of the rail service, not just make more.
2674	3/27/2021	Skipping the Madison to Milwaukee corridor seems like an own-goal. Why? Why skip the biggest population centers? WHY?
2675	3/27/2021	Please add a station in Madison, WI! This would be really helpful for students and other travelers to have an option other than the bus.
2676	3/27/2021	If there is any way to connect Oshkosh, and Green Bay to the service it would benefit hundreds of thousands of other Wisconsinites
2677	3/27/2021	We really want a train stop directly in Madison! Is that possible?
2678	3/27/2021	The train needs to come to Madison. It's our state's capitol and the second largest population center in our state. To skip us is frankly ridiculous.
2679	3/27/2021	<p>It would be super great to include Madison in the train path considering the large population of transplants to the University from Chicago and the Twin Cities. Without the inclusion it will certainly create traffic issues between Madison and the closest train stops.</p> <p>Thank you</p>

2680	3/27/2021	<p>I have been an advocate for this project since the Doyle administration. As a Madison resident though I am extremely disappointed our capital city is being excluded.</p> <p>Easier access to Milwaukee, Chicago and the Twin Cities not only for personal use but business as well.</p> <p>So sad to see Madison being ignored for a project that our votes made possible. We advocate and support for transportation and infrastructure projects like the this, and it's disheartening to be ignored.</p>
2681	3/27/2021	I think this is a great idea! It would be very convenient, as someone who lives in Chicago and occasionally travels to the Twin Cities. Probably a better use of state funds than what they currently go to...
2682	3/27/2021	I think this is a great idea! It would be very convenient, as someone who lives in Chicago and occasionally travels to the Twin Cities. Probably a better use of state funds than what they currently go to...
2683	3/27/2021	I support this project and would make full use of the service when available. We need better regional transit options beyond cars and planes.
2684	3/27/2021	Crucial that this route goes through the state's capital with the state's largest university.
2685	3/27/2021	The Rail NEEDS to have a stop in Madison Wisconsin. Without it, the line is redundant. If the line stops in Columbus with no stop in Madison , it's a waste of money as far as I'm concerned because it won't have the traffic to support operations
2686	3/27/2021	Please include a line from LaCrosse through Madison! I know so many people who would spend more time in both Madison and (conversely) Chicago if they didn't have to drive or deal with parking.
2687	3/27/2021	It would be wonderful for many reasons if a route to Madison would be added. Madison is of course the capital of the state, home to its flagship university and an important city. Passenger rail service to and from Madison would likely increase ridership for this service.
2688	3/27/2021	Yes, and yes to the project. We need more options aside from personal vehicles to travel around. We can't ignore climate change anymore and this would solve pollution, traffic, and should increase general safety.

		<p>The project would benefit the public, environment, and local economies. I will list them below.</p> <p>1.) Provide a safe and reliable form of public transportation for US citizens from IL, WI, and MN to travel between major urban centers in each state. This rail line will mean less people will spend driving on the roads, especially during adverse weather conditions or during times of high traffic. In turn this will reduce the number of highway related accidents, injuries, and fatalities.</p> <p>2.) Less vehicles on the road will mean less greenhouse gasses pumped into the atmosphere from vehicle exhaust. Therefore act to reduce greenhouse emissions that contribute to climate change. The more steps we can take to reduce climate change, the less wild & unpredictable weather patterns will occur in the Midwest. Many of these patterns which can produce adverse driving conditions.</p> <p>3.) This rail line make it easier for the public to travel to the major urban centers along the train route for tourism, without having to worry about the risks of traveling to these destinations using their personal vehicles. This will bring in an influx of individuals to urban centers across the three states the rail line goes passes through, which in turn will bring in increased revenues to local businesses as people spend money at these local business across the three states.</p>
2689	3/27/2021	
2690	3/27/2021	Please consider adding station stops at Some of the bigger towns. More Stops = more riders.
2691	3/27/2021	The route should go closer to the Madison area.
2692	3/27/2021	Please add Madison as a stop on this route. Our city really needs this rail line. Thank you!
2693	3/27/2021	Why not Madison? Can there be an extension to Madison?
2694	3/27/2021	It would be a huge mistake to not run the trains through Madison. More costly? Yes. More convenient for those of us who want to use train service, but don't want to go to Columbus to wait for the train. When Scott Walker was Governor the State of WI was offered multiple millions of dollars. Planning for Madison and along the route to Milwaukee were in the works and creating a lot of (positive) buzz. Then Walker turned down the money. Reviving the dream of an intercity connection from Chicago to Milwaukee to Madison to the Twin Cities is, in these times of devastating consequences of global warming, is a dream whose time has come.
2695	3/27/2021	This would be a great idea. I think I would be happy to use it.
2696	3/27/2021	This would be a great idea. I think I would be happy to use it.
2697	3/27/2021	Please do this! And make sure there are swift travel times.
2698	3/27/2021	Sounds like a good idea. Would also be great to have a high speed rail.
2699	3/27/2021	I think it would be great to have a second train over that line. It does not need to go to Madison.
2700	3/27/2021	I would absolutely use this service from either the Sturtevant or MKE stations (closest to Kenosha) to St Paul, possibly to Madison as well.
2701	3/27/2021	I support and would also like a bus or rail spur to connect to Madison, WI

2702	3/27/2021	I like that we're finally considering a new railway line through Wisconsin, but I wish that the plan would include lines going to and from Madison. I feel it would help our local economy, help increase employment, and bring more people to the area.
2703	3/27/2021	This potentially historic initiative would be absolutely awesome!!!! I'm in favor of it Wholeheartedly!!!! Let's get it done!!!
2704	3/27/2021	Madison WI should be stop along this line.
2705	3/27/2021	I support the expansion of this rail service as it would provide a well timed option to get to the Twin Cities from Milwaukee that would be comparable to my current drive time. The current option of the Empire Builder is inconvenient due to its schedule.
2706	3/27/2021	I realize the proposed rail project uses an established/existing route but find it frustrating that Wisconsin's 2nd largest city, Madison, has no train service. We need a line from Chicago to Milwaukee to Minneapolis/St Paul that includes Madison.
2707	3/27/2021	Great idea! What land will be used and how will it be acquired?
2708	3/27/2021	Please please please do this!! This would be amazing for businesses to expand the talent pool and for travelers to enjoy the Midwest quickly and safely.
2709	3/27/2021	It is unacceptable that you aren't adding Madison to that route. Bypassing a city of 260,000--a city that has a huge number of the young professionals that you seek to ride the route--only hurts this train route. It is simply not practical to drive to Columbus to pick up the train, and hardly anyone in Madison does. Madison is increasingly becoming a high tech hub and is notably socially and ecologically conscious. To not include Madison on this route would be a travesty
2710	3/27/2021	I fully support the TCMC Rail Project. I worked in Transit at DOT when Scott Walker axed the high speed rail project and was sick over it as more transportation options are badly needed for our citizens. This project seems to fill in some of what the high speed rail would have served.
2711	3/27/2021	I've worked in Australia, Singapore, and Taiwan. I've traveled in Germany, France and England. In these places, rail travel is convenient, efficient, inexpensive and clean. There is no reason the US cannot build a rail network. Start with this Chicago to Minneapolis route ASAP. Add a connector to Madison via airport.
2712	3/27/2021	Huge missed opportunity not stopping in Madison especially since it's a college town and I'm sure that a lot of students would be happy to take the train back home especially during the holiday break. Other than that, the train really needs to go faster. Yes, there is the appeal and relief of not driving but if it's going to take the same amount of time as if driving a car then what's the point? Make it high speed or don't bother at all.
2713	3/27/2021	The train should go through Madison - more train travel is needed in the midwest

2714	3/27/2021	The Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Passenger Rail Project would be a benefit to Wisconsin and the midwest. This form of transportation is much needed to link major cities and the workforce between states. I would also like to expand the TCMC to other rural and connection cities such as Milwaukee to Oconomowoc to Madison. Madison is a growing urban area which would greatly benefit from passenger rail services.
2715	3/27/2021	I am greatly hoping that Madison could be included in this corridor- this would be marvelous for Wisconsin residents as they could connect by rail to the capitol and the largest city, as well as the two most significant cities in the upper midwest.
2716	3/27/2021	The [quote]Empire Builder[quote] takes a scheduled EIGHT hours. Add an easy hour or two to connect to and airport. A better business plan can be made for a new, straighter, faster route that would take FIVE between MSP and Ohare. And reconnect central and northern WI to the passenger rail map. Today's equipment leaving MSP to Eau Claire to WI Dells to MSN to Madison to Arlington Heights to Ohare to Chicago. It would require at a minimum rebuilding rail car storage track between Wyeville and Camp Douglas and a crossover near Des Plaines at Deval between UPNW and the Soo Line. Any existing EB trains could connect at WI Dells or Portage.
2717	3/27/2021	I think it would be prudent to add a station in Madison, as well as have regular fares, student fares, and senior fares. This is so vital for travel as not everyone can afford a car, and many prefer public transport. I hope the service is more reliable than the current trains, and possibly if there's room for an express? For anyone catching flights in Chicago that may be beneficial, but in any case, VERY happy this is being considered more seriously. This is SO NECESSARY.
2718	3/27/2021	Sound good to me add jobs i see nothing wrong with it. Ship good good way to travel and keep the flow going of the economy .
2719	3/27/2021	This is a good project as many people travel between the twin cities to Chicago and/or Wisconsin. The bus is still available for cheaper options, but those who travel frequently back and forth will benefit from the shortened time of travel compared to a coach bus.
2720	3/27/2021	Please make this happen. If it is possible to have an offshoot from Tomah that goes north... so we can access the line from the top half of WI, that would be amazing.
2721	3/27/2021	This would be great. Please consider adding a stop in Madison.
2722	3/27/2021	As the capital city of Wisconsin, it my my fervent hope that passenger rail service be restored to Madison, WI en route Milwaukee to Minneapolis-St. Paul. We need a reliable, intercity public transportation option to get to Milwaukee, Chicago, the Twin Cities and points beyond.
2723	3/27/2021	As a person who does not like to drive in big cities like Chicago and hates flying, it would be amazing to have this as an option to get from MN to Chicago more easily.
2724	3/27/2021	Milwaukee resident in support of this project and more. Would be great to see a high speed rail option during commuting times too
2725	3/27/2021	This is a great idea! Is overnight/extended parking allowed in Red Wing?

2726	3/27/2021	Some of my friends want service to Madison, Wisconsin.
2727	3/27/2021	Rail transit between major cities is desperately needed in the Midwest. This should have been done yesterday.
2728	3/27/2021	This needs to go through Madison, WI. No logical reason to bypass it.
2729	3/27/2021	It's important to have service to Madison, WI. Many college students commute between Minneapolis/St Paul and Madison and don't own cars. This means parents and friends making this trip as well. The same thing happens between Madison and Milwaukee. When Scott Walker trashed the transit project between these cities it set back transportation in the Midwest decades
2730	3/27/2021	I would love to see train service from Minneapolis to Milwaukee to Chicago. I think it important that we wean ourselves from cars and use public transportation. I do regret the fact that the train would stop in Columbus and not Madison.
2731	3/27/2021	We need a stop in Madison. It's the county seat, the UW, the Capital.
2732	3/27/2021	Station in Madison
2733	3/27/2021	There isn't a lot of public transit that goes beyond city limits let alone state lines that isn't the straight shot from MKA to CHI. There are very few bus routes that even navigate going northbound as well. Having a rail system that goes Westbound to MN would greatly benefit and attract tourism from that region and connect travelers to an external method of travel that avoids the concrete jungle of Chicago. The addition of the rails would be greatly welcomed.
2734	3/27/2021	A stop in Madison would be important as the Madison-Milwaukee corridor is a heavily used traffic so the rail line running from Madison to Milwaukee or to the Twin cities would be helpful.
2735	3/27/2021	I would love to see the train service doubled and tracks, etc. improved. If the trains were on time and promoted, many more people would use them. Our country is woefully behind in providing rail service. Now if we could just route the train to Madison, life would be grand.
2736	3/27/2021	I'm interested in doing this, however, I feel that you're missing a huge chunk of people in Madison, WI. I know that you picked these places because they're on the Amtrak line and I get that. But I think about how many students in Madison as well as people who have disposable cash, are in Madison without cars. I would do this but driving to Portage or Columbus, WI to get to the station seems like I'm doing the most to get to MN.
2737	3/27/2021	I strongly support this increase in rail service. It allows me to work while traveling, for example, using a laptop with internet connection. By offering an attractive alternative to air or automobile travel, it reduces greenhouse gas emissions, which threaten our climate. It would be even better to start a new route, Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Eau Claire, Twin Cities.
2738	3/27/2021	This would be amazing. Great for cost effective driving and environmentally friendly than cars. Great for low college travel and easy access. Would like private carriage rental is possible so can be comfortable traveling with family. Great among population in MN who would use this service to visit family in Wisconsin. Please consider and annual travel pass? will travel times be faster? I hope so.

2739	3/27/2021	It would be personally beneficial, and for my family as well, to have this type of high-speed rail service! I would, especially, favor service to Madison.
2740	3/27/2021	Must include Madison Wisconsin as major transportation has left out this population.
2741	3/27/2021	Good use of existing infrastructure. Helpful in relieving congestion on the highways as well as being safe and energy efficient travel.
2742	3/27/2021	Please do not disregard Madison.
2743	3/27/2021	It's a win-win! I am an active senior; driving is not a problem. However, I am single and enjoy visiting friends and family in Minneapolis, etc. I used to make the drive; however, I would like the option of using public transportation--especially during the winter months. I have the time so if it takes a bit longer than driving, no problem. Cannot wait for this to be completed.
2744	3/27/2021	I support more rail and public transport options in Wisconsin.
2745	3/27/2021	
2746	3/27/2021	Please add a stop in Madison WI
2747	3/27/2021	I'm a Madison resident. In a normal year, I take a bus to the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, or Madison about eight times for leisure, family visits, and work. I would prefer to use this rail service if you extend the line to Madison. I'm also frustrated by the horrifying amounts of money that our state spends adding new lanes to Interstate routes between these cities. Let's try and offer a viable alternative, please.
2748	3/27/2021	yes, I strongly support a second passenger train between Twin cities Milwaukee and Chicago.
2749	3/27/2021	We need this to pass through Madison.
2750	3/27/2021	This is a great idea. Wisconsin needs expanded passenger rail service
2751	3/27/2021	This is such an exciting possibility for the whole state. There are so many small communities that would benefit from a direct line to either the Twin Cities or Milwaukee, as lots of central Wisconsin cities are pretty isolated and can't easily or efficiently get to either city. This will be a boon for job creation and retention, and families in Wisconsin's most rural, low income areas will have easy access to educational, medical, and economic resources only available in the Twin Cities and Milwaukee. Having a train in our area will cut down on interstate traffic, which will extend the life of the roads and cut down on the major maintenance that needs to be done on them. It will also make our roads safer for daily car commuters. Many of the towns affected by the train will also gain new jobs right in their hometown, preventing them from having to drive 45-60 minutes one way for work.
2752	3/27/2021	This looks like a great plan. Let's have Wisconsin be a leader in the Midwest for long-term sustainable transporting! I only wish there could be a dip into Madison. We are the capital city of the state after all.
2753	3/27/2021	Love it! Would be even better if it stopped in Madison, but that is a tad out of the way.

2754	3/27/2021	Would love to have a second daily round trip from St. Paul to Winona, MN. Have family in both places who would benefit from taking the train to visit rather than driving with small children. And the time would work better for us all.
2755	3/27/2021	Should be highspeed.
2756	3/27/2021	Please add a Madison, WI stop. Being a capitol city, this is an important location for business. medical needs, (bringing patients to UW Hospital), colleges, and also tourism..
2757	3/27/2021	Please add a stop in madison!
2758	3/27/2021	This sounds like a great idea I do know the east bound trains fill up. Most importantly I think the there should be a connection to Madison because the large population it has. This would also help connect Wisconsin's two largest cities
2759	3/27/2021	Yes, please! It would be great to have more service, particularly during the day.
2760	3/27/2021	Madison needs direct train service between St. Paul and Chicago. Please consider adding Madison to Amtrak's Empire Builder route. Madison has long been without direct train service, and as the capitol of Wisconsin and the second largest population center in Wisconsin, it is imperative that Madison be linked directly to this PUBLIC transportation route. I, for one, would use this service for all my trips to MPLS-STPAUL, Milwaukee and importantly, Chicago..
2761	3/27/2021	As a resident of the Twin Cities who is originally from the Milwaukee area, I am strongly in support of establishing more frequent rail service between MSP, Milwaukee, and Chicago. Much of my life has been lived along this route. The Empire Builder has never been a very useful option due to the unreliability of trains arriving from out west and the odd arrival/departure times. Separate trains operating only between MSP and Chicago would be automatically more reliable and useful. And personally, as a parent of 3 children I would welcome a rail service like this! A long distance drive with kids involves at least as many stops, for bathroom, food, etc, so the time involved is about the same. The train would save me the stress of driving, and unlike an airplane or the car it allows the kids a bit of space to roam and use the bathroom more or less whenever they want. And the scheduled times of the proposed additional trips are really what makes this all possible for families with children: with the current Empire Builder schedule, arriving in St. Paul at 10:00 pm is well past any sensible bedtime for children, and this prospect of overtired kids and consequently stressed-out parents has been the major deterrent for our family ever trying it. So, on behalf of families like mine who want and need another easy way to travel between MSP, Milwaukee, and Chicago, I strongly support this project and hope that it can receive the funding and support it needs to become a reality.

2762	3/27/2021	I am retired now, and have been a passenger on the Empire Builder for many years. I have observed that this train runs full and it often runs late, having come from the Seattle-Portland area. I also observe that the primary passengers seem to be seniors and students. Seniors are going to increase in numbers and are the segment of our population most in need of transportation alternatives to driving their own car and managing airlines and airports. The comfort and ease of train travel compared to the other two methods meet seniors where they are; as people get older, not everyone should own and operate an automobile. And with all the colleges and universities along this corridor, this expansion will well serve the thousands of students as well. Simple math: as our population grows, so will demand on our roads and interstate highway system, yet I think we can agree that a new system of highways is likely not the answer ahead. We need to plan now for how future additions to our population are going to travel. I strongly urge the addition of this service and predict that it will be well-used by the traveling public it is intended to serve.
2763	3/27/2021	Please consider routing through Madison.
2764	3/27/2021	I would love to see Madison added to the route.
2765	3/27/2021	Please include Madison!!
2766	3/27/2021	This would be amazing--please fund this project! This would allow us to see family between Madison and Milwaukee and travel easily to Chicago.
2767	3/27/2021	As someone who's family lives in Madison and I now live in Minneapolis, it would make sense to connect Minneapolis, Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago. So many college students from WI and MN enjoy reciprocity to go to their neighboring state school. Less people need to stop in Portage or Columbus. Madison is a huge college town, many of which come from MN. Make it easier for those students who likely don't have their own on campus transportation to get around to other major cities.
2768	3/27/2021	I am highly in favor of completion of rail service across the state of Wisconsin. I think tourists would be drawn to using the train, as well as those who frequently work in both Minneapolis and Milwaukee. It would be wonderful if Manitowoc could be added so travelers could take the car ferry on in to Michigan. Great vacation opportunities.
2769	3/27/2021	I am 100% behind this!!!! This would be incredible for our state. My only request: don't leave out Madison! It's the state capital and a major hub.
2770	3/27/2021	I am 100% behind this!!!! This would be incredible for our state. My only request: don't leave out Madison! It's the state capital and a major hub.
2771	3/27/2021	A stop in Madison, WI should definitely be on the route, after all it's the capitol of the state.
2772	3/27/2021	Please add service through Madison, WI for the light rail.
2773	3/27/2021	This is a tremendous waste of money. We have roads falling apart in Wisconsin we should fix them before we make it easier for Illinois and Minnesota travelers to get around.
2774	3/27/2021	Please include Madison in this route. It only makes sense to include the capital city in this route.
2775	3/27/2021	The train should go through Madison
2776	3/27/2021	Please include Madison as a stop along this route.

2777	3/27/2021	It is important that there be a stop in Madison. It is the State Capitol and a commitment to improving transportation options. It would be a lost opportunity for the City, State and Amtrak if a stop was not added in Madison. When the opportunity for high speed rail was eliminated by former Governor Walker it crushed many dreams of opportunity and connection. Please don't do that again. This is an exciting opportunity we don't want to see pass us by.
2778	3/27/2021	This increase would be useless to me without passenger rail to Duluth. When I lived in the cities I looked for train tickets rarely and usually it was too expensive to make it worth it. I really didn't care when I was leaving. The goal should be accessibility overall. If this new trip reduces ticket rates, then it will be worth it. If someone actually cares about the time they leave, then they should drive or fly. Choosing rail for me was weighing cost and novelty v. Convenience. But this will not serve me now that I live in Duluth. Please focus on passenger service to Duluth instead.
2779	3/27/2021	This would be so fantastic!
2780	3/27/2021	I'm curious why Madison is not on the line. Please include it as that would surely increase passenger use.
2781	3/27/2021	Yes, yes, please do this! I was horrified that the Scott Walker administration refused to take us back to the high level infrastructure of my childhood, when we could ride a train from Appleton to Madison. If I could ride from Madison to Chicago and from Madison to Minneapolis, I would! If you can get this done by 2024, I may even still be alive for it. Please do it! Yes, I approve!
2782	3/27/2021	I would LOVE to see a stop in Madison. Having been a Chicago resident that recently moved to Madison, I would love nothing more than to see these two cities connected by something other than interstate. That's a project I'm happy to throw my tax dollars at. I believe in you WisDOT!
2783	3/27/2021	This is a great idea. More public transit is vital to the growth of green energy. And this project will be a springboard for more mass transit use and improvements in the future.
2784	3/27/2021	Add Madison, WI as a stop!
2785	3/27/2021	Would love for Eau Claire and Madison to be included.
2786	3/27/2021	Would the additional routes focus on coverage or speed? Would there be lots of stop or a faster way to get from A to Z with limited stops? Would there be metro rapid transit routes to Columbus station?
2787	3/27/2021	My biggest use for this route would be to travel between the Twin Cities and Madison, WI as an alternative to driving. It's disappointing to see that Madison isn't directly served by the proposed route. If the route moves forward as proposed without a Madison stop, will there be a smooth and reliable [quote]last mile[quote] transit connection to get passengers between Portage and Madison without having to rent a car or rely on friends/relatives driving an hour and a half round trip to take them to/from the station?

2788	3/27/2021	I am strongly in favor of this proposal. We frequently take the train to Chicago, and having only one option sometimes makes it impossible to catch connecting trains to other destinations. Additionally, we would be more likely to travel to Minneapolis via train if there were multiple choices for departure and arrival.
2789	3/27/2021	I am so thrilled this project will be happening! Please consider making Madison part of the stop. The economic boost would huge and would connect the major cities, academic hubs, and capitals of WI and MN.
2790	3/27/2021	A station or connection in Madison is highly recommended. People using public transit need access. If a stop in Madison isn't possible then a transportation system that reliably connects to the Madison public transportation is imperative.
2791	3/27/2021	Madison WI should be a stop! With the numbers of students, lawmakers, and businesspeople in the Capital of WI, it would make more sense to have a stop here than in Portage or Columbus, a 40+ minute commute away (which would add congestion to the roads and/or decrease the potential numbers of passengers). Even locating the station on the outskirts of Madison would be a better idea than making people drive that distance.
2792	3/27/2021	Please bring passenger trains to Madison!!!
2793	3/27/2021	I am from Madison would have loved this service when going to undergrad in MN and graduate school in Chicago. I think it will be very important for service to remain on-time, clean and safe. I support the improvements for diversions to allow cargo trains to move off the main track at suspected bottlenecks. It will also be important to have speedy and easy access from Madison to the train stop. You can drive to the twin cities or Chicago in the same amount of time that the train will take, so the time between Madison and the stop is [quote]extra travel time.[quote]This train offers public travel benefits, time to relax/work instead of focusing on driving, and direct downtown Chicago/St. Paul access without worrying about where to park your car. However, ease of access and low cost of a connection to Madison will be important for Madison-area commuters/travelers to buy-in. Also consider a park-and-ride option for people from Madison who would prefer to drive to the train stop to save time.
2794	3/27/2021	This is a great idea! I would love for this to go through Madison, WI too! It's a huge hub of activity for the thousands of people who come from all over the country to Madison. Also, recognizing that most train development projects go through black and brown communities and not rich suburban areas how will you make sure to keep black and brown communities together.
2795	3/27/2021	This should be going through Madison not 3 much smaller towns of Wisconsin Dells, Portage and Columbus.
2796	3/27/2021	Please include a Madison station. You'll find this brings many many more commuters to the line!
2797	3/27/2021	Please have a stop at Madison! It would be crazy to have a train running through Chicago to MSP without a stop at THE major urban center on that route: Madison.
2798	3/27/2021	Add a stop in madison

2799	3/27/2021	I am really glad to see that there is a project to upgrade our train services in Wisconsin. However, why is there not a stop in Madison, the 2nd largest city in Wisconsin, the capital of the state. If this is truly meant to assist business commuters and students, why would Madison NOT be a stop? This needs to include Madison. Personally I would love to be able to Safely commute by train between Madison and Milwaukee. I live in Madison and my family lives in Milwaukee and this would just make commuting to see my family much safer and reliable. By not including Madison you're also basically missing out on a TON of revenue for Amtrak/the train company. I also hope there is space for families with children of all ages as I would want to take my family with me to and from Milwaukee. PLEASE please PLEASE include Madison. If the closest train station is all the way in Columbus, what is the point of driving that far? It doesn't make sense for professionals, students or families in the Madison area for there not to be a train stop in Madison.
2800	3/27/2021	Madison NEEDS a station on this line!
2801	3/27/2021	Great service idea! Wondering why a stop in Madison is not included.
2802	3/27/2021	Please stop all investment of any kind in passenger rail. It is a disaster, a waste, and a drain on tax resources. If anything we should be discussing eliminating the remaining Amtrak services, bot adding to them. Any new service will end up just as unsuccessful as the lake country limited was 20 years ago. Investment is needed for our already busy, utilized, and loved road network, not a passenger train that will run empty while sucking up countless tax dollars. Say no to any and all passenger rail services!
2803	3/27/2021	While I think we are still in the 20th century when it comes to trains and the systems they run on, I think this adds to the need and desire for inter-metro travel.
2804	3/27/2021	No! To all of it. This will do everything for the cities and bring nothing but bad news to all that live in the land of rocks and cows.....
2805	3/27/2021	
2806	3/27/2021	
2807	3/27/2021	The only two passenger trains leaving from MSP are at 8am (Chicago) and 10pm (Seattle/Portland). I'm very happy to see that there will be more options for travel to Chicago.
2808	3/27/2021	This would be very beneficial and add a nice alternative to driving and flying. This could potentially help with tourism by having people take more weekend trips to each other's cities.
2809	3/27/2021	PLEASE do this project!!!
2810	3/27/2021	What a GREAT idea! Cannot wait for the day when rail can compete with highways!
2811	3/27/2021	Please include Madison in the route. My friends and family in Madison would use this often if it included our capital city.
2812	3/27/2021	Please, please include Madison on the route. The current plan bypasses a very large metro area that would definitely add many riders to a passenger railway!

2813	3/27/2021	Please do this! It will be used by many people and good for the environment.
2814	3/27/2021	Please add service to Madison.
2815	3/27/2021	hell no
2816	3/27/2021	It is far past time that Madison accepts and builds a rail infrastructure. With the booming construction and hi-tech community, it is essential for talent to have access to the city.
2817	3/27/2021	It would be great if there was a way to route the rail to madison or have some kind of bus line from the route to madison
2818	3/27/2021	I'd love if there were multiple trips available. I live in the Twin Cities, and want to visit my family near Milwaukee. the departure times from St. Paul are generally convenient, but the return trips arrive pretty late at night. It would be good to have a morning departure from Milwaukee. I prefer rail over plane for carbon footprint, and over bus for comfort. I also would love if there was another station between Milwaukee and the Dells, or if there was a connection to Madison. Having a stop in Washington county would be great.
2819	3/27/2021	I think this is a great idea. Please include wifi.
2820	3/27/2021	Yes please
2821	3/27/2021	I think a lot of people in Madison would be disappointed that the line doesn't even come close to servicing the Capital city of the state. Having a Madison station would, in my opinion greatly increase the popularity and long term use of the line by the public.
2822	3/27/2021	I support this project, but request that Madison, WI be added as a stop. Over 250,000 people live in Madison and we want train access to MSP and chicago!
2823	3/27/2021	Yes, for more routes. When I lived in MKE the route to Chicago was always jam packed! We also need one stop in Madison, maybe twice a day, would really help close the gap between Milwaukee, Madison and Chicago.
2824	3/27/2021	I strongly support expanding rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago. I believe a second train per day here is an important step in the right direction against climate change and a car-centered community. As a student at UMN originally from the Chicago area, I have taken the existing train before as a "commuter" traveling home and back for holiday break. By expanding service frequency, this route can accommodate more travelers with additional time options, which would attract other student commuters. The train is great to do homework on while scenically traveling home on a low carbon platform. Additionally, I strongly believe Minnesota should commit and invest the remaining needed funding to ensure use of the already committed Wisconsin and federal funding. "You gotta spend money to make money" and this investment is fiscally smart because it leverages the other money already on the table.
2825	3/27/2021	I support, but need a stop in Madison!!
2826	3/27/2021	Much needed public transportation!!
2827	3/27/2021	Please include Madison on this line!
2828	3/27/2021	Please add a stop in Madison, WI

2829	3/27/2021	Hi! Please add a stop in or very near to Madison! It seems like a huge missed opportunity for everyone to miss stopping in the capital city!
2830	3/27/2021	I can't understand why it makes sense for this route to bypass Madison, the second biggest city in the state. Trains should go where the people are.
2831	3/27/2021	Absolutely silly not to have a stop closer to Madison. I imagine a lot more revenue would be made including a stop in Madison proper.
2832	3/27/2021	This would be a nice personal trip! I'm for it!
2833	3/27/2021	Add Mmadison WI station.
2834	3/27/2021	Yes yes yes! I frequently travel with bike from Chicago to La Crosse for bike touring. As do many in my cycling club. Not part of this proposal, but a spur, or otherwise interurban to Madison would be greatly appreciated and utilized.
2835	3/27/2021	Please adjust the route to go through Madison. There are many more passengers in Madison and it is much easier for people in outlying areas (Portage or Columbus) to find transportation into Madison than for people in Madison to get to Portage or Columbus. I have lived in Madison for over 15 years and have never taken the train to Chicago or Saint Paul because the stations are so far away. If I could get on in Madison, I would the service several times per year.
2836	3/27/2021	Yes, please build this. We've been desperately hoping for this for a decade.
2837	3/27/2021	To broaden access and ridership, add service to Madison! It's inconvenient for people in the Madison/Dane County area to travel the significant mileage to the Columbus, Portage or Wisconsin Dells stations!
2838	3/27/2021	
2839	3/27/2021	This is a wonderful idea and in my opinion needs to happen. This would greatly improve connectivity of the region and the stations outlined would allow many residents to take advantage of this service!! The next step would be investing in a high speed rail for this very route!!
2840	3/27/2021	I look forward to this being an option for public transit to SE MN and southern WI for weekend trips!
2841	3/27/2021	This is great! Excited to see this happening. Wish it could go through Madison, Wisconsin. If this was possible you could get a lot of student ridership, and traffic from international airports in Chicago and Minneapolis to Madison. This would also serve more of Wisconsin with passenger rail, instead of just doubling the existing route.
2842	3/27/2021	In support of this project. Would provide greater and greener access to important midwest hubs for those along its route. An additional connection in Madison WI would be beneficial as well!
2843	3/27/2021	I think this is an important step in reducing our reliability on cars and car infrastructure. The future of our planet relies on reduced use of the car and we need to start now. As someone who grew up in the Madison, WI area and now lives in the Twin Cities, I would utilize this service often to visit the Madison area. I would love to eventually see a direct stop in Madison, as well as an evening departure from St. Paul.
2844	3/27/2021	Madison should be added as a stop on this route
2845	3/27/2021	I'd recommend it drop down to catch Madison en route. This would include a much more populated area than Tomah and the Dells.

2846	3/27/2021	As a regular traveller between madison and milwaukee and chicago to visit family, and with desire to reduce carbon footprint and visit friends in the twin cities I absolutely would LOVE to use this service multiple times a year!
2847	3/27/2021	I fully support this! More green public transit is always better. Put the rail system through Madison WI and extend all the way to MPLS
2848	3/27/2021	Adding a second train on the Chicago-Milwaukee-Twin Cities will conservatively attract 155,500 new riders per year and bring about \$47.7 million in direct and indirect economic benefits ti the region, In addition, the new train will divert trips from card. From my personal experience, I have lived in Springfield, Illinois and benefited from the frequent Amtrak service to Chicago for both business and pleasure. I also lived near Harrisburg Pennsylvania and frequently took Amtrak to Philadelphia and New York. Therefore I am very aware how beneficial frequent Amtrak service is. As my wife and I get older (we are now over 70), we are more cautious to drive and would love to take the train from Columbus (the closet station to our home in Middleton) to the Twin Cities to visit good friends in the Twin Cities. We also have good friends in Beaver Dam, who would utilize the increased service to visit their son and grandchildren.
2849	3/27/2021	This is a great idea! I can't drive on freeways and I go out of state several times a year. This would help save time and money as well as being a safe and more efficient way to travel. I think it would be beneficial to provide resources for those who won't have a station in their city to get to a station.
2850	3/27/2021	Add a stop in Pewaukee or Oconomowoc. Many live in Waukesha county. It would fit with the country's plan to provide for an aging demographic as well as bring employees to an area needing workers. A spur to Madison in the future from Columbus would also be a good idea.
2851	3/27/2021	Rail line should be expanded to include Madison, WI.
2852	3/27/2021	Please consider re-routing Amtrak through Madison, Wisconsin. You'll get a lot of riders in both directions. Given that Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago have fairly walkable downtowns and easy access to public transit, it will spur economic activity in both metros while reducing VMT. It will also create good jobs. This is another case in which public investment in non-car-based transit infrastructure will help the economy and the environment in the short and the long run. I have lived in Milwaukee and Minneapolis and currently live in Madison. I have ridden Amtrak from Milwaukee to Chicago quite a number of times over the years and would love to see that as a possibility from Madison. I am a strong supporter of public support for rail as a connector between regional cities. Having visited Europe back in the 1990s, I know it can work. There's no reason we can't improve our rail infrastructure here (aside from having politicians who routinely and deliberately implement policies that hurt citizens who aren't obscenely wealthy).
2853	3/27/2021	Do it. Please.
2854	3/27/2021	This line should not bypass Madison. We could provide more ridership, since we are one of the highest population centers in the state.

2855	3/27/2021	Honestly would be so beneficial to have the train go through Madison! Also why is there not another train that goes further north to EauClaire?! It's a big college town and I know students who would ride, also continuing the train through Hudson would open a lot of new opportunities for the growing city.
2856	3/27/2021	I truly think that putting a station in Madison would increase passenger use in a huge way. To be able to get to Milwaukee, Chicago, and St. Paul without a car and in a timely manner would be a game changer for all four cities. Please consider it.
2857	3/27/2021	Include madison Many will use for work and recreation
2858	3/27/2021	Please consider adding a stop in Madison as was once planned a little over 10 years ago (possibly outside downtown). Madison continues to be an important destination where there is significant support for rail service. Not only would Madison be a good destination but Madison residents would use rail service for transportation.
2859	3/27/2021	I would love if this were to have a station in Madison!
2860	3/27/2021	This project would be enhanced by a station in Madison. It is the state capital and would benefit from direct access to a rail route.
2861	3/27/2021	The more train travel we can encourage the better! However, to really make this impactful, absolutely MUST include a stop in Madison.
2862	3/27/2021	Please add a stop near or in Madison. That would be very useful!
2863	3/27/2021	Please consider adding Madison, Wisconsin to the route this passenger rail train takes.
2864	3/27/2021	It needs to go through Madison.
2865	3/27/2021	I would definitely use this rail service from La Crosse to Minneapolis and Chicago if there were more routes available. The biggest problem is that the only westbound route to leave La Crosse is at night, reaching the Minneapolis area at night making it difficult to use without an overnight stay. Also, Westbound trains are usually on time but East bound towards Chicago are almost always delayed. It would be very helpful if there were transfers available in Minneapolis to reach the airport.
2866	3/27/2021	Please add a stop in Madison.
2867	3/27/2021	Is there any plans to add Madison, WI to the list of destinations?
2868	3/27/2021	Please add Madison, WI as a stop on the line if possible!
2869	3/27/2021	Make this have a stop I'm Madison!!! Madison would greatly benefit from this project. Please don't overlook us!
2870	3/27/2021	Please include Madison as a stop! Train travel would be an amazing way to connect students and young professionals a like to major surrounding cities.
2871	3/27/2021	I initially can only think of what a great way to boost the economy!! Jobs, jobs, jobs!!
2872	3/27/2021	We have often found it hard to book Amtrak travel between St Paul and Chicago because it sells out so fast. We would be able to travel to Chicago more often with the new service.
2873	3/27/2021	Reroute a portion of the track so it has a station in Madison. Thank you
2874	3/27/2021	This would be a great addition to the area. Current east bound Amtrak is often late, making it hard to be sure that you can get to Chicago at a specific time.

2875	3/27/2021	This really needs to come to Madison. Madison's absence from this route is particularly conspicuous considering the stated goal is to provide access to jobs and world-class healthcare and universities... and you're bypassing Madison? What am I missing?
2876	3/27/2021	I am in full support of this improvement and look forward to regularly riding to MSP and Chicago.
2877	3/27/2021	There should be a Madison station.
2878	3/27/2021	Please extend some kind of connection to Madison!
2879	3/27/2021	Include Madison
2880	3/27/2021	A round trip rail service as described would be incredibly helpful for when I travel, and it would make it easier for my Grandparents to get to specialist doctors easier.
2881	3/27/2021	Please consider adding a rail stop in Madison. There are many, many residents here who would use and value train service going to and from Milwaukee, Chicago, and St. Paul. It seems ill advised to put three stops (WI Dells, Portage, and Columbus) all within reasonable distance of Madison but not a stop in Madison itself. I do realize this would involve building new rail lines, but it's completely worth it for the environment, for accessibility, and for citizens of all these affected areas.
2882	3/27/2021	The future involves more regional mass transit, such as the sort that will increase connection times between existing and future stations. Let's get to our future sooner than later.
2883	3/27/2021	Please please please include a stop west of Madison, Madison and east of Madison!!! So much travel between Madison area, Milwaukee and Chicago now. Milwaukee airport getting more flights and more traffic. Train would help with congestion and be so convenient. Traveling to Columbus to get on train limits large area that would use train transportation.
2884	3/27/2021	This rail project is a fantastic idea and long-overdue, but I think that it should also stop through Madison, WI. As both the State Capitol and home of the flagship university for the UW system, the city is an important hub that needs to be connected to the larger cities of Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul.
2885	3/27/2021	I love this idea! One of the biggest obstacles to using the Empire Builder to get to the Cities is the once-per-day service, with the return train to Milwaukee only leaving very early in the morning from Union Depot in St. Paul. Another train could make this a more viable way to travel for lots of people. My only wish is that Madison could be included, but I understand why it's not.
2886	3/27/2021	This train absolutely needs to run through Madison, Wisconsin's state capitol, and the largest University in the state.
2887	3/27/2021	Please add Rochester and Madison stops! This is an incredible project
2888	3/27/2021	I support any improvements and added accessibility for rail travel If we could think of green energy trains I would highly support I also want a station connection in Madison Wi We are a large population center and there are many folks here without cars and with limited income
2889	3/27/2021	Please add a Madison, WI stop on this line!
2890	3/27/2021	Please add a Madison, WI stop to the project. Even if it doesn't stop downtown, I'd take a bus or a taxi to get to a stop closer than Columbus.

2891	3/27/2021	Ontime performance is needed. Station close to Madison is also needed
2892	3/27/2021	As a WI resident I would love a Chicago, Milwaukee, Twin Cities rail service. I have family in the twin cities and many students I know go to college there as well. The most important aspect of this service would be reliability and a clean atmosphere. I have road Amtrak a few times, not only to Chicago but around the U.S and I find it highly unreliable. Wait times are usually much longer as trains sit on the sidelines or travel at very slow speeds, trains are over booked, and they are not maintained inside in a daily manner. I have rode trains in Europe and other parts of the world and there is no reason we cannot have better quality and higher standards for our rail systems. Indeed the main reason people do not ride trains more are these reasons. We need to be investing in quality infrastructure to meet the demanding needs of our growing populations.
2893	3/27/2021	I am a Wisconsin citizen who is voicing support for adding a second round trip passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Milwaukee/Chicago. I would utilize this service.
2894	3/27/2021	Definitely in favor of this!
2895	3/27/2021	I have traveled this route by car and by rail. It is beautiful scenery along the bluffs. It is a trip I would gladly take frequently if the section between La Crosse and St. Paul was traversed during daylight hours. I am hoping you add a daylight run and I will certainly bring my whole family to experience it.
2896	3/27/2021	This project would be a huge help to those who are attending universities in the selected areas. This will allow for more accessibility to the railroad service, and therefore allow for more connectivity amongst college students and others from different areas.
2897	3/27/2021	Please add a stop in Madison Wisconsin!
2898	3/27/2021	I was a business traveler before COVID. I had to fly a lot. I hate flying to or connecting through Chicago. Delays are common. The timing on the one train didn't always work out or the eastbound route was always late. I want this option! I'd prefer a train leave near midnight and reach Chicago in the early morning, but if we can get the second train at ANY time, it would be great. Rail is also more preferable to meet our carbon reduction goals.
2899	3/27/2021	I am so excited to see this project! I think it is so important that we have daily round-trip passenger rail. I would love to see a station in Madison, WI.
2900	3/27/2021	Please have the train go through Madison on the way there! I currently live in Milwaukee and sorely miss having a good public transit option to get to Madison.
2901	3/27/2021	Please move forward with this! It would be great to not be beholden to driving a car to these places.
2902	3/27/2021	This would be appreciated. I believe this would provide greater flexibility and would allow more us of our rail system between these metropolitan areas. I whole heartedly support this effort.
2903	3/27/2021	Please include Madison, WI in this route
2904	3/27/2021	Please have a station in Madison. I would love to be able to visit/have friends visit me from Milwaukee and Chicago without worrying about traffic. This would be great for the local economy and make me even prouder to live in such a great city (Madison).

2905	3/27/2021	This would be terrific! I live on Kenosha and our daughter lives in Madison- we would use this as transportation rather than driving alone!
2906	3/27/2021	Would love a stop in Rochester, mn
2907	3/27/2021	I believe a route through Madison would be very useful and popular.
2908	3/27/2021	Madison! Please! We need easier access to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis.
2909	3/27/2021	DO IT! What a difference it will make. We can save on fuel and time.
2910	3/27/2021	<p>Living in Madison, the Empire Builder is my best way of getting anywhere by train. I'd love to see a second daily train on the route.</p> <p>Even better would be if the new service actually ran through Madison. Getting to Columbus requires either driving 45 minutes and parking at the station, or getting someone to give you a ride (90 minutes round-trip, quite a favor).</p> <p>Or if that's not an option, it would be super useful to have a bus that ran between Columbus and Madison every time the train stopped there. I know that might be difficult to time, given that trains are sometimes late. But without some sort of public option between Madison and Columbus, it's very difficult to actually take the train from Madison.</p>
2911	3/27/2021	It would make a lot of sense to have a stop in Madison, WI. Thank you for your consideration!
2912	3/27/2021	I live in Fillmore County, MN, south of Rochester, along the Iowa border. Our closest stop is Winona- hour and twenty minutes away or LaCrosse, ninety minutes. To generate more passengers, you would need very good shuttle service to and from Rochester, and a remodel of the Winona depot. There are good train tracks between downtown Rochester and Winona owned now by Canadian National near Winona State and Mayo Clinic. I take the Empire Builder to Chicago occasionally. It is also convenient for Western North Dakota relatives to take the train to visit us.
2913	3/27/2021	Please consider an option to design a route with a train stop in Madison. Including Madison as a stop could significantly increase the use of this train.
2914	3/27/2021	Please do NOT forget about Madison. Not having a passenger rail connection between Wisconsin's two largest cities is ridiculous. Way back when, there were 3 railroads that went to Madison. Now there are none, and Madison is Wisconsin's capitol! Adding a Madison stop would be a major improvement to the line and it would help the environment. Otherwise you are just forcing people to get a car.
2915	3/27/2021	This train route would be a wonderful travel option and I would certainly become a frequent traveler in both directions out of Milwaukee.
2916	3/27/2021	Please add Madison as a stop. I know so many people who would use it regularly, myself included.
2917	3/27/2021	I live in the Madison area but I have family in St. Paul and love to visit Chicago. Having another daily route option would add flexibility to my options to travel. I enjoy going by train as I'm able to multi-task (computer work, having a bite to eat, etc.) as compared to driving. It's also better for the environment! I support adding a second route.
2918	3/27/2021	Please add Madison as a stop on the route between Chicago and St. Paul.

2919	3/27/2021	Please include Madison
2920	3/27/2021	Would love it to expand to other major hubs including Madison and other areas south of Madison (Fitchburg, Oregon, etc)
2921	3/27/2021	This is an amazing idea...should have been done decades ago!
2922	3/27/2021	Please give serious consideration to a stop in Madison, WI
2923	3/27/2021	I highly recommend adding Madison as a stop along the route. It is another major population hub that would not only utilize and enjoy the service but would help fund it.
2924	3/27/2021	Please make a stop in Madison! This line would be crucial for students at our state's largest university.
2925	3/27/2021	Please add Madison as a pin on the route. Madison is a major destination and economic center of WI and should be connected to the other hubs.
2926	3/27/2021	
2927	3/27/2021	Yes, please. Higher speed, more times per day. What about Madison?
2928	3/27/2021	Please add service to Madison
2929	3/27/2021	I would love a second daily train!
2930	3/27/2021	I love this idea! Anything to make rail more accessible and useful seems like a good idea. Wish it were high-speed, but I'll take any improvement I can get.
2931	3/27/2021	Have used Amtrak for this trip many times. Would love to see a second daily option.
2932	3/27/2021	Madison should be a stop For the proposed train.
2933	3/27/2021	Increasing non-car options of travel is a great idea in general. It is important to offer travel options for those without their own personal vehicle and don't want to fly. It's also important to provide a more environmental friendly travel option than single vehicle travel. More routes will encourage more usage with more time flexible options.
2934	3/27/2021	Please connect to Madison.
2935	3/27/2021	This train would be wonderful. It's high past time we invest in rail instead of personal cars. I live in Minneapolis and would use it often. But, I think it's a huge oversight to not include a stop in Madison. Wisconsin's second most populous city, the largest University in the state -- filled with college students who don't have their own cars! -- the state capital and all associated government jobs, plus myriad large businesses like Epic. If you're going to build this line, do it right and include Madison.
2936	3/27/2021	This would be a great idea. It would provide a much more enjoyable ride than dealing with all the traffic and trucks on 90/94 interstate.
2937	3/27/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison Wisconsin. Lots of folks commute Madison to Milwaukee for work.
2938	3/27/2021	It would be great to have a passenger stop in Madison, WI.
2939	3/27/2021	This service is badly needed and will be very popular if implemented. Would look forward for it to actually originate/ terminate at Target Field Station in Minneapolis when possible. That would increase its utility to everyone 'west of the river' in a BIG WAY.
2940	3/27/2021	I frequently take the bus from Madison to the Twin Cities rather than drive, and would love to take the train instead!

2941	3/27/2021	I am so looking forward to a rail line to Minnesota. In the past I have taken the Megabus to St. Paul to avoid driving, but this would be a much improved option.
2942	3/27/2021	This would change everything. This passenger rail route would bring me to cities in Wisconsin that otherwise I would skip on a trip to Chicago. It would be wonderful. I would especially like it if we bumped this to high speed rail to make this trip even easier for people to take.
2943	3/27/2021	The rail should pass through madison, WI. It would be a great way for students to get to Chicago and the Twin Cities, as well as Milwaukee.
2944	3/27/2021	I would love it! Commuting from Chicago to Milwaukee and the Twin Cities are something I frequent as I have family in all three cities. This would save me and my family so much time! If the train can take us faster than a car, i support it.
2945	3/27/2021	Please add a stop in Madison.
2946	3/27/2021	This would be great. Current afternoon trip arrives too late in twin cities to spend time with friends and family on a weekend trip from Chicago.
2947	3/27/2021	A stop in Madison would reduce cars on the road by a ton!
2948	3/27/2021	Please include Madison as a stop on this planned route. It's a city full of people who need regular transportation both ways. Good planning will include Madison.
2949	3/27/2021	The addition of the second Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago would be a great benefit to the entire Midwest, making it far easier to make round trips to points west of Milwaukee. It certainly should cut down on highway congestion along the route and reduce carbon pollution as people would have double the options they now have for train travel. Like the Lynchburg-Washington train in Virginia, the train could very well pay for itself. Could not drag the dot but am 100% for the project.
2950	3/27/2021	Please include stops in and route through Madison.
2951	3/27/2021	Please add a stop in Madison, WI!
2952	3/27/2021	Is not going through Madison some kind of joke? This makes zero sense
2953	3/27/2021	Please add Madison, WI as a stop on this route.
2954	3/27/2021	As a senior citizen that travels frequently, this addition service would be a very positive move. I have taken this route many times - sometimes to Wisconsin, sometimes to the Twin Cities, and sometimes as the start of a trip to the West Coast and Vancouver. Train travelers are very dedicated to trains when through delays and challenges. But service limitations have made it harder to travel over the recent past. Please come through with this project. It is needed.
2955	3/27/2021	Yes, please do this and also explore options to make the route even more high speed. This is an important regional connectivity and competitiveness issue and would be a benefit for each city along the route.
2956	3/27/2021	I support the addition of a 2nd round trip and would use the service to ride from Columbus to Minneapolis a few times a year.

2957	3/27/2021	Hello! I am in strong support of the expansion of an intercity passenger rail service between the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago. As a resident of Milwaukee with lots of family in the Twin Cities, this is a service I would use frequently. I have ridden the current rail service, but think that increase in the frequency and more guarantee of timely service would encourage more people to utilize the service.
2958	3/27/2021	Madison, WI would be an ideal stop on the route. The city serves as the the state capital and home to a major university as well as many prominent companies. I expect the demand for fast and efficient mass transportation between Madison and other major cities in the region would be high. This would also greatly reduce the volume of traffic currently stressing our highways.
2959	3/27/2021	This additional route will support work site opportunities between major cities.. support economic development of smaller regional location with consistent and reliable service between destination. In addition, sustainability and innovation to provide services will be key to the future of Amtrak service offerings. In addition providing this additional route will contribute to reducing the carbon foot print.
2960	3/27/2021	A stop in/near Madison would be fantastic
2961	3/27/2021	I think this is a great idea and fully support adding Madison to this corridor of transportation. For those of us who don't have a car it would allow us the chance to go visit Chicago or St Paul/ Minneapolis. For those who do have cars, it would save on their gas, tires and maintenance of their vehicles, plus, it's great for the environment, too.
2962	3/27/2021	Add Madison as a stop
2963	3/27/2021	There have been numerous times that I have wanted to take the train from Chicago to Minneapolis but haven't because I would use the arrival and departure schedule is not beneficial for doing anything in the Twin Cities on the days I would arrive or leave (arriving in Minneapolis/St Paul late in the night and then leaving to come back from there early in the morning). Arriving in St Paul earlier in the afternoon would make a visit there by train more worth while by being able to take advantage of the afternoon and evening there. A second daily train would make it highly likely for me to use this route, but until now I have not found it worth my time (not to mention the train coming eastbound is often delayed after having come so far!)
2964	3/27/2021	Rail is needed (especially Mpls to Chicago) but be innovative and do high speed for reduced carbon emissions Anyone with a car can drive to Chicago in 6 hours. Get me there in 3! ☺
2965	3/27/2021	I support adding a second daily train on the TCMC route. Under the current schedule, traveling to St. Paul from Wisconsin is effectively a two-night trip, as the current once-daily westbound train arrives in St. Paul late at night, and the eastbound train departs early in the morning. Adding a second daily round-trip would make it practical to do a St. Paul trip with a one-night stay.

2966	3/27/2021	Please add a stop near Madison! I'm from there and live in Chicago, and a way to get home would be so great! As a kid we rarely got to take advantage of all the great museums in Chicago because there was no good way to get there. Please add a stop! Thank you!
2967	3/27/2021	I highly support this project as well as any MKE-Madison trains that would begin & terminate at Monona Terrace in Madison.
2968	3/27/2021	I hope secure bicycle transport will be made possible for a reasonable rate!
2969	3/27/2021	The benefits to my life that this would provide are impossible to understate. I hope the utility of this public service is recognized and enacted.
2970	3/27/2021	This should go down through Madison. More riders! More efficient!
2971	3/27/2021	Needs to go through Madison WI. Highest priority stop
2972	3/27/2021	YES, PLEASE! This would be a boon and a blessing. Even better would be high-speed rail!
2973	3/27/2021	
2974	3/27/2021	It would be nice for the Passenger rail to run through Madison, WI connecting the major population centers of the area.
2975	3/27/2021	If a stop can't be added to Madison, some other type of public transportation (bus?) should be provided between Madison and Columbus.
2976	3/27/2021	I'm so happy to see this project moving forward. We need to join the rest of the world and embrace trains as a viable form of transport. I think this project/proposal is a sensible approach, and would serve a lot of people well. I am sad to see Madison totally left out of the route. Too bad there isn't a way to have some light rail connecting downtown Madison to Dane Co airport and somehow link it to another stop such as Columbus. That would add a lot of riders. Oh well— you gotta start somewhere, and this is a great start.
2977	3/27/2021	Please add Madison, WI to the list.
2978	3/27/2021	Madison needs to be a part of this!! Doesn't make sense to not have a stop at the Capitol of Wisconsin.
2979	3/27/2021	My wife and I are so excited at the prospect of this rail project. Being able to visit family and friends both in Minnesota and Illinois without having to drive would be so amazing and ideal. Not to mention a great opportunity to show off the beautiful midwest.
2980	3/27/2021	Please do this!
2981	3/27/2021	I think it would be beneficial for the route to go through Eau Claire vs. La Crosse. Eau Claire is the medical hub of west central Wisconsin, and has a higher population.
2982	3/27/2021	For too long we have lagged behind the entire world in services like this. Our former WI governor, Walker, declined a project like this & it actually COST us money to decline. In efforts to have a more green future this kind of service is mandatory.
2983	3/27/2021	I believe this would be a game changer to residents in all 3 states!! To be successful I believe the price would have to be comparable to the Greyhound route which is currently what I take when traveling back and forth. However, if this method of transportation would be more eco-friendly then I believe you could pull a LOT of support!

2984	3/27/2021	This would be a great idea. Provide more transportation to a lot of people. As well as making trips to the twin cities much easier. I would use the train all the time
2985	3/27/2021	
2986	3/28/2021	Yes! I would love a fast, comfortable, affordable, reliable, way to travel from the Twin Cities to Milwaukee and Chicago.
2987	3/28/2021	Why would you leave Madison off the route and include Portage and Columbus...? You acknowledge that it's an important place as you include it on the map but don't include it in your proposal. Please at least include a direct bus route extension to this plan including Madison.
2988	3/28/2021	The train should connect through Madison. It's unacceptable that the two biggest cities in the state don't have a rail connection.
2989	3/28/2021	I am fully in support of this project! I would love some way to include Madison in this route. Not including the capitol seems like a mistake, especially with the students who hail from all over the state. Even it's a shuttle ride from Madison to Portage or another station, having a method to get to the proposed route that does not rely on a car would be ideal.
2990	3/28/2021	Extend route to The Twin Cities. Would be great for tourism and work opportunities!!
2991	3/28/2021	Love love love this!
2992	3/28/2021	Yes! Yes! Yes!
2993	3/28/2021	I think it would be a major benefit to have a station closer to Madison.
2994	3/28/2021	Please support this! Our communities need better, more accessible public transit routes.
2995	3/28/2021	I know that this is about connecting networks that are already in place, but this seems like a great opportunity to connect with another big population center-- Madison. Additionally, having easy transportation between Madison and Milwaukee would greatly improve travel options for these two cities, and would likely cut down on reliance on cars for those who need to travel regularly into either of these cities. Regardless, increasing service frequency would be a big help in the state.
2996	3/28/2021	Please add this! Rail is so important to the future of our economy!
2997	3/28/2021	Put a station in Madison please
2998	3/28/2021	I think this is a great idea and an even better way of getting the ball rolling for even more Amtrak travel and destinations. This is fantastic and I support it. It'll bring so many working people and easier transportation means increase in tourism, spending, etc
2999	3/28/2021	Please add Madison to this commuter line! Madisonians frequently travel to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Twin Cities. Adding Madison would save so much gas from polluting the air and improve the lives of thousands of people!
3000	3/28/2021	This would be a terrific addition to regional travel. Shame there is no route or spur to Madison. Support. Support.
3001	3/28/2021	I fully support this

3002	3/28/2021	It is important to create a stop in Madison as this is a high traffic area. Services only extending to nearby areas (e.g., the Dells) would hinder hundreds of people from utilizing the train each year. Service to Madison would further demonstrate TCMC's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion as many individuals in the Madison area do not have access to other stops on the route due to lack of finances and access to transportation. Financially, this may increase the budget, yet would likely be a highly equitable purchase that would gain it's revenue back quickly.
3003	3/28/2021	Yes! It's about time! It makes good economic sense for both cities to have high speed transport options. It will provide more job options for both cities, as well as tourism. It's a great investment! The stations located in more rural areas will enable more people to live out of the city but still work there.
3004	3/28/2021	I am very supportive of this rail system as I think it will be a great way to connect these major cities. However, I am extremely disappointed that the route didn't come through eau Claire to Saint Croix county because there is zero public transportation in that area- or even further north. transportation is such an issue in all of these rural communities north of the path, and it seems they are forgotten again.
3005	3/28/2021	The regional, inter city linkages in this travel corridor would be greatly enhanced by altering the route to also include WI's state capital of Madison. The long term impact would result in increased ridership and reduced car traffic on crowded roadways. If that link could be made my family and I would use rail travel much more frequently. The nearest stop to Madison now is Columbus - 40+ miles northeast. That distance is just enough of a barrier to prevent the shift from car to rail. Madison will continue to grow in population and would be well served by this route change.
3006	3/28/2021	Madison needs to be a stop along this line.
3007	3/28/2021	I look forward to more and improved rail options between Glenview IL and St. Paul MN. I have relatives and friends who live in St.Paul and would utilize the more frequent operations of the TCMC instead of driving.
3008	3/28/2021	Stop in Madison!
3009	3/28/2021	Much needed and great boost for our economy
3010	3/28/2021	
3011	3/28/2021	Add a stop in Madison!
3012	3/28/2021	We have great trouble flying or taking on long trips driving, both for a variety of reasons. Train is the only real option and trains serve places airlines simply cannot afford to serve or else the fares are very high and the service very limited. We would use the train from Chicago to the Twin Cities especially if there was a second train and it ran on time.
3013	3/28/2021	Madison should be included in the route
3014	3/28/2021	This is a much needed expansion. Some people do not like to fly and travel by bus is too slow. The current situation, one train a day, in the early morning, with a return the next day in the early morning definitely does not work.
3015	3/28/2021	Bring it in to Madison

3016	3/28/2021	Expanding the train service would be greatly beneficial to the entire Midwestern Region, and it can spawn a new era of development.
3017	3/28/2021	Rochester?
3018	3/28/2021	Yes please build a train. We should have last time. Scott Walker is a schmuck.
3019	3/28/2021	Service to Madison should be a goal. Connecting Madison by rail is obviously beyond the scope of this project, but connecting Madison could turn this route into a much more functional regional service. The Madison area has been thriving economically. Connecting Madison to Milwaukee could help both cities, and could help drive economic activity by connecting it to other parts of the state. I live in Madison and my work requires sporadic travel (most often to Milwaukee, but also to other parts of Wisconsin). My family currently has one car, and connecting Madison could allow me to use public transit to travel much more efficiently to other cities in Wisconsin and the region.
3020	3/28/2021	Please add two stops in Madison!
3021	3/28/2021	I am a resident of the east coast but this project was brought to my attention by one of my self-respecting relatives who cares about the infrastructure of the interior of the country. The proposed project will not create a viable alternative to either automobile or airline based routes and is a half-step in a direction that is deserving of a large leap. Until this country gets serious about building dedicated infrastructure for rail projects that are not subject to the whims of freight rail (whose track specifications barely support the proposed 79 mph operating speeds) this country will be slave to the automobile and the airplane.
3022	3/28/2021	PLEASE MAKE A STOP IN MADISON, WISCONSIN. MADISON IS THE SECOND LARGEST CITY IN WISCONSIN. MADISON RESIDENTS ARE MOST LIKELY TO ACTUALLY USE THIS TRAIN SERVICE.
3023	3/28/2021	Any addition to passenger rail in Wisconsin is a good thing. Wisconsin missed a golden opportunity back before Gov Walker cancelled it. I know this proposal is only to add additional service on the current corridor, but at some point Madison should be included as either stop on the line or a shuttle service offered from Columbus or WI Dells. Being the second most populous city, the home to UW Madison and the political center of the state, it would make a tremendous economic impact on the region.
3024	3/28/2021	Even without a stop in Madison, I support this project going forward.
3024	3/28/2021	I love this idea, and would absolutely use. Please include Madison!
3025	3/28/2021	Please add a stop in Madison!
3026	3/28/2021	
3027	3/28/2021	As a citizen of Madison I would love for this route to go through Madison. I believe this would allow a greater mobility and connectiveness for all citizens regardless of socioeconomic class access to affordable transportation that would reap many benefits for all involved.
3028	3/28/2021	I feel like Madison should be included. It's a large growing metro area that is outpacing Milwaukee in growth and at some point in the future will be the largest city in the state.

3029	3/28/2021	Please add a Madison stop (or bus service from the Dells or Portage stop to Madison)! As a recent UW grad from St. Paul I would have ridden round trip at least 4 times a year if a Madison stop had existed, and my friends from Milwaukee and Chicago can say the same.
3030	3/28/2021	This would be an amazing project I would support. Living in Hudson WI it would be nice even to get from here to the Twin cities I wish it was run up 94 and not Red Wing. .
3031	3/28/2021	This route needs to stop through/around Madison. If there was a re-route from Wisconsin Dells to Madison and then through to Milwaukee it would highly increase use. Many UW Madison students come from the areas surrounding the twin cities and Chicago. This stop may add time to the route but find an increase in use and overall profits.
3032	3/28/2021	My significant other and I have been long distance for awhile now and would really benefit from having another time option to take the train to get to each other. The current time schedule just does not work well for us to be able to see each other on weekends and we would definitely use another time frame to get to each other as well as our families since we all live along this route.
3033	3/28/2021	This is about time! I've lived in WI for 26 years, first in MSN and now MKE. Train from MKE to Chicago is great. Need to be able to make the same great connections going westward to St. Paul.
3034	3/28/2021	
3035	3/28/2021	Please add Madison, Wisconsin to the route!
3036	3/28/2021	Please send the train through Madison, WI
3037	3/28/2021	It would be nice if Madison could be a stop instead of Columbus.
3038	3/28/2021	A station in Madison only makes sense. Why leave out the state capitol and major university hub in the state?
3039	3/28/2021	This is a no-brainer. Get err done!
3040	3/28/2021	More than one departure time from St. Paul please. I would definitely use this!
3041	3/28/2021	A stop in Madison makes sense. We live in Detroit lakes and something where we don't have to wake up at 2 am or get in at 3 am would be nice
3042	3/28/2021	
3043	3/28/2021	Please consider adding a stop in Madison! Many of us would gladly use the train instead of driving, but the tiny station 45 minutes away by car makes it impractical. Adding another train to the current track will make zero difference to us here in Madison. I've taken the current train and it was almost empty at the time. I don't think the proposed investment is justified if you do not add a Madison station.
3044	3/28/2021	This public transport option is a great idea. It will remove automobile traffic from these routes, which will have several immediate and long term positive effects: Reduction of autos = reduction of accidents and CO2 pollution; train travel = more potential productive time on business-related trips and more social time on leisure travel. Trains have often been accompanied by increased economic activity all along the routes.
3045	3/28/2021	As a Minnesotan with strong ties to Kenosha, WI, I love this! It would vastly improve travel between the cities, making it more efficient and environmentally friendly.

3046	3/28/2021	YES fully support. But please, if you want this to be well-attended you must add stops in Madison and Eau Claire.
3047	3/28/2021	This is a great idea but how about restoring train service between Milwaukee and Madison along the I-94 corridor!!!
3048	3/28/2021	You should change one of the stops to Madison WI instead, you are doing a disservice to the university students but leaving out Madison.
3049	3/28/2021	Yes!!! This would be such a wonderful convenience for so many travelers! If you've ever been to Europe and have taken one of these "bullet" trains, they are more economical than flying and much faster than driving. It would be awesome!
3050	3/28/2021	It's disappointing that Madison it's self does not look to be included as a stop on the route. I'm hopeful that the route can be adjusted to include Madison. Thank you!
3051	3/28/2021	I'd really like to see Madison included—why leave hundreds of thousands of people unconnected to this route?
3052	3/28/2021	Could the route go through Madison, WI? I feel Railroad services through the capital of Wisconsin which is a city that continues to grow in population and industry should be considered.
3053	3/28/2021	Connect Madison WI to the rail line.
3054	3/28/2021	I would love this even more if it were high speed rail, but I'll take what I can get.
3055	3/28/2021	Including Madison would be great and people would utilize that!
3056	3/28/2021	That is a wonderful amazing idea. Puplic transportation will make our city much more accessible. I hope the ticket prices will be accessible as well. But one thing makes me wonder. Why not going into Madison. Would that make sense? Why going so far around. I mean Madison is the capital and the biggest collage town. I think the people in Madison would benefit from it having a stop downtown.
3057	3/28/2021	I'm in support of this initiative. Please include a Madison stop.
3058	3/28/2021	Please add a station in Madison. I also know many people who would regularly take a train that stops in the stevens point/Wausau area. Please consider this idea. Thank you.
3059	3/28/2021	Please don't do this MSP is already falling apart and giving people the opportunity to move from Chicago to MSP would cause a lot more damage. I also know a lot of families that have stated they would move if this were to happen.
3060	3/28/2021	add madison to the route or offer a shuttle to Columbus
3061	3/28/2021	Add Madison as a stop on the rail line. (Side note: this is an excellent project and one I would use multiple times a year)
3062	3/28/2021	This is a wonderful idea! Providing more public transportation between cities is so needed! This is a great start; future legs added to access other parts of WI and MN would be great future project as well. Imagine extending this route to connect to Canada! The possibilities are so exciting!

3063	3/28/2021	<p>I am very supportive of the second, daily round-trip passenger rail service along the corridor of the the Amtrak's Empire Builder route. We enjoy riding the Empire Builder and have taken many long-distance trips. We have also taken the train from Portage to Chicago to make connections for a rail trip to Texas.</p> <p>I would think that there would be demand for a station in Waukesha County since there is a long distance between the Milwaukee stationa and Columbus and there is a large population base in Waukesha County.</p> <p>I believe the projected funding is money well spent on making improvements as outlined in the summary.</p> <p>PS I had problems placing a dot in the Waukesha County Area and if I went back from page two to one my level of support was returned to neutual.</p>
3064	3/28/2021	<p>Looks great. Please make this happen! Maybe consider just running on the weekends or days when people would be more likely to use it. Also consider tourist activities at each stop so people could take trips they normally wouldn't.</p>
3065	3/28/2021	<p>Please add a station in Madison, WI. Madison is growing at an incredible pace and is the political, educational, and economic center of the state. It is also located in close proximity to the existing line, which would reduce the cost of building out a service line to the city.</p>
3066	3/28/2021	<p>This is a much needed service. Not everyone is privileged to have a personal car or be able to fly. Everyone should have access to transportation. With the billions and billions of subsidies to the highways and airlines, the small amount invested in rail service is money well spent.</p>
3067	3/28/2021	<p>A connection in Eau Claire, and a connection in Madison</p>
3068	3/28/2021	<p>Please add a Madison station! Madison has a population of 255,000. Columbus and Portage have a combined population of 15,000.</p>
3069	3/28/2021	<p>This is a great idea. We should expand service and improve infrastructure. There will be longterm dividends.</p>
3070	3/28/2021	<p>Please, please, please add a Madison stop! It would be so helpful.</p>
3071	3/28/2021	<p>I would rather see new passenger train service created between Dubuque, IA and Chicago, IL since they've been talking about it for 20+ years or between Madison, WI and Milwaukee, WI, which was scrapped by Scott Walker. However, I would welcome any expansion in passenger train service and adding a 2nd daily round-trip service to this line would make it more convenient to use.</p>
3072	3/28/2021	<p>Yes! Please add the second daily service for this route. I live in downtown Milwaukee and barely ever drive anymore, especially on the interstate. Visiting family in the Twin Cities requires a long drive, and I increasingly worry about driving safely since I'm out of practice. Also, holiday visits in the winter almost always involve treacherous road conditions. With two trips available per day, and increased on-time operation, I'll be much more likely to choose rail for this travel in the future. Thank you!</p>

3073	3/28/2021	Please for the love of god do this. It is so long overdue that we have a public transportation system that efficiently connects these major metro areas. Please act for the environment, public welfare, and for equal access to decent transportation options. We need more trains!
3074	3/28/2021	I want to voice that the project should be carried out by local companies. Out of state companies should not be involved.
3075	3/28/2021	Our family of 5 from the rural La Crosse area would LOVE to use this service, especially to the airports and to vacation in MLSP and Chicago.
3076	3/28/2021	I support a second daily round-trip train along the corridor. Having two trips per day allows for more convenient departure times and will attract 155,000 new passengers per year! More riders means more economic boost to local economies. \$47M in direct and indirect economic benefits. Roads are overcrowded, we need better and more efficient ways to travel.
3077	3/28/2021	Please incorporate Madison into this plan! We would travel this route to the bigger cities; its good for everyone! As the Wisconsin state capitol it will give access to more visitors....it would tie these cities together in many beneficial ways!
3078	3/28/2021	Please add a stop in Madison Wisconsin
3079	3/28/2021	Absolutely positively add Madison to the rail route! This is the state capitol with 240,000 residents! How could you why would you exclude us?
3080	3/28/2021	Adding the second trains is ecologically sound and beneficial to riders and stimulates the economy
3081	3/28/2021	Chicago and MSP are culturally connected. I know of many families split between the two areas. This would be a boon for them and also for people like me who have friends both places.
3082	3/28/2021	I love the idea of train service--I lived in Japan for a year and it was great! However, this route really needs to figure out a way to connect Madison. I know the current line goes through Columbus and that's why it continues to go through there, but Madison is the second largest metropolitan area in the state and not having the train connect to it significantly decreases the possible ridership. If the train is going to work it has to get as many riders as possible.
3083	3/28/2021	Please offer a fast and reliable rail system between minneapolis, Madison, milwaukee, and Chicago that operates frequently
3084	3/28/2021	I hope that a station in Madison, WI can be incorporated
3085	3/28/2021	Train service should include Madison, Wisconsin. Arts, Education, Commerce and, Government. Place Auto/Bus/Train/Plane Inter-modal transportation station at former Oscar Mayer, 910 Packers Avenue.
3086	3/28/2021	Please expand to Madison
3087	3/28/2021	I LOVE this idea! Please do it! The only way for it to be improved would be to have a stop at Madison as well.
3088	3/28/2021	This is well worth the money and would make so many people's lives easier.
3088	3/28/2021	Madison should be on this route. It makes no sense to skip Madison.
3089	3/28/2021	Please consider adding a stop to Madison, WI. As a Twin Cities metro area resident with family in Madison, I would use this route frequently.

3090	3/28/2021	I love that this project is looking at making the rail schedule between TC-M-C more robust. I went to college in Minneapolis, live in MKE, and have friends in Chicago and dislike driving long distances for environmental and personal-time-investment reasons. For much of college I had to take buses back home, because their departures were more frequent than commuter rail (despite my preference for rail). More daily round trips on this corridor would mean my schedule can be more flexible if I want to take public transportation!
3091	3/28/2021	This would be wonderful! We need more passenger trains and this is a fantastic idea.
3092	3/28/2021	Please, please, pretty please include Madison!! As the Capitol of Wisconsin, the link to Chicago has been asked continues to be vital.
3093	3/28/2021	I think expanding the rail service is an excellent idea. I fully support this project. High speed rail would be nice, but I think frequency of departure is more important to offer passengers the flexibility they are used to with vehicle travel. Is it possible to have a stop in Madison?
3094	3/28/2021	Oh great. Now we can have a hundred shootings a day like they di in hellhole Chicago.
3095	3/28/2021	I fully support this rail project. Look at all the other developed countries where people can get places by rail. We depend heavily on cars/trucks and planes for transportation in this country. We need high speed rail! I would love to also see a line running from Green Bay to Milwaukee, but that is for another time.
3096	3/28/2021	I know this may be beyond that point in the process. However right now one of the only ways directly between Milwaukee and Racine and Kenosha is a Coach bus line. Having an additional stop instead of in Sturtevant might really help those commuting from Milwaukee to Racine and reduce their carbon footprint for driving if there was a consistent cheaper option. I completely understand that this might not be possible as it probably adds time to the trip and it seems like the purpose is to increase speed between the major cities.
3097	3/28/2021	Please add Madison to the route thank you for listening.
3098	3/28/2021	The line should go through or run closer to Madison.
3099	3/28/2021	How about including Madison in this route?
3100	3/28/2021	
3101	3/28/2021	Another round trip service would be amazing. A lot of people post covid are going to want to travel again and using a train will help eliminate parking issues. I have multiple trips planned for Madison to Chicago and another set of service will allow for more accessible times to travel.
3102	3/28/2021	Yes Yesz plz bring back rail . I would use it.
3103	3/28/2021	Will this be an extension of an existing Hiawatha Service round trip, or will it be an entirely new train over the whole route (in the process creating a new frequency between Chicago and Milwaukee)? If it's the latter, the first phase of the Hiawatha Service frequency increase project will be accomplished with the completion of this project.

3104	3/28/2021	Please include Madison in this route. It will boost ridership (which will benefit Amtrak) and boost businesses in the greater Madison area which will lead to increase tax revenue. Yes, I want the rural and smaller cities to also benefit, but putting a route thru Madison will do that to the surrounding rural areas and smaller cities. Madison is the capital of our state and has a very large university community. Why would you not include this community?
3105	3/28/2021	Great idea! It'd make it more accessible and affordable to travel while remaining environmentally concious
3106	3/28/2021	I think this is a great idea. I just wish that a hub was at Eau Claire instead of Tomah. It would make it a little more accessible for us here in northern Wisconsin.
3107	3/28/2021	I am incredibly excited about this project. However, I believe it is critical to have a connecting route or stop in Madison. UW-Madison has thousands of students who live along the proposed route and would be able to use the train as an option to travel home for visits or for family/friends to visit them on campus.
3108	3/28/2021	Sounds great!
3109	3/28/2021	Madison residents need easier access to the railway. Portage is approx 45 minutes away from most Madison area residents and this will hinder a large population from utilizing the railways proposed convenience.
3110	3/28/2021	Madison should be included in this route. Not only is it the second largest City in the state, it is the state capital and home to the largest university in the state. There are major companies in madison that would benefit from a stop on this route as well, like Epic or Covance that have many employees that travel. A station near the airport would be ideal. Scott Walker should have never killed this project when he was elected as governor, I'm sure it is going to cost more money now than if it had begun construction back then. It is an important project and should be completed either way.
3111	3/28/2021	Been waiting a long time for this! I grew up taking the train from Marinette to Chicago. Back before the dark days of Walker there was a spur planned to Green Bay. I would still rather drive to Milwaukee and take the train to downtown Chicago than drive in the city. The city folks could head to the Dells or bike on trails emanating from Madison or on the Elroy-Sparta trail. Go to the Twin Cities for theatrical performances. Relax and sleep on the train instead of having to drive home. We have an aging population that would be better served being able to take a train rather than the trying to navigate congested highways. Using trains in Europe was a great joy, city center to city center. Much better than taking cab out to airport and the extra time to get on and off the plane. US highways are congested with truck traffic. Should take a look at revitalizing cargo rail as well.
3112	3/28/2021	I often travel between the Twin Cities and both La Crosse and Milwaukee. Train service would be very desirable for those trips.
3113	3/28/2021	I think that this is a great option for inter-city travel. I suggest adding Madison to this inter-city travel to connect to the state's capitol and improve access to the city, as well as make it more accessible to those without long distance transport!

3114	3/28/2021	Please add a stop in Rochester mn and in Madison wi
3115	3/28/2021	Strongly oppose this project. Crime in Milwaukee and Chicago is out of control. That crime will inevitably filter to the twin cities given the ease of going from city to city with this project. This project, though well intentioned, is a bad idea. Further, we have so many road projects that need vastly greater attention than starting a whole new rail project. Fix and improve our roads here should be a priority.
3116	3/28/2021	Completely support a high-speed train line between Minneapolis and Chicago (with stops)! Please do a high speed rather than just a 2nd departure.
3117	3/28/2021	Add Madison, WI to the list as a stop for Vrain passenger transportation. Madison is a major Hudson that would benefit tremendously. Before Walker took it down DOT had done a fabulous job in working to make this a reality
3118	3/28/2021	I support this plan!
3119	3/28/2021	This project should aim for average speeds of 200-220mph and add a stop in Madison.
3120	3/28/2021	It is a tremendous idea to add more rail service to this busy corridor! I am confident this is a great use of taxpayer funds. Please fast-track this proposal.
3121	3/28/2021	Why not go to Rochester (Mayo Clinic), LaCrosse, WI Dells, Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago?
3122	3/28/2021	It really blows my mind that a stop in Madison isn't considered? Think about the traffic between UMN and UW? I don't think this current route would be used
3123	3/28/2021	Why not go from Duluth, MN to St Paul, Rochester (Mayo Clinic), LaCrosse, WI Dells, Madison, Milwaukee, Chicago?
3124	3/28/2021	Very supportive. This will be good for business traveling and we would use for vacation to Dells, Milwaukee, and Chicago.
3125	3/28/2021	Yes please! Improve the lines to make it faster and more attractive than driving. I would love it if it went through Rochester MN too, but I'll take what I can get.
3126	3/28/2021	Yes please, rail connecting Chicago Milwaukee, Madison, and Minnesota is loooooong overdue
3127	3/28/2021	I support these improvements and expansion of the Empire Builder service. For five years I commuted between MKE and Chicago on the Hiawatha. It was great. It would have made such an improvement in my life--and to the economics of the two cities and intervening areas--had that line been converted to high speed rail. I would have taken the Empire Builder more often had there been more service (better times). I advocate for moving toward high speed rail for the Empire Builder as well. This will only have long term benefits to the public in terms of both economics and environmental protection.
3128	3/28/2021	I think this is a great idea and would benefit many people.

3129	3/28/2021	Include Eau Claire in route. Eau Claire is a realistic connection point for NW Wisconsin residents. People would drive to Eau Claire, drop their vehicle off then train to Milwaukee / Chicago.
3130	3/28/2021	Add Madison as a stop PLEASE :)
3131	3/28/2021	Long overdue.
3132	3/28/2021	This project is long overdue. It's a substantial and very positive development for this intercity corridor and a benefit to all 3 states. Only missing piece is a branch connecting Madison, which is a must for commuters between Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago and would pose a benefit to the entire line.
3133	3/28/2021	I am excited to see the state of Wisconsin and Amtrak put effort into providing reliable service between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities. The well thought out funding arrangements which focus on the best bang for the buck improvement in the near-term, using existing rail corridors made a lot of sense. As a Madison resident I would be excited to use the shuttle or drive to Columbus to avoid a long drive up to the Twin Cities to visit friends (or to fly out of Delta's hub there). I would like to see some improvements in the Columbus station and it's long-term parking to support Madison riders over the medium-term. I hope this is the first step in continued support for rail projects in Wisconsin leading to the long awaited Madison-Milwaukee high-speed rail corridor.
3134	3/28/2021	Bypassing Madison yet again would be a huge error. I understand the existing track infrastructure doesn't go through Madison but to not include the state capitol and the second largest municipality in the state would be simply mind-bogglingly short sighted
3135	3/28/2021	Please change the Wisconsin route to include Madison. Now that I am retired and the pandemic looks like it is coming to an end, I would like to travel by train, taking trips to explore the rest of the country. However, the closest connection is about 30 miles away and has no provision for longterm parking. I prefer rail travel to that by car or plane and note that it has grown in popularity in Europe recently because it is less harmful to the environment than the alternatives. With so many train tracks crisscrossing Madison, it seems ridiculous that there is no passenger service. I believe that Madison's environmentally conscious population would make great use of rail service if it came through our city. I personally would enjoy the possibility of leaving my car at home and hopping on a train to attend events in Chicago.
3136	3/28/2021	We are very enthusiastic about the potential upgrade of passenger rail service, especially adding an additional train to the schedule from Minneapolis to Chicago. We have used Amtrak for our trips to Chicago for the last 7-10 years and overall it has been a very positive experience. However, extreme delays of trains coming from Minneapolis have caused us to cancel our plans on a couple of occasions and other times required a bus transport from Portage to Milwaukee. Increase of tracks and schedules would greatly help this situation and would probably lead to increased ridership. State and Federal funding should be a priority for this project.
3137	3/28/2021	Rail service improvements are a great idea. Even better would be a stop in Madison.

3138	3/28/2021	I would love to have a rail project connecting Chicago and the Twin Cities through Wisconsin. I live in Madison and would love to see Madison be a stop on such a route.
3139	3/28/2021	Please add a stop in Madison. This is critical to the line's success. It will tremendously help many college students who between the twin cities and Madison. It is also a way to include Wisconsin's capital city.
3140	3/28/2021	We need to route through Madison.
3141	3/28/2021	Missing Madison, Wisconsin with this route would be a huge missed opportunity. Personally, I would use this route relatively frequently.
3142	3/28/2021	First off, I am very happy to hear about the second roundtrip gaining steam by proponents. I want to be able to have another rail option available from Chicago to and from the Twin Cities and in between. One suggestion that I have for the westbound corridor train is rather than have it leave late morning(11 am range) as originally planned, it would be best to have it depart Chicago perhaps just as the Metra am rush hour is finishing up-around 9:00 am. This option would enable passengers who are traveling to the Twin Cities to arrive way before dinnertime. In addition, by having the train depart Chicago Union Station about 9:00 am, that would offer some more daytrip opportunities for people heading to destinations like Wisconsin Dells and Tomah from the Greater Chicago and Milwaukee area.
3143	3/28/2021	The route should be closer to Madison, or go through Madison. It would become much more accessible to to students, people traveling, or commuting for work etc. In addition it would reduce amount of auto traffic driving to stations outside of Madison having a station that could be accessible via public transportation.
3144	3/28/2021	This is a great idea! A stop in Green Bay should be considered though, for those that are more north.
3145	3/28/2021	Yes, please add a second daily round-trip service between Milwaukee and the TCs. My mother likes to take the train to visit but the late night schedule is hard for her, also hard for us traveling with young children if we took the train. We would love not to drive! I was really excited about the high speed rail that was talked about years ago, but adding a second run to the current service will be a big help.
3146	3/28/2021	Yes please. Do this ASAP. It would be great to have a stop right on Madison or closer than it currently runs. Also, making a ticket available that allows passengers to get off and on during a two week period (or something) would be helpful.
3147	3/28/2021	I am very much in favor of this line. I would love to see a direct stop added in Madison as well. But otherwise please continue with this project!
3148	3/28/2021	I support this proposal. I encourage you to think about routing it through Madison to connect major cities in this corridor. Madison is a missing link in this route.

		<p>The Empire Builder is a great line but it is one of the Amtrak lines that is behind schedule more than other lines.</p> <p>This is made worse by the freight line rail sharing contracts and the increase in coal and fuel shipments.</p> <p>The Chicago- make-up Minneapolis corridor could be more useful if it could connect to Madison WI and Rochester MN. The connection at Winnona is almost useless to connect to the mayo clinic or IBM and its a coin flip if the Empire builder will be so late that your chartered van transport will abandon you there at midnight with no way to get a hotel or a car rental to reach a,hotel.</p> <p>Trying to connect to Madison is even worse.</p> <p>Improve the on time schedule.... (Maybe a train with dedicated MN-mke-chi ...as a,small delay in the empire builder in Tacoma messes things up by the time the train gets to Minnesota.... The delay is amplified by the long route)</p>
3149	3/29/2021	Connect Rochester and Madison.
3150	3/29/2021	Please make this a reality! Our family would use it. It would make visiting local areas with small kids so much more enjoyable and realistic.
3151	3/29/2021	We are in our 70s and are long time Amtrak users. We have friends in the Twin Cities and often take trips along the Mississippi to enjoy the scenery. We are strongly in favor of the proposed rail route upgrades between Chicago and the Twin Cities. We have gotten on the train at Portage and Columbus both,so are very familiar with the stations. As we get older, the idea of using rail to get to the Twin Cities or Milwaukee or even Chicago is even more appealing. Having spoken strongly in favor of the rail upgrade, it would certainly be even better if the route came through Madison or at least the airport area. Allowing intermodal passenger exchanges is even far more appealing for very busy people seeking more distant markets. Such an option would be appealing for going to Mitchell Field for air transit.
3152	3/29/2021	We need a Madison stop
3153	3/29/2021	As 45,000 mile AMTRAK riders and seniors, my wife and I depend on passenger rail to get us into and out of MN. The 2nd train will expand frequency to bring more riders into MN and with them, their money. With the 2nd train ending in St Paul, riders will get off and spend money. More riders = more economic impact for MN. DO IT NOW!
3154	3/29/2021	Dear TCMC Project Managers, I live in Madison, Wisconsin and would so appreciate Madison being included as a stop on the new proposed train route. Thank you!
3155	3/29/2021	

3156	3/29/2021	<p>I am in strong support of increasing access between Minneapolis and Chicago (and other major cities) by rail. I would prefer to see some smaller destinations along the route eliminated to improve transit times.</p> <p>I would be in strong support of a high speed rail line with less stops as well. The Amtrak could support smaller stops to feed larger stations to improve efficiency. If we can improve transit times and affordability of travel the region will prosper. If we can get access to Chicago and Minneapolis to only a couple hours for \$100 or less I think there would be a very high demand from business and pleasure riders.</p> <p>The region needs more transit options that are fast and affordable to advance our economy's and stay competitive and as desirable places to live.</p>
3157	3/29/2021	I fully support this project, especially including additional departure times in both directions that make this service more convenient.
3158	3/29/2021	I support the project. Two trains would complement each other. Empire Builder from the west often is late so this would provide a viable alternative.
3159	3/29/2021	My wife and I would like to express our strong support for adding additional trains to the Chicago to St. Paul route. It would allow us to conveniently visit our son and his family in St. Paul on a more regular basis.
3160	3/29/2021	Please add a stop in Madison, WI. Many people need easier transportation between these cities – for work, to visit their families, for a number of reasons. Some location in Madison, WI that is accessible by the Metro bus line.
3161	3/29/2021	I strongly suggest you add Madison to this route. Most people in Dane County want it
3162	3/29/2021	When a final schedule is agreed upon, please make sure the train travels the route in 7hr 30mins or less to remain competitive with cars. This corridor will grow with a well-run second train.
3163	3/29/2021	I fully support this idea and can't wait to ride the train more often!
3164	3/29/2021	<p>I am all in favor of the proposed 2nd train between the Twin Cities and Chicago!</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
3165	3/29/2021	I support any expansion of rail services in WI. It was truly neanderthal to stop the rail proposal that Gov. Doyle had negotiated and I have hoped ever since that politicians would see their error and get a line linking Madison with other major cities in WI, IL, and MN. The next generation is not so car oriented and we must get rail infrastructure in place pronto.
3166	3/29/2021	Great idea
3167	3/29/2021	This was a fabulous idea back in 2000. I think it would be of great benefit all three states and would increase ridership for Amtrak.
3168	3/29/2021	This was a fabulous idea back in 2000. I think it would be of great benefit all three states and would increase ridership for Amtrak.

3169	3/29/2021	Yes. Yes, yes yes. BUT ALSO. Not having the train go into or even near Madison (Portage is inaccessible to college students) is the single-biggest missed opportunity from the last 10 years. As a graduate of UW-Madison who is from the Twin Cities and has family in Milwaukee, I would have used the train half a dozen times a year if it had been accessible to me.
3170	3/29/2021	I would take this over plane/car for both work and vacations in Chicago. It would absolutely make me more willing to drop in for a weekend to see a show or an art exhibit. It would make all cities on the route better to have more mixing of visitors and commerce.
3171	3/29/2021	I hope this is a precursor to a high speed route. CHI to MSP is already a huge percentage of flights and converting some of that traffic to electric rail, if using renewable sources would do a lot to reduce local emissions
3172	3/29/2021	We need the rail to come through Madison!!! You won't regret it, as Madisonians will actually USE this rail!!!!
3173	3/29/2021	Guess who will use this rail the most??? People from Madison!!!!
3174	3/29/2021	It is a great idea to add a second route. Investment in a higher speed rail should be next!!
3175	3/29/2021	I support more train service in Wisconsin to help reduce amount of vehicle and trucks on the highway.
3176	3/29/2021	Please stop in Madison as well.
3177	3/29/2021	I think it's a great idea! But add Eau Claire to the route!!
3178	3/29/2021	
3179	3/29/2021	I am 1000% for this! I live in the Twin Cities but grew up in Wisconsin so I still have family and friends there. I don't drive. This would make visits easier. Plus the train is great!
3180	3/29/2021	Madison, Wisconsin, is the capital of the state and the second most populous city in Wisconsin. Failure to directly serve the capital by passenger rail is incomprehensible outside of a purely political motive. The rail service should have a route added that will allow Dane County residents the opportunity to benefit from the corridor. This will increase use and enhance the long-term viability of the service.
3181	3/29/2021	All this will do is bring down the areas between Milwaukee and the twin cities. It will more crime and problems to our areas.
3182	3/29/2021	Seems like this would be a colossal waste of money. If this is privately funded that's one thing, I would imagine this would be covered by taxpayers. My taxes are already going up so I don't think I should pay for something I would NEVER use.
3183	3/29/2021	Adding Madison to the route seems like it would greatly increase ridership and make it much more useful.

3184	3/29/2021	<p>I absolutely support this! I am a frequent rider of this passage and choose it as my first choice of transportation along this corridor whenever possible. However as you can imagine, the single daily departure does not always fit my plans and therefore makes the Amtrak a less competitive option for myself and many other travellers.</p> <p>I would also sincerely hope that an allocation of funds will go to modernizing the trains to include wifi. The perks of transport over driving is that I can accomplish things rather than being at the wheel. Especially as these trains are running during working hours, many professionals could use this time working. Focusing on this could change business practices between MPLS, MKE, and Chicago and encourage ridership for businesses. Just a thought.</p>
3185	3/29/2021	Please please make this go from the twin cities through Eau Claire!! So so many people travel this stretch of highway. People from the cities are even moving to EC but still commuting to Minnesota for work.
3186	3/29/2021	This needs to include Madison —much needed.
3187	3/29/2021	Please stop in Madison! What a huge population to be ignoring with this route. At the very least add a stop on the north side of town, though downtown would really open up this option for many people without cars.
3188	3/29/2021	Add Madison wi to railway
3189	3/29/2021	I think this is great. Having another option is great. My only request would be to have the train go through Madison as this would increase usage dramatically
3190	3/29/2021	A second daily route would increase usage and improve service.
3191	3/29/2021	Adding an additional stop in the Watertown, WI/Oconomowoc, WI area would be beneficial.
3192	3/29/2021	This should have been done years ago or better yet it should never have stopped back in the early 60's - Republicans must have had something to do with that and then again when we had the chance for \$\$\$ it was shut down by Republicans. There is no reason a train should not exist in this metro area, it's in La Crosse and a little town called Columbus. It would create jobs and it would cut down on emissions from all the cars going back and forth. Most people would much rather climb on a train than drive themselves. Let's GET ON IT!
3193	3/29/2021	If there was a train that was faster than driving, I would take the train every time I visit my parents. I live in the Twin Cities and they live near Milwaukee. My brothers live around Chicago too. The current train system is just too slow and unreliable to make me want to use it. If it was like trains in Japan or Europe, I would regularly visit Chicago and Milwaukee much more often.
3194	3/29/2021	As someone who lives in Milwaukee and travels to see family in Winona and Minneapolis adding a second route would be a huge benefit. I have taken the train in the past but sometimes the scheduled times do not work for me or my family.
3195	3/29/2021	Yes, please.

3196	3/29/2021	I offer a statement of support for routing any proposed line through Madison, Wisconsin, if feasible. We would greatly benefit from rail travel to the major hubs on the proposed line, and residents of those cities would benefit from easier access to Madison.
3197	3/29/2021	I would like to know what steps Wisconsin and Minnesota are taking to improve transit times and upgrade trackage to allow for 79mph service and potentially upgraded 110mph service. I would also like to know how the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota are going to enhance transit services at stations serviced by the route to reduce car-dependence. Additionally, I think state of Minnesota should consider routing this service through Rochester.
3198	3/29/2021	With family, friends, and work collaborations in MN, WI, and the Chicago area, I would love to have this travel option! Not only would this help reduce the number of cars on the road and be better for the environment, it would mean I could use the commute to do other things with my time (e.g., work, read, sleep, hang out with fellow travelers). This travel option would definitely increase the amount of travel and visits that I would make back to WI and even to Chicago. I just wish that it went through Madison!
3199	3/29/2021	I strongly support an additional route between Mpls & Chicago.
3200	3/29/2021	I highly support this project to increase the number of passenger trains between St Paul, Milwaukee, and Chicago. I understand why it makes sense to start with this project. But I hope that connecting Madison to the passenger rail system will be on the agenda soon. It's possible to access passenger rail at Columbus, but this involves a bus ride/drive to that station which increases the time involved thereby decreasing the attractiveness of taking the train. I would also hope that increasing the speed of the trains is planned. I have ridden Amtrak in Michigan several times. Many of the stretches there are now up to 110 mph. In addition, Michigan tax dollars have helped provide more than one main route in the state. I'd like to see Wisconsin work to make this same kind of improvement.
3201	3/29/2021	Why don't they run the route along the CNW/UP 400 route.
3202	3/29/2021	I will use this line regularly - please proceed with this project. You have my highest support. The time is now.
3203	3/29/2021	Please go through Rochester!
3204	3/29/2021	Increased service and convenience of service would absolutely impact ridership in the positive, decreasing traffic and benefitting tourist traffic at every point on the route.
3205	3/29/2021	Add as many rail routes as possible, work to keep ticket prices reasonable. Younger generations will use this. You don't need a car to have a long weekend in Chicago, Madison, or Milwaukee. Traveling around town after arrival is much easier now. I fully support.
3206	3/29/2021	This would be great to improve local economy's. Give all people a chance to travel the state and neighboring states.
3207	3/29/2021	I think the economic benefit of this second line would be great for the states of Minnesota and Wisconsin.

3208	3/29/2021	Please do this project. More trains is better and may reduce auto emissions.
3209	3/29/2021	I would use it for leisure.
3210	3/29/2021	<p>It would be amazing to have more passenger rail options and times along this route outlines by this project. Before COVID, I went from my home in the Twin Cities to Chicago as often as I could. Mostly to visit loved ones in Chicago, sometimes to celebrate a birthday or go to a concert. It's by far the most enjoyable way to travel regionally. I was hoping to make more Amtrak trips to visit new spots in Wisconsin I had never visited (Milwaukee, the Dells, Kenosha to be specific). I'm hoping to do this once vaccinated. A second daily trip would make this so much easier to do.</p> <p>As far as route/stations: I'd love a more direct way to get to Madison by rail. I also hate that there is no Minneapolis stop (though there was historically). Getting from my home in Minneapolis to the St. Paul station is tedious by transit (a bus and lite rail both needed to get there and it would take well over an hour). It'd be great to have those added again.</p>
3211	3/29/2021	I am definitely in favor of this project. Investments in our transportation infrastructure is vitally important at this time for so many reasons.
3212	3/29/2021	I love this idea and am a long-time rail supporter, having lived in several countries outside where I enjoyed daily rail and bus access (buses to major hubs pass by every 2 minutes in Istanbul). However, I can't figure out why it would bypass Madison. The Madison metro area has 500,000 people, while Columbus might have 10,000 max. I think this line is going to miss out on potentially huge numbers of customers by not going through Madison.
3213	3/29/2021	<p>Madison's population is 263,333 with a population density of 3,319 people per square mile.</p> <p>Many residents commute to daily. This would take a burden off of our road systems also.</p> <p>Stopping in Madison, the State capital is very necessary.</p>
3214	3/29/2021	I would support an Intercity Passenger Rail Project only if it goes through Madison, WI. The fact that these two metro locations are only 90 miles apart and have no public transportation options is a failure of the WIDOT. A rail line between Madison and Milwaukee would create countless opportunities for development in the central southern portion of Wisconsin.
3215	3/29/2021	Add Madison as a stop instead of Columbus
3216	3/29/2021	I believe the TCMC Intercity Passenger Rail Project is missing a valuable opportunity in bypassing the greater Madison area. For Madison area residents with limited personal transportation options, a drive to the nearest stations in Columbus or Portage is not feasible. Adding a station and/or altering the route to pass through or near Madison would make sustainable rail transportation an option for a significant segment of the population it has yet to be available to.
3217	3/29/2021	Please do add the second daily round-trip train.
3218	3/29/2021	Hi, I'm a citizen in Milwaukee and I want to support the construction of this interstate railway. This state, and our country are in desperate need of better long distance public transportation. I know this would seriously impact the mobility of myself, my community, and even help cut carbon emissions for those who commute.

3219	3/29/2021	I support the TCMC rail project As a senior citizen still on the road, I would love to look forward to the day when I could use high speed rail to visit friends and family in the Twin Cities area as well as Michigan- and yes New Jersey. MONEY FOR RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICE IMPROVEMENTS WOULD BRING US UP TO 2ND WORLD RAIL. Having ridden high speed rail in China and the Shinkansen in Japan. It is blatantly clear rail infrastructure and service investments are terribly needed in the US. To do it right, we need to invest in worker training whether its for PTC, the construction of rail lines or customer service .
3220	3/29/2021	I LOVE this idea. I would LOVE LOVE LOVE this idea if it followed the I-94 corridor instead. I understand why it follows this rail corridor and I want to see much more passenger rail going into the future. I'd like to see a station closer to Madison proper. I would also like to see regular service, or at lease a two time a day service.
3221	3/29/2021	Please help this go through the Madison area to give students and workers in the capitol without cars more options to travel.
3222	3/29/2021	I love this idea. I think in general Wisconsin is so far behind the curve of public transportation options and this could be so beneficial for Wisconsin's citizens. I think adding access to Eau Claire and Madison would be ideal.
3223	3/29/2021	Trains are great and I am getting too old for megabus to Chicago. Yes, to a train that would have consistent times not dependent on coming from the west.
3224	3/29/2021	By passing Madison is a big mistake!
3225	3/29/2021	This would be incredibly helpful for families, workers, and students. I know that I would use the rail all the time to see friends and family and explore new parts of WI because I will have the accessibility.
3226	3/29/2021	If the train stops at Columbus we will ride it to Chicago. Right now we drive to the Milwaukee airport station, park, and take the train to and from Chicago. The drive to Milwaukee and train trip take less time than driving into the loop. We live in Madison so please stop in Columbus.
3227	3/29/2021	Go through msn.
3228	3/29/2021	NO! We can't afford, nor do we need another taxpayer funded boondoggle.
3229	3/29/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison WI. There are people here who commute to Milwaukee.
3230	3/29/2021	Is there any chance for the train to make a stop in Madison, WI? The economic benefit related to tourism for Milwaukee, Madison, Minneapolis, and Chicago would be astronomical.
3231	3/29/2021	I'm completely in favor of increasing passenger train frequency between these two principle cities and the benefits to all the intermediate cities and towns serviced on the route. Usable passenger train service reduces traffic congestion and carbon emissions. People will ride passenger trains if they're available, timely and reliable, especially in the travel distance between the Twin Cities and Milwaukee, Chicago!
3232	3/29/2021	It would be beneficial to get on the train in Sturtevant and travel to Minnesota.
3233	3/29/2021	It makes more sense to have a Madison stop in the middle or else go fully north to Green Bay and down to Milwaukee. At this point, only Milwaukee directly benefits. Not enough to tax the entire state.

3234	3/29/2021	As a resident of Madison, the 2nd largest metro area in Wisconsin I am disappointed that this route does not have a stop closer than Portage and Columbus. Given the current plan I would be unlikely to use the train.
3235	3/29/2021	Add Madison as a stop please.
3236	3/29/2021	I own a business, Alliant Castings, adjacent to the proposed Winona Siding Improvement site. While the siding itself wouldn't pose a problem, the proposed grading easement would present an issue with my business.
3237	3/29/2021	I am in favor of the addition of a second, round-trip passenger rail service from Chicago to St. Paul. I prefer to use public transportation but the unreliability of the Empire Builder on it's West to East trajectory often keeps me from choosing this option. I am most interested in this as a stepping stone to high speed rail from Chicago to Mpls/St. Paul.
3238	3/29/2021	<p>As a future Alderman for the City of Watertown WI, and as an engineer that supports our local community development by utilizing the tools of the 4th Industrial Revolution, I strongly support the project. Transportation is the third leg in the 4-leg-core of our nations Critical Infrastructure Sectors. One of the primary benefits is the second track completion that greatly improves reliability and resiliency.</p> <p>I would ask that you consider the addition of a stop in Watertown which is on the bend between Columbus and Milwaukee. Watertown is a key distribution center for this region with superior Energy, Communication and Water resources, the other three legs.</p> <p>I would be pleased to provide your organization with additional material for consideration of this matter.</p> <p>James W. Romlein Sr. PE jwromein@mislabs.org 920.262.8000</p>
3239	3/29/2021	I support this increase in rail service. I feel it will be good for our environment and Wisconsin's economy.
3240	3/29/2021	We would be riding on the trains already if not for the actions of Scott Walker and company.
3241	3/29/2021	A route connecting Madison and Eau Claire would hook up these two cultural and educational hubs.

		<p>huge missed opportunity for people who live in Madison/Milwaukee to commute to work in the other respective city; very easy way to get consistent passenger use and people buying tickets.</p> <p>Also consider where your population density is Chicago/Milwaukee/Madison are relatively close; if there is good availability and frequent trains traveling back and forth along this section passengers would be inclined to use the train service far more, for spontaneous events and evening entertainment. The full route from St. Paul to Chicago although nice, seems like a lower priority as people making this pilgrimage will likely be staying for multiple nights, therefore people can plan their trip around the train availability.</p> <p>Strongly consider having train times run later into the night, for those who want to day trip or go to an evening concert/show/diner engagement in Madison/Milwaukee/Chicago and get back home. I live in Milwaukee and the majority of people I know who travel to Chicago or Madison do so for concerts and shows. Most of them do not want to overnight away from home, and will instead travel by car, it's a huge pain, and many just opt to not leave due to the inconveniences of parking/hotels/accommodations. A lot more people would travel outside their city if the option to travel to and back easily in the same day/evening was available.</p> <p>I think if you implement the train timetables with these thoughts in mind you will be delivering on what the public wants from this. If you're expecting people to take the train one way and stay overnight, the train isn't providing enough convenience. Most American's already have automobiles and would just soon drive if a train schedule is going to handcuff your travel freedom.</p>
3242	3/29/2021	
3243	3/29/2021	I will support this after finding out any environmental, wildlife and natural lands impacts.
3244	3/29/2021	Please add stops in Madison and Rochester!
3245	3/29/2021	I would very much like to be able to get on a train in Madison and have parking near the Madison station to allow me to leave my car close to the station. I'm sure that there are plenty of Madison area residents and students who would use the railroad if they did not have to drive to Columbus to do it.
3246	3/29/2021	Somehow Dane County and the city of Madison need to be connected to this. A bus perhaps? Maybe a train spur? People should be able to use the train and not (also) need to own and maintain an automobile.
3247	3/29/2021	Do it instead of shoveling money at jobs Foxconn won't bring. But what do I know? I'm no politician.. (Pick me up in Madison though)
3248	3/29/2021	Am highly in favor of this second daily train, especially since the timing of service would be more convenient. I've taken the existing service from Columbus to Twin Cities, but arrival is very late at night. The shuttle from Madison to Columbus station would be particularly beneficial and lead to more personal use of this route if shuttle is implemented. And please don't skimp on food service onboard - it's a big part of what makes taking the train more enjoyable.

3249	3/29/2021	Think this would be wonderful - even better would be if the internet would be more readily available. See a lot of business people trying to work. Some areas do not have service
3250	3/29/2021	Please consider a stop in Madison. The state capital is an important city in Wisconsin and additional accessibility is crit.
3251	3/29/2021	Make a stop in Madison
3252	3/30/2021	Please route this thru Madison. We need this!
3253	3/30/2021	They need to control the amount of time that the trains block intersections before they add more trains. There is at least 2 times a week that trains block the wauona trail intersection in portage for longer than 30 minutes without moving. Please address this issue before adding more trains to tracks.
3254	3/30/2021	This would help many university students who already benefit from the 'in-state' tuition they are eligible for in these neighboring states, while still having access to jobs and opportunities throughout the Midwest without having to continuously uproot and relocate themselves and their families.
3255	3/30/2021	I'm in favor of improving the service schedule between Chicago and Minneapolis to two trips per day. As the fear of COVID - 19 disappears the ridership should improve between the TCMC boarding points. I always enjoyed traveling on this route from Columbus and St Paul.
3256	3/30/2021	Please do this & please include a stop in Wisco!
3257	3/30/2021	I would love a railway line that takes me from the Twin Cities, through Madison, and on to Chicgo. I would take this route at least several times per year to see friends in both these areas.
3258	3/30/2021	I would like the railway to go through Madison or for there to at least be a cheap and convenient way for people to get from Madison to a station. I went to UW Madison and my parents lived near the Twin Cities so it would have been amazing to have this option to see my parents and I know that there are still a lot of students in that area. I still live in Madison and would love to have a way to get to Milwaukee and Chicago without having to drive. I know that this uses existing rail lines, but to me it seems odd to leave out the capital is the state.
3259	3/30/2021	Please have high-speed rail through Madison, hopefully to the Twin Cities and Chicago.
3260	3/30/2021	I think it is great. People that may have never seen our great little community now can. It will be awesome for businesses
3261	3/30/2021	I think it is great. People that may have never seen our great little community now can. It will be awesome for businesses
3262	3/30/2021	Please go forward with the second train on this corridor. Build it and they will come. Increasing alternatives to the automobile is a critical step forward.
3263	3/30/2021	Wisconsinites and WisDot need to be doing everything in their power to get this project going. The positive ramifications for the state are nearly limitless.
3264	3/30/2021	The route should go through Madison. There is such a big market with college students and young professionals.
3265	3/30/2021	Please include Madison WI as a stop.
3266	3/30/2021	High speed rail between MSP and MKE

3267	3/30/2021	Connecting to Madison, WI seems important - could this be done?
3268	3/30/2021	I fully support a reliable scheduled line between red wing and chicago. i would take a lot of trips and i could invite chicago friends to stay for the day. it would give me a great option for cheap flights out of ohare but best if all, red wing needs tourists.
3269	3/30/2021	I like the idea it would make travel a cross the state much easier
3270	3/30/2021	Please consider adding Madison as a stop on the route.
3271	3/30/2021	This route needs to stop in Madison.
3272	3/30/2021	I would ride the train much more often if there was a Madison, WI depot! 😊 Please!
3273	3/30/2021	Subsidizing this rail is a horrible idea.
3274	3/30/2021	I would really like to be able to travel by rail to Milwaukee, and Chicago, but right now the service is too infrequent. This service would also enable day trips to Winona and Red Wing, which would be neat.
3275	3/30/2021	I very much like this idea. We need this kind of infrastructure improvement to transportation.
3276	3/30/2021	We would take the train to the cities for Christmas at grandmas. I live on Jackson st at Union corners in Madison, I would prefer to be able to catch the train without driving however I would more prefer not having a busy rail corridor in my backyard.
3277	3/30/2021	This project looks like a waste of money when adequate air and bus options exist between these destinations. Instead of investing in passenger rail, please invest in road improvements.
3278	3/30/2021	<p>I believe that this project is critical for strengthening the interstate economy of the Midwest. Wis, Ills, and Minn will each have much to gain and share by way of better trade, labor, and social mobility. This will bring new opportunities and challenges throughout the regions of the route, both of which will motivate and stimulate our citizen's skills to contribute to their communities in novel ways. While I'm absolutely sure that some people will vehemently oppose the project, I can only hope we recognize that the shortsightedness of fearing change has never served the best interests of the future. At the same time, this project MUST commit to terms of construction and operations that will 1. acknowledge the environmental footprint implicit to its creation; 2. to be forward minded on selecting green energy; 3. to accurately predict environmental and human consequences of the project and prepare contingency plans to mitigate damages; to reserve resources dedicated to repairing future liabilities, foreseen or unforeseen, above and beyond the minimal legal requirements of insurance! To make this project truly for the people, and the planet.</p> <p>And please consider how to better connect Madison to the corridor, and what highway or rail renovations may be necessary to better connect Wisconsin's capital.</p>
3279	3/30/2021	I would love for this to exist. It's currently incredibly difficult to get from MKE to MPLS in a timely fashion, and this would improve that greatly. I do wish there was a stop closer to Madison, but this is still an amazing project.
3280	3/30/2021	It would be nice to include Madison in the direct route

3281	3/30/2021	I am glad to see this project going forward but it is a mistake to bypass Madison. A trunk line is fundamental to the success of rail service in Wisconsin.
3282	3/30/2021	I live in Black River Falls but work in Madison. For the last 4 years I have paid rent in Madison for a place to stay during the week. I have shelled out thousands of dollars just to work. If I could park in Tomah and catch the train, that would be a game changer. Make it happen already.
3283	3/30/2021	Why isn't it going through Madison???
3284	3/30/2021	This is an Imperative need. 1. It will be cost effective. 2. It frees up congestion on already overburdened roads/highways. 3. It's very Eco friendly.
3285	3/30/2021	I think it would be more beneficial to include Madison on the route.
3286	3/30/2021	I do not feel public funds should be used to increase railway miles.
3287	3/30/2021	I strongly support this expansion of rail service between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities. If there were a second train daily my travel between Milwaukee and La Crosse a few times each year would be feasible by rail. The one time I traveled this route I had to hitch a ride back with a colleague because the return trip would have required another day waiting for the next train
3288	3/30/2021	Please include Madison in the route, portage is 40 minutes away & a lot of people who would use this don't have cars to get there. Even if you had it in North Madison or Sun Prairie that would still be better. Plus if people want to stop there's a lot more to do in a capital city & that could be a draw as there's a bunch of traffic between Madison & Milwaukee every day.
3289	3/30/2021	There should be a stop in the Lake country. I suggest Oconomowoc. There are many employers that could use the workers from the inner city.
3290	3/30/2021	I'm curious to know about two things. 1) Is there more specific departure times from both Chicago and St. Paul? Morning departure from Chicago? Afternoon departure from St. Paul? 2) What are more specifics about, what you describe as [quote]dedicated shuttles[quote] from, say, Madison to Columbus or Portage and back? What bus companies are going to provide this service and have schedules been worked out for their departure to and from Madison from these two rail stations?
3291	3/30/2021	This is so exciting! Please consider making Madison a stop on the line. I think it would greatly increase its usage (just think of all those college kids, families, and sports fans)
3292	3/30/2021	This is an absolute must!! We need more transportation option and we also need to make sure there are links between the Stations and the larger cities along the way (making sure Madison is easily accessible as well as Minneapolis to the St Paul station). The more options for non driving will only help our commun for the future!

		<p>Do not waste money on this. If current track is used this train won't be high speed, and therefore won't be viable to use as a work commuter. In addition with using the corridor that the empire builder uses, you're bypassing Madison. That removes approx 600,000 possible riders for Mileaukee and St Paul.</p> <p>Please however keep looking into faster rail between these cities!!! It would be amazing if we could actually get high speed with 4-5 stops between Minneapolis and Chicago. Something akin to the Acela route on the east coast.</p>
3293	3/30/2021	Just don't do half measures which, seems like that's what this is.
3294	3/30/2021	Don't forget to have a stop in Madison!
3295	3/30/2021	We do not need to give people from Chicago any more ways to leave that warzone of a city and bring their problems here. We have enough of our own problems to deal with.
3296	3/30/2021	I'm so please to hear another rail option is being proposed! This is long overdue in Wisconsin and I fully support building rails systems to connect the major cities. Would also like a connection to Madison.
3297	3/30/2021	Great idea!
3298	3/30/2021	With Madison as Wisconsin's 2nd largest city, government and educational center, why in the world would this project not include Madison? Columbus is close and I get the desire to use existing rail. But, Columbus is not close enough. This project needs to include Madison as a stop.
3299	3/30/2021	Fact they were there was no usage study done that showed that there would be enough usage to justify the demand is appalling. Do better.
3300	3/30/2021	Please consider adding a stop in Madison, WI.
3301	3/30/2021	
3302	3/30/2021	My family uses the train from Portage to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minnesota about 3 times a year. We would definitely be using it more if there were more times to ride, especially to Minnesota. We love using the train and not having to drive. I 100% support increasing the availability of another route. I was disappointed when Gov. Walker passed on the high speed train.
3303	3/30/2021	Please include a Madison WI station or stop.
3304	3/30/2021	This is a great development. I have always have supported Amtrak and this is just another improvement for us who enjoy rail travel within the state of Wisconsin and Chicago. Also the Twin Cities.
3305	3/30/2021	Why does the route not go through Madison? Madison would be the ideal stop for the train, both due to its position as Wisconsin's capital, and due to the large number of college students and university staff and faculty who would utilize the train to make trips to Chicago and the Twin Cities. Already, bus service between Madison and Chicago is heavily utilized by Madison students, and a train would certainly greatly add to convenience while providing major environmental benefits.

3306	3/30/2021	I think this project is a great idea. I have friends and family in the Twin cities area and travel there from the Fond du Lac/West Bend area about three times a year their and vice-versa. Though there is not a station nearby those locations, I would use this train ride to get out to St. Paul once it is active. I really hope this project is approved and funded, this is a great opportunity for travel to become much easier and faster for many people.
3307	3/30/2021	I have taken the train to Chicago on a few occasions and when the timetable has worked out, it's been way more convenient that flying or driving for me, but the timetable is the big thing holding me back from saying that the train is a good option for everyone. More frequent service would be excellent!
3308	3/30/2021	Please consider a shuttle spur from Madison's airport. I drive to Milwaukee & Chicago several times a month & won't take a train if I have to drive 40 minutes in the wrong direction to get to the station.
3309	3/30/2021	This is unnecessary & a tremendous waste of taxpayer money. I have ridden the existing route & service was fine for the sparse number of passengers. It was slow, expensive & the idea of expanding service is NOT a good use of govt funds.
3310	3/30/2021	I am a resident of Portage, Wisconsin. Expanded train service is good for the environment, good for passengers, and good for the economy.
3311	3/30/2021	I think this would be wonderful for both states, however it should include Madison as a stop!
3312	3/30/2021	The route must go through Madison! I would travel to and from Madison twice a month.
3313	3/30/2021	I am very much for this project. I think it would be a great way to provide transportation for people, like me, who don't have cars to visit the cities.
3314	3/30/2021	Why the heck wouldn't the rail run through Madison? Ridership from either end and all along the way would want to stop in Madison but no one wants to go to Portage. It seems if a rail system is to be ultimately income-generating in Wisconsin, it needs to pick up a healthy sub-stop like Madison, because so much centers there--music, conferences, university related things, even shopping.
3315	3/30/2021	Efficient mass transit is essential, and trail upgrades are critical to commerce. Please do everything possible in this time of infrastructure investment to revisit the high-speed rail plans, include Madison in the route, and upgrade the highway 19 corridor.
3316	3/30/2021	This is a wonderful plan, but would love a spur through Madison
3317	3/30/2021	Yes, this is brilliant. I do a lot of business in Chicago and ride Amtrak when I can, this would make train travel much more practical for me.
3318	3/30/2021	I am in favor of the proposal to add improvements to travel on this line between Chicago and St Paul and to add sn additional daily trip option.
3319	3/30/2021	The route should go through Madison to allow direct links between Wisconsin's largest cities. This would reduce traffic on I-94
3320	3/30/2021	
3321	3/30/2021	I would absolutely use this new service to travel to Twin Cities/Milwaukee/Chicago
3322	3/30/2021	Please include commuter from Madison to MKE. Or, a link to the TCMC line.

3323	3/30/2021	Make the line go through Madison!! The project will positively impact many more Wisconsinites and provide greater economic impact if routed through the state capital and second largest city in the state.
3324	3/30/2021	I firmly believe there should be stations at Eau Claire & Madison in order for this passenger rail to be effective. Especially in Eau Claire, there will not be as much interest in a shuttle service from EC to Tomah — Eau Claire residents already have to take a shuttle service to the MPLS airport. We are in need of a reliable transportation method that doesn't include a shuttle service somewhere else. Not to mention that Eau Claire consistently gets ranked as one of the best cities in America, there will be a high demand for this area (especially over Tomah)...
3325	3/30/2021	I would love a Madison stop. It would even be busier on game weekends/days. Please ensure there is an easy way to rent vehicles at the stops.
3326	3/30/2021	I think this could greatly benefit our community. College students and faculty are always looking for transportation to the Twin Cities or Chicago. There does need to be more reliability on the timing of the trains, though.
3327	3/30/2021	It would be so cool if you could go through Madison or Eau Claire!
3328	3/30/2021	With family in the Milwaukee and Chicago area a mid-day train would be a wonderful alternative to driving. As we are getting older health issues are making it less safe to make these multi-hour drives. Flying is not an option for some of us. I would love to be able to take a train trip to Chicago with our granddaughter, especially remembering how much her father loved the train trips we took when he was a child. The current train schedule to Chicago makes this impossible.
3329	3/30/2021	I love this I hope more tracks get built.
3330	3/30/2021	Please consider adding a station in Madison!
3331	3/30/2021	I love this idea! I've ridden the Empire Builder between Milwaukee and LaCrosse several times in the past decade, and it would be great to have more departure/arrival options. I will definitely use this route, if it is added, especially if you add a station in Wauwatosa. You should also consider one or two runs per day going through Madison instead of Columbus, because I think that would have much more ridership. (I wouldn't bother with the Columbus-Madison shuttle, because if someone is going to ride part of the way to Madison on a bus, they'll probably just ride all the way on the bus and skip the train ticket.)
3332	3/30/2021	Please consider a route along the I-94 corridor, passing through Eau Claire, WI.
3333	3/30/2021	Madison would be a great location for a station. It would contribute to minimizing the need for cars and would enable more people to attend the university and live outside of the area.
3334	3/30/2021	Love the idea, would be much better to include Madison as a station as well. Milwaukee to Madison (and then to the twin cities on occasion) would be a route I would use often.

3335	3/30/2021	<p>I am in full support of this project but often times the project is not as successful as expected due to a few things:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Due to freight being prioritized often times Amtrak is unreliable and is not on time because it needs to wait for the freight to pass. This will reduce the ridership if people cannot reliably get to and from their destination. (Look at some of the history behind the Hoosier Helper line in Indiana and some of the studies done) 2. The project is being publicly available now in 2021 and the right of way is not always acquired delaying the project significantly. If supporters are in favor of the project they want it done within the proposed timeline not 10-15 years later 3. Lastly who is your target riders and what will be the sustainable funding sources if you do not have the desired ridership
3336	3/30/2021	<p>May railroads lead the way for the betterment of the U.S.A. I'm 86, will never ride a train again, but great memories of having done so. Assuming the ridership follows, may many others experience and enjoy what you are persuing.</p>
3337	3/30/2021	<p>This project would be so great! Very surprising that there is not a stop in Madison given our population size and the fact that many students at UW could benefit from this form of transit.</p>
3338	3/30/2021	<p>Reroute the path of the train to include a stop in Madison. The economic, environmental and social benefits of a having train that runs through the major economic engine, cultural center, and capitol city of WI, will be significant and would multiply the economic benefit of this investment. It has the potential to reduce traffic, increase commerce and collaboration and give thousands access to Madison while also giving Madisonians access to major cities along the route. If one of the state goals is to help student and business travel, a Madison stop makes more sense than any other. This is a huge opportunity to make rail more relevant in the region and boost the economic power of the state. Madison can no longer be an exception to this kind of planning.</p>
3339	3/30/2021	<p>Love train travel, do not enjoy driving, would be a happy and frequent user of improver train service between Milwaukee and Chicago, via Columbus, reasonably close to Madison where I live. I believe improved train access would dramatically boost the region's economy by increasing interdependence.</p>
3340	3/30/2021	<p>Please include a Madison stop. There are thousands of people who live here without a vehicle to get to Columbus or the Dells.</p>
3341	3/30/2021	<p>I strongly support adding a second train between Chicago and Minneapolis.</p>
3342	3/30/2021	<p>With the UW - Minnesota tuition reciprocity agreement it would be remiss not to connect directly through Madison. It's the capital and 2nd largest city in the state and would be greatly disserved by a bypass.</p>

3343	3/30/2021	I would very likely be interested in the expansion. I could see myself using to enhance my personal life. But really, I would very much appreciate the train as a viable option to travel Milwaukee to Madison. For me personally to ease the burden of commuting to Madison and for the communities to facilitate transportation between Wisconsin's two largest cities. It always seemed odd to not have Madison as an intentional destination.
3344	3/30/2021	I support this! We need better transportation and this is a very good start!
3345	3/30/2021	This proposal would significantly increase use of rail travel across Wisconsin and the Midwest. I am a regular user of the Empire Builder route (via Tomah) to Milwaukee and then on to St. Louis, also Hiawatha service to Chicago. The most restrictive segment is MKE- Tomah due to single trains which also are subject to long delay in the western portion of the Empire Builder. Please add this practical, low-cost enhancement of rail travel in our area.
3346	3/30/2021	Would love this train! Especially if we could add a madison stop!!
3347	3/30/2021	I approve of adding a second round trip. Railroad infrastructure improvements are important and the economic benefits for cities along the route will benefit many people. The added convenience of an additional travel option will encourage more citizens to utilize rail travel.
3348	3/30/2021	In favor of adding service.
3349	3/30/2021	Please add Madison WI as a stop!!! We desperately need this connection to chicago
3350	3/30/2021	WE WOULD LOVE AN ADDITIONAL SCHEDULE OPTION BETWEEN MPLS AND CHICAGO. (FARGO MAYBE?). GREAT IDEA.
3351	3/30/2021	I would ride this line about every other month if it was available in an on-time and timely way. The current route is slow, subject to a lot of delays due to prioritizing other rail services, and has extremely awkward departure and arrival times. Even a few hours longer than driving would be a massive gain.

3352	3/30/2021	<p>I fully support this project as a means to better connect these three midwestern states. The proposed line seems to set up infrastructure that should allow people to commute for work and school or vacationers to travel between the states which should create economic benefits for us all in the long term.</p> <p>What I am primarily concerned with is how this line may affect the environment across the states but especially in the areas around the Mississippi and the Wisconsin Dells. Is there a plan to minimize the impact of the proposed rail system has on the environment?</p> <p>Rail culture in the United States and in the Midwest I feel is not as developed as it is say on the East coast where commuters regularly cross state lines for work and see the benefits of such infrastructure (thinking commuter rail lines around Boston primarily and NY to some extent though I recognize those states are smaller and easier to traverse Newark to Boston only being a 5hr bus ride). Is there a plan in place to encourage or even incentivize commuter travel and use for vacations? To this end partnerships with local businesses and the Universities may go a long way toward promoting interstate travel/commerce along the line.</p> <p>Finally, and perhaps this has already been addressed but I like many am interested in why this line passes by Madison. I noticed there was a proposed shuttle from Madison to a nearby station but a stop in Madison seems like a no-brainer to many. Perhaps I missed the reasoning in the publications and I would apologize for any oversight on my part. Not having a stop in Madison is also not a deal breaker for me</p>
3353	3/30/2021	<p>Madison/Middleton is too large to be left out of either project, and should be a link to all three terminal cities.</p>
3354	3/30/2021	<p>I believe it would be extremely beneficial to have a rail stop in Madison as there is a great deal of commuting between Milwaukee and Madison. The university, hospitals, and state government in Madison are a hub that needs to be connected to Milwaukee via rail.</p>
3355	3/30/2021	<p>I fully support a new rail service connecting Chicago to Milwaukee and onto the Twin Cities! Fully, however, only if the new rail route includes Madison! I have no idea why it didn't connect with Madison in the first place. Madison is the home of Wisconsin's flagship university, and also the capital. There are students, teachers, legislators, aides, etc. traveling this corridor every single day! Why wouldn't you include Madison as a stop along the way?! The time in which we live right now calls for it! Every individual driving his/her own car is yesteryear. Today, and tomorrow is the era of public transportation! It is green!</p>
3356	3/30/2021	<p>I am strongly in favor of the additional train. My wife and I fly more than we take the train, but we have logged up nearly 300,000 miles on Amtrak since we started using it in 1988. Our usual point of departure is Wisconsin Dells. The additional train would give us additional options when traveling to and from Chicago and connecting with other Amtrak trains. We would also find it useful in visiting friends in the Twin Cities.</p>

3357	3/30/2021	<p>We need a stop in Madison! The current stop in Columbus is completely impractical for the Madison area, so adding a second train there would not increase the line's usefulness at all. Columbus is 45 minutes away from Madison, which is about a third of the travel time to Chicago.</p> <p>Adding direct service to the state's second most populous area is vital. Madison also has a large population of residents who don't drive on a daily basis and would be much more likely to choose rail travel if it were a viable option.</p>
3358	3/30/2021	I've been using the Empire Builder service between Chicago and St. Paul for the past five years. I love the route, and I think that the addition of another rail service would be highly beneficial for passengers across the upper Midwest, particularly those looking for airline alternatives.
3359	3/30/2021	Additional train service from Minnesota to Chicago is worthwhile. I would use it.
3360	3/30/2021	do it!
3361	3/30/2021	We would absolutely support this project! We've taken the train many times to St. Paul and adding a second daily trip would be beneficial to travelers but also communities along the way. Go for it!
3362	3/30/2021	Yes! This would solve so many booking issues and bring travelers to these towns as visitors/tourists.
3363	3/30/2021	<p>The train has to stop in Madison.</p> <p>As a UW student from near the Twin Cities, it would be so convenient to go back and forth on a HST, rather than hope the Megabus leaves on time.</p> <p>In all seriousness, why wouldn't this train pass through the two major cities in the state? Go big or go home. Don't fund something people won't use because it doesn't stop anywhere people want to go. Even if it passed on the outskirts of Madison and there was a taxi stand/public bus to get into the city would be better than having to figure out how to get 40 miles away to Portage or 30 miles away to Columbus without a car. Is there going to be a connector bus to those stations? How often would it run? Would the train wait if the connector bus was late?</p>
3364	3/30/2021	We need a rail connection from Madison to Milwaukee. Many in the city need to travel to Milwaukee or Chicago and it is only feasible to travel by intercity bus or by car currently. A direct rail connection would be extremely convenient, profitable, and add more than 250,000 people to the rail system.
3365	3/30/2021	This is a brilliant project! My family will definitely use the train more often to get to Chicago and the Twin Cities using the stations in Portage and Columbus. Each time we do, we spend money in those towns at hotels, restaurants, shops, and gas stations.
3366	3/30/2021	Great idea. Adds 100% increase in service for modest \$53MM investment simply by extending the route of an existing Hiawatha train and adding the necessary infrastructure (including some access bus lines) to accommodate it.
3367	3/30/2021	Stop spending money that you don't have.
3368	3/30/2021	The route should include Madison

3369	3/30/2021	The second train will provide a more convenient time for arrivals at attractive destinations.
3370	3/30/2021	It seems short sighted that a previous Wisconsin administration decided that the train will forego Madison in being included on any train route. Will this possibility ever be considered? Or are we forever relegated to having no trains going through our capital city?
3371	3/30/2021	I would appreciate adding Madison,WI to the tcmc rail line if possible. It would make travel much easier for students at UW-Madison in particular to travel to Minnesota and Illinois in a way other than by bus. Thanks!
3372	3/30/2021	I am supportive of this line, but it needs to go through Madison.
3373	3/30/2021	I believe adding Madison to the proposed line would be much more effective, accessible, and used by a greater number of residents than the current proposal which does not include Madison. Madison is the second-most populous city in Wisconsin, and a reliable line between Milwaukee and Madison is incredibly important not only for work commuters, but the vast number of UW-Madison students who are from the greater Milwaukee area. Adding Madison would also make it easier for residents from Illinois and Minnesota to visit the city as it is a popular tourist destination in the summer. Local venues would highly benefit from the increased traffic, and the DOT would see an exponential increase in revenue. In addition, many Madison residents are extremely mindful of environmental impacts, and would likely opt to use a passenger rail rather than a car when traveling between cities like St. Paul/Minnesota, Milwaukee, and Chicago.
3374	3/30/2021	I think the route could be improved by having Madison as a stop
3375	3/30/2021	I think this project means nothing if it does not go through the city of Madison. For me personally, I do not drive so I could not use this train at all. In general, Madison is home to many major Wisconsin events and a train coming through the city could bring people in to those events.
3376	3/30/2021	This service would see much more usage if it went thru Madison. Most of the incoming traffic is along the 94 corridor, it doesn't make sense to me to use Columbus, Portage, Wisconsin Dells, and Tomah as stations. Other than that - I love this!

3377	3/30/2021	My family, friends and co-workers frequently travel between Milwaukee, Chicago and Madison (I currently live in Milwaukee). I would like to make trips to the Twin Cities but the time and distance make it impractical by car. This project would certainly generate revenue for all cities through commerce, tourism and business, and would have the added benefit of helping the small towns along the way. I would suggest that the train move from Milwaukee to Madison and then on to La Crosse, and finally on to the Twin Cities. This would improve ridership as Madison boasts a population approaching 300,000 and from my experience growing up there, many of my peers and family members would make frequent trips to Chicago and occasionally out to the La Crosse area. Now that I reside in Milwaukee, my wife and I consider Chicago to be our back yard, but often talk of how unfortunate it is that our infrastructure in this country is badly outdated or absent all together, because we would rather travel by rail. While Amtrak does provide a service, it is somewhat costly and slow and limited in scope. I hope this helps and please move forward with this project, the Midwest needs you to bring us together and prosper!!!
3378	3/30/2021	Yes!!! please do this. It's been a long long long time coming. Let's advance transportation in the name of [quote]Think Forward[quote]. I don't care where it actually goes initially. Let's get it done. Add on spurs and junctions will come.
3379	3/30/2021	It looks wonderful. I just wish it could incorporate Eau Claire. Hope it reaches completion
3380	3/30/2021	This would be a great addition to public transit and infrastructure in our state! I love the idea of being able to relax in a train to the Dells, Chicago or twin cities for a family vacation instead of having to drive!
3381	3/30/2021	Yes Please!! This has been delayed too long! Will spur economic development and growth up and down the line, including Fond du Lac, which is close enough to Columbus to really be useful and effective! I would also like to see it run North-South in WI....perhaps from Door Co. down to Milwaukee, picking up the lakeshore on the way...
3382	3/30/2021	I'm ecstatic to see a regional passenger rail is finally getting support in the MN/WI/Chicago area! I am dumbfounded, however, that this rail proposal bypasses Madison, WI. As the state's second-most populated city, it would be logical that its residents and Amtrak would both greatly benefit from its inclusion.
3383	3/30/2021	We absolutely need this, travel in our region can get so busy and congested, this may be 8 years late but it's better than never
3384	3/30/2021	I would love to see stops in Madison & Eau Claire also. After traveling in the UK, I became so jealous of how easy, quick & convenient train travel was. We seriously need this to reduce our car vehicle usage. Plus it is incredibly relaxing - one can spend the time reading, writing, sleeping rather than worrying about road conditions, traffic jam ups or getting hit by a semi.
3385	3/30/2021	I am a proponent of public transportation and passenger rail. I support this project. I would use it if the price was lower and if it had a stop in Madison. I take the train from Harvard IL to downtown Chicago and it costs me \$7 one way. I can't afford to use this option for me and my family.

3386	3/30/2021	I love the possibility of a train that will allow travel from Minnesota through Wisconsin and to Illinois, but adding a stop in Madison instead of quite a ways north of it will allow for greater use for a wide range of people.
3387	3/30/2021	This would be fantastic. We regularly travel this route due to our child attending UM-Twin Cities. Can think of many other opportunities to ride this line.
3388	3/30/2021	I would like to encourage coordination with the shuttle services, especially from Columbus to Madison, so that there is easy and efficient travel options from either end of the line to Madison. As a student from Chicago originally, a quality train connection is something I would have used many times had it been a viable and reliable option.
3389	3/30/2021	Failure to route this through Madison, Wisconsin's second largest city and state Capitol makes this proposal a cruel joke.
3390	3/30/2021	<p>I'm fully supportive of this additional daily round-trip train over the existing Empire Builder route. So often I hear from people who would like to take the train to either MSP or CHI but find the limited schedule to be inconvenient. Personally, I would also like an additional option for more flexible scheduling. This is a no-brainer and a great way to improve service at minimal cost.</p> <p>We should also be examining a way for add a stop along this route in Madison. The amount of travel between these four cities begs for an additional stop in Madison. So while I'm in favor of the additional daily train, I also believe we should be adding a stop in Madison. This is vital to the economies of each city where people continue to travel to and fro and look for car-free modes of transportation. Please get this project done, it's well past time!</p>
3391	3/30/2021	Extend route to Saint Cloud for ease of crewing train and fulfilling the promise that Northstar did not. Why put money into the Midway station when Union Depot is still under utilized?
3392	3/30/2021	Please consider having the route through Madison vs portage. Milwaukee Madison Dells...
3393	3/30/2021	This is such a great idea! We have property near Tomah and could take it up there, but also we have friends and family living in the cities! Such an easy way to visit!
3394	3/30/2021	The new and additional service proposed should be sure to go through Madison, WI.
3395	3/30/2021	Please route through Madison!
3396	3/30/2021	It seems foolish to exclude Madison from the TCMC route. Please, please consider adding Madison to the line. Now is the time to do this rather than requiring a separate project.

3397	3/30/2021	This is an amazing step in the right direction but it needs to go further. Making plans for a high speed rail line should be paramount when putting this project together. Doing anything that can make HSR more feasible in the future should be calculated into costs and done the right way. I think we are making a mistake here not connecting this to Madison, but I know not all the funds are there. Make the midwest more connected. Make Wisconsin more connected. Make us all more connected with an optimized rail network.
3398	3/30/2021	This is great, but it would also be wonderful if a stop was added in Madison! As the state's capital and a beautiful place, it's great for tourists and would enable weekend trips for the young professionals who make up a large chunk of the population.
3399	3/30/2021	Please include Madison!
3400	3/30/2021	Madison stop would make more visits from Milwaukee airport possible for me, especially in Winter.
3401	3/30/2021	Please make this route!!! It would be so cool to have more train routes in this area! The dream would for Duluth to connect in somehow too eventually :). I hope this happens! Much better use of tax money than always having to be fixing the roads.
3402	3/30/2021	I think this is Great! I would love to see Madison added to this.
3403	3/30/2021	It seems unthinkable to create another rail service along this line and to not invest in a route that travels through the capitol. An investment into a new route that goes through the capitol would increase usership, economic growth and positive public opinion.
3404	3/30/2021	I am strongly in favor of this proposed additional service. This would be a very obvious improvement which should have been implemented long ago at the inception of Amtrak. Increases in frequency of service are always among the easiest and most beneficial improvements to make. I have made quite a number of trips to the Twin Cities area over the years, from my home in Milwaukee. But traveling by train was typically problematic, as the on-time performance for the return trip was so unreliable. Accordingly, I would plan to return by coach. A second Twin Cities-only train would solve this problem, not just for me, but for any travelers living in Wisconsin or Illinois. The benefits are only too obvious. And, we need to do anything we can do to deter trips by the dangerous mode of automobiles, which are a disaster for our climate.
3405	3/30/2021	A station on the west side of Milwaukee somewhere like Wauwatosa or Elm Grove and then in Oconomowoc and/or Watertown would fill in the gap between Columbus and Milwaukee. Also it would be nice to electrify the the Chicago to Milwaukee stretch.
3406	3/30/2021	I fully support the project as an economic boost to Wis. as well as encouraging rail use to reduce auto traffic.
3407	3/30/2021	The Empire Builder rail line is a huge inefficient and ineffective tax burden. I have never once seen it run on time and Amtrak is a subsidized failure. If it cannot survive without taxpayer money it should be allowed to fail.
3408	3/30/2021	This isn't what we should have had 10 years ago before it was scuttled by Scott Walker's idiocy, but it's good nonetheless.

3409	3/30/2021	Please consider adding an overnight train with a limited schedule between Chicago and St Paul. Overnight trains are making a resurgence in other countries to provide cheap travel between major metropolitan areas. It is understood that this would require new equipment, the schedule should be looked at.
3410	3/30/2021	This project is needed so much. Please get this done!
3411	3/30/2021	This project is needed so much. Please get this done!
3412	3/30/2021	As someone who has waited for an eastbound train that has been up to five hours late in Portage, I am strongly in favor of this project. I would frequently utilize a reliable train route between Milwaukee and St. Paul, especially if I can avoid driving in the winter. I would also suggest an Amtrak bus route between Madison and Portage to connect Madison residents to the rail line.
3413	3/30/2021	This would be a dream come true! Visiting my sister would be so much easier.
3414	3/30/2021	Please, please consider adding a Madison station to this route as well. I will still use this if the station is in Milwaukee, but I think a Madison stop could really complete this upgrade and boost ridership.
3415	3/30/2021	I am commenting in support of additional daily passenger rail service along the TCMC corridor of Amtrak's Empire Builder route. I've been interested in taking the train from Milwaukee to La Crosse and the Twin Cities, but haven't done so because the travel times are inconvenient. An additional travel time option would open up many possibilities for my family to visit friends and relatives at multiple stops along this route. We frequently travel on the Amtrak Hiawatha line to Chicago and enjoy it immensely. We'd like to have similar opportunities heading west from Milwaukee.
3416	3/30/2021	Please run a line through Madison!
3417	3/30/2021	I would like to see Madison WI added to the route. It is the Capital of Wisconsin, a center of business and vacation attractions. and the UW Madison campus flagship of the UW System Schools is located here.
3418	3/30/2021	I would love to see a Madison link to the main route you have posted.
3419	3/30/2021	Would be nice if Madison residents could utilize this rail system. How are we supposed to get to Columbus?
3420	3/30/2021	

3421	3/30/2021	<p>I support the project. Of the \$53m it looks like only \$6.2m has to come from Wisconsin. Seems like a decent deal.</p> <p>Major scope of this project is simply adding a second train to the daily schedule for the Empire Builder track between Chicago and TC. This is not a high speed rail project, this is not the rail project through Madison, and this is not the Hiawatha line (even though it shares track). It's just about increasing frequency of the already-existing TCMC corridor train. While I agree that Wisconsin would benefit from a HSR project that goes through Madison, that's not what's up for public comment here.</p> <p>Amtrak did a three-year study, published in 2015, and found that there is definitely enough ridership to justify the project. I find it compelling to consider the ridership of all the cities and towns between Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities. The magnifying effects of a second, daily round-trip passenger rail service may have compounding effects that make the corridor truly compelling.</p>
3422	3/30/2021	I just wanted to register my support for the project! Having an additional departure time would make this much more convenient.
3423	3/30/2021	I am in FULL support of this project. We need more passenger rail access in this country!
3424	3/30/2021	
3425	3/30/2021	Service not dependent on Empire builder (Long hauler) would greatly contribute to ridership based on better schedule-more predictable/regular
3426	3/30/2021	Would be an economical boom to Wisconsin!
3427	3/30/2021	We typically drive from Chicago to St. Paul several times a year to visit family. I would absolutely be in favor of public transit that would get us there and back safely and in a timely manner. This route makes so much sense, it is about time that we start catching up to other nations that prioritize public transportation over automobiles.
3428	3/30/2021	I'm very strongly in favor of this proposal! I'm a frequent (was frequent, before the pandemic, and intend to resume as soon as it's safe) rider on the Empire Builder from Minneapolis to Chicago and back. It would be great to have more flexibility with travel times and could make it possible for many more people to ride the line.
3429	3/30/2021	This corridor was designated in 1998 as a corridor for high speed service (TEA-21). It is part of the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative. In 2000 it was part of Governor Tommy Thompson's Blue Ribbon Task Force. After shutting down the High Speed Rail line from Milwaukee to Madison, after purchasing rail lines for that project, and working to connect our Capitol to the line, this alternative is like looking at Plan B. What it doesn't do is connect to the Capitol unless Madison has plans for a light rail connection, and it doesn't connect to Rochester for access to the Mao Clinic. Again, perhaps a rail line will eventually connect to Rochester. I would hope that the rails are upgraded for comfortable passenger riding as was determined and purchased for the HSR. I support increasing the trips from Milwaukee to St. Paul. Congratulations on a well designed multimodal project.

3430	3/30/2021	Would love to see an extension/connection to Madison, allowing residents some way to access the greater rail line.
3431	3/30/2021	Please, please swing through Madison. University traffic would certainly be considerable, and, on a personal level, I've waited so long for passenger rail to be readily available in this city.
3432	3/30/2021	I strongly support the TCMC project, adding a second daily round-trip train between Chicago and the Twin Cities. This would create so many more travel opportunities through and to Wisconsin. I've taken the train to or from Columbus, Wisconsin, several times, and I would take it even more with additional schedules available. A well-timed shuttle bus from Madison would be a great addition (or perhaps the Lamers Connect bus service to Portage or Columbus could be adjusted or increased).
3433	3/30/2021	Please PLEASE please include Madison. This is sorely needed. It's unfair to punish all of WI for the poor influence of Scott Walker. Connecting Madison to Minnesota and Milwaukee is an IMPORTANT part of this project. PLEASE ACT NOW! Thank you so much!!
3434	3/30/2021	Great idea very inclusive to those who cannot drive. Its out of the way but I'd be interested in adding Eau Claire as a stop.
3435	3/30/2021	Please consider making stop in Madison , so many commuters would take advantage
3436	3/31/2021	I believe this train will draw more riders on both the Chicago-Minneapolis and the Minneapolis-Milwaukee trains, since the schedules for arrivals and departures will be much more favorable on both ends. I would still like to see the track upgraded for faster trains as well -- something that should have happened already.
3437	3/31/2021	This is the stupidest idea ever !! Are you kidding me! Bypass Madison!?? To build a rail line from Chicago to the twin cities (which already exists??) and miss Madison would be the greatest travesty and a huge waste of money by the state of Wisconsin. I 100% do NOT support the bypass of Madison. This proposed plan makes me furious.
3438	3/31/2021	I would be strongly in favor of the project. What a great idea to improve public transport between these great cities.
3439	3/31/2021	Add Madison to the route
3440	3/31/2021	This is a money pit. It will always be short on funds and not be self sustaining. No, no, no. Amtrak is always in the red. Please spend the money repairing the bridges and highways we ALL use.
3441	3/31/2021	Amazing - please connect the fox valley
3442	3/31/2021	Excellent idea. Used the empire builder many times to Chicago but stopped because it became extremely unreliable to be anywhere close to on time Fix that and increase to twice a day and I would restart

3443	3/31/2021	I have used AmTrak for trips on the Empire Builder out to Portland, OR, as well as trips to Milwaukee and Chicago. I have also traveled on trains in western Europe (Netherlands, Belgium, France) and with our huge country and resources, I know we could have a better rail transportation system. La Crosse restored its 1920s passenger depot several years ago, and it is one of the nicest, most attractive passenger depots on the entire Empire Builder line. That was done with the hopes of having better passenger rails service through La Crosse one day. If this proposed project is completed, and truly can add an additional daily service through La Crosse, this could be a massive step in the right direction of better utilizing the mass transit we already have, and getting away from some short-distance air travel and long-distance auto travel, which would be better for the environment. I am definitely in favor of this project, and one of my biggest regrets was when the newly elected Governor Scott Walker returned federal funds which could have been some of the foundation of what this project is attempting to achieve. Yes, please!
3444	3/31/2021	This sounds amazing. It would be even more awesome if there could be a connection to Rochester, MN. A lot of Twin Cities residents would love to be able to work at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, but live in the Cities. For a lot of people, they would love a connection to Madison, WI.
3445	3/31/2021	I think some minor changes to the route are sorely needed, including stops in Madison, Kenosha, and Racine (the state's 2nd, 4th, and 5th largest cities, respectively).
3446	3/31/2021	This is insane. Why is the capitol city not included in that route? Add Madison to the route.
3447	3/31/2021	We would love to see a stop in Wisconsin's Capitol City, Madison!
3448	3/31/2021	Please consider a Madison stop.
3449	3/31/2021	I would love to be able to have more routes. I live in Columbus and have taken the train from Chicago, but with the one daily route, it is hard to take the train if that time doesn't work perfect. This would enable brewer games or something much easier.
3450	3/31/2021	This would make it so much easier to commute, especially in a time when more and more people are opting to live in less populated areas. It would connect Madison with major economic hubs and make transportation without a personal vehicle possible. I could only support it more if the planned line ran slight closer to the city of Madison.
3451	3/31/2021	Yes please. More trains is better for everyone.
3452	3/31/2021	I hope this becomes a reality!
3453	3/31/2021	I encourage The addition of a station in Madison. Madison is the capital City, and is home to a major research university. It is so logical for there to be a train station stop in Madison.
3454	3/31/2021	I think this would be a wonderful. It's important to develop more effective public transportation and the route suggested would serve multiple communities but still keep the route quick

3455	3/31/2021	<p>Reroute the path of the train to include a stop in Madison. The economic, environmental and social benefits of a having train that runs through the major economic engine, cultural center, and capitol city of WI, will be significant and would multiply the economic benefit of this investment. It has the potential to reduce traffic, increase commerce and collaboration and give thousands access to Madison while also giving Madisonians access to major cities along the route. If one of the state goals is to help student and business travel, a Madison stop makes more sense than any other. We can make rail more relevant in the region and boost the economic power of the state. Madison can no longer be an exception to this kind of planning.</p>
3456	3/31/2021	<p>I fully support this project and look forward to using it! It can't come soon enough!! If this is a separate rail from Amtrak and can run timely it would offer even better service. Rail service offers environmental benefits that I would like to see encouraged.</p>
3457	3/31/2021	<p>Increased frequency of railways from la crosse, wi, minn, mn and Chicago, il would be more than welcome. Please continue efforts to make this public transportation. This allows for visiting, tourism in those areas, and poo ublic transport supporting the environment.</p>
3458	3/31/2021	<p>current service between Chicago and St. Paul is too limited. One train is just not enough. We need more than one train running the route daily. In an ideal setting, having 3-4 trains daily would be the minimum level needed to promote rail as a viable alternative to driving between the two cities. Other areas, especially in the Northeast Corridor have multiple trains carrying tens of thousands of passengers.</p> <p>Chicago currently ranks #3 in the list of largest United States cities by population. Milwaukee ranks #31 while Minneapolis ranks 46 and its next door neighbor St. Paul ranks 63. These cities are too large to ignore when it comes to passenger rail service, yet for years they have been. There are plenty of potential Amtrak customers that can and will be tapped once rail service improves.</p> <p>Other states are pursuing more rail corridors in partnership with Amtrak, and this should be a site for prime consideration. Ohio, specifically, is looking at getting five major train routes through the heart of their state. Minnesota and Wisconsin only have one which needs to be improved upon.</p> <p>According to the Scioto (Ohio) Post: [quote]Amtrak is proposing to congress multiple new initiatives to grow the passenger railways in Ohio. The new Corridor Development Program. Amtrak is requesting \$300 million per year starting in federal fiscal year 2021 from Congress to develop high-potential corridors (routes under 750 miles). Once an agreement is in place with a state entity, Amtrak may pay up to 100 percent of the capital costs to initiate new or additional services. Amtrak may also provide 100 percent of the operating costs in the first two years, 90 percent in the third year, 80 percent in the fourth year and 50 percent in the fifth year. After that, the new service must be state supported in the same manner that 16 other states currently purchase service from Amtrak.[quote] (Newman, Jeremy. Amtrak Proposing</p>
3459	3/31/2021	<p>This is a great start for much needed and long overdue expansion of intercity rail transport to/from Wisconsin. BUT Madison must be included as a stop!</p>

3460	3/31/2021	i would love this! i am still mad wisconsin screwed up thje madison/chicago train
3461	3/31/2021	Improving rail transit is highly important for the long-term health of our region and encouraging sustainable lifestyles. While this project is not enough, it is an important step in the right direction.
3462	3/31/2021	The proposed route never remains roughly 1 hour from Madison, WI at its closest points. This would prevent use for people from Madison traveling to Milwaukee or Chicago, as the drive to the rail would be nearly as long as the alternate drive to those destination cities. If the route allowed easy access from Madison, I would expect significant ridership increases from the proposed route.
3463	3/31/2021	For students traveling to and from the U. of MN, for elderly people traveling this route for pleasure or to visit family and friends, having more trips will benefit these age groups. The small towns will benefit from the increased traffic, and with the changes brought about by COVID and the desire to leave the large cities for homes in smaller towns, these smaller communities may be even more desirable with these travel options.
3464	3/31/2021	Please do not skip Madison! We would love to use this line to visit MSP and Chicago. The amount of passengers you would get fromsduons would make up for needing to build extra tracks!
3465	3/31/2021	This project makes me excited! Main concern is safety of passengers boarding, while in transit, and disembarking. I'd also be interested in a range of ticket prices, so that everyone in need or want of travel to these metro areas, may do so without adding a financial burden. Please be sure to include areas for the disabled to easily access.
3466	3/31/2021	Madison is the WI state capital and has a great deal of passenger traffic between Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago. It would be a mistake to take on this large project and leave Madison off the route. I would use it rather than getting in my car and driving.
3467	3/31/2021	This needs to route through Madison. So many of our UW-Madison students need this transportation access. Also, with how rapidly the city is growing, it's imperative that it stops through Madison.
3468	3/31/2021	Please include Madison, WI
3469	3/31/2021	Would love for the St. Paul--Milwaukee line to have such a comfortable route, rather than the red-eye. Thank you!!
3470	3/31/2021	I support this initiative. A connecting rail to Madison, WI is needed.
3471	3/31/2021	I support this project and I think it will benefit the community. Please make Madison a stop on the route.
3472	3/31/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Wisconsin funding would essentially be close to \$1 per person of the state. Well worth the investment to provide more reliable service on an existing corridor - 2 departures would allow people to choose better [quote]timing[quote] of their trips, significantly increasing the use of the rail corridor - would reduce traffic on the roads and reduce accidents as fewer vehicles on the road during poor driving conditions, i.e. snow storms

3473	3/31/2021	I love this idea and I would use this rail line at the proposed times. I have two small children and this would be a relaxing and convenient way for us to travel.
3474	3/31/2021	Please come to Madison. I am disabled and getting to some of the major cities is very difficult. A train service would be exceptional.
3475	3/31/2021	I strongly support adding a second, daily round-trip along the Empire Builder route! I support added rail service and the funding that would be needed to make it happen. Public benefits of the expansion would include, but not be limited to ease and convenience for passengers who want to travel that route, the economic benefits to the stations along the route, and the environmental benefits of removing individual cars/vehicles from the highways. Also, as more people travel by train, more people will support train travel!
3476	3/31/2021	PLEASE consider high-speed. Our country is so behind in state-of-the-art transportation and asia and europe have developed incredible high speed rails (80mph not considered high speed) that encourage people to take rail vs car (opportunity cost of time). Please do not just reinforce the already dead transportation system that we currently face. Please come up with innovative strategies and solutions to get more people off the roads to utilize the costly service and also create a catalyst for the rest of the country. Let the midwest be a leader!!!!!!
3477	3/31/2021	Portage Wisconsin Station
3478	3/31/2021	
3479	3/31/2021	What about all the cuties in Madison? They need a little train!
3480	3/31/2021	I am very much in favor of adding a second daily trip between Chicago and the Twin Cities. I live in Chicago, have friends in Wisconsin along this corridor, and have family in the Twin Cities; this rail corridor is by far my most common route when traveling. Having multiple trips along this route will give me and my family more flexibility when planning trips to visit each other. When I first started traveling between Chicago and the Twin Cities by rail, approximately a decade ago, I was impressed by the punctuality of the train; we rarely, if ever, encountered delays. In recent years, however, as Amtrak funding was cut, that changed dramatically, and trains were regularly an hour or more behind schedule. Restoring funding to its previous levels, if not increasing it even further, will be a benefit to everyone who lives along this rail line and make the train a more attractive transit option; additionally, it will better serve those of us who do not have cars and thus do not have an alternative option for traveling between states.

3481	3/31/2021	<p>We prefer traveling by train wherever and whenever we can. Current service from the Dells to Chicago doesn't permit connection with western trains if we need to travel west. The connection times do not match. It is necessary for us to either bus to Chicago or drive down to Galesburg, IL to catch a western bound train. An early train in the morning would add the option for a timely connection in Chicago. An early train will also give us access to flights out of Milwaukee Mitchell Field; now, we are limited to the airlines flying into Madison (sometimes higher cost flights) or taking bus to Chicago. Inconvenient. We so enjoy and appreciate Amtrak and promote it's value to folks far and wide. We have hosted and facilitated 17 Amtrak trips with groups of senior citizens of 40-60 persons at a time around the country. Many of them have become Amtrak travelers as a result of their Amtrak trips with us. We do miss the previous food service and access to the dining car that have now been altered greatly. We would gladly pay a little more to have the dining car back and accessible to coach passengers as well as the first class patrons who are the only ones now allowed in the dining car. Amtrak experience has suffered greatly from that change. We would never have taken any of our large groups on Amtrak over the 17 years if the dining car experience and camaraderie had not existed then. Bring back the trains. Bring back the service. Bring back the dining cars. Add the second Amtrak train to Chicago-Minneapolis.</p>
3482	3/31/2021	I support this project.
3483	3/31/2021	<p>Skipping Madison on the route is a major drawback. The best solution is to re-route the train through Madison. An alternative is to provide public transportation to Columbus to the Capital/University. Perhaps a park and ride in Sun Prairie near the interstate. Busses would be timed to the train schedule.</p>
3484	3/31/2021	<p>Doesn't make sense to not have Madison on this route. It is only the 2nd largest city and the state capital. Cruel joke to not have a train go through Madison.</p>
3485	3/31/2021	All train availability is a smart choice for commutes and tourism.

3486	3/31/2021	<p>Thank you all so much for this. I have been wishing for expanded rail service on this corridor for a long time. I am wondering about the decision to run the Madison connecting shuttle exclusively to Columbus. Amtrak has ones to both Columbus and Portage, I believe. Choosing only one necessarily prioritizes eastward travel over westward. It seems to me that more Madison-area folks would be heading west on this route than heading east. Milwaukee and Chicago both already have very popular intercity bus routes to/from Madison which are faster than Empire Builder and eclipse it in popularity for those trips. If there were a direct train, Madisonians would absolutely take it, but I don't think there are very many who would take a bus north (to either Columbus or Portage) to go south, when they could take one bus all the way. Milwaukee and Chicago's stops are both intermodal stations that can further distribute passengers (somewhat serving the function of the Sturtevant and Glenview stops), whereas this train is the only option for getting to several of the westward destinations.</p> <p>Also, I would venture a guess that the number going to St. Paul, La Crosse, the Dells, Tomah/Fort McCoy, etc would be far higher than the number going to Sturtevant and Glenview (most of the MKE & CHI trips being covered by buses). The Madison to La Crosse/Twin Cities buses are much less reliable than the ones to Milwaukee and Chicago, and tend to have an infamous long stop in Mauston (meaning the transfer time is less of a deterrent). This is well-known among intercity bus passengers in Madison, so if the connecting shuttle were marketed well, it would almost certainly find a good number of riders looking to go from Madison to the west. But having to waste time going northeast to Columbus would deter that.</p> <p>That being said, I think two small shuttle buses would be the best choice, but honestly if it were one or the other, I think Portage would make more sense.</p>
3487	3/31/2021	<p>As a Chicago resident with a college student in Winona, MN, we completely depend on the TCMC rail line to get our student to/from school numerous times throughout the year. The restrictions over the past year have meant more 5 hour drives, which are really 10-hour drives roundtrip. Adding a second daily departure would definitely increase the usefulness for students in Winona.</p>
3488	3/31/2021	<p>Please consider a station in Madison, WI, possibly on the east side near the interstate, where local public transportation can be accessed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * University Of Wisconsin Madison * Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center * Dane County Airport <p>These are major economic drivers for our city and important destinations for people in all three states.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
3489	3/31/2021	<p>Please include Madison on this line! It's a state capital and home to many people that love transit and passenger rail.</p>

		I love this project so much. Having a train like this makes the feasibility of weekend trips to the Twin Cities that much more realistic in using rail. We have a one year old and driving that distance isn't particularly ideal, but with the train we can do more moving around and worry less.
3490	3/31/2021	I absolutely want this project to move forward.
3491	3/31/2021	Really happy about the option for a second service daily. Often Msp > Chicago is difficult to depend on because of the delays coming from Washington, would love to be able to book connecting service or plans in Chicago.
3492	3/31/2021	This would be great! How about a line from Milwaukee through the Fox Valley to Green Bay?
3493	3/31/2021	I support this project!! It would even be more wonderful if somehow Madison, WI could also be included as a station stop, perhaps in connection with the airport.
3494	3/31/2021	How can you build a new rail line and not have it go through the second most populous city in the state. I like in Madison and I would travel by train to Minneapolis, Milwaukee, and Chicago. I'm not driving to Columbus to be able to.
3495	3/31/2021	I heartily support doubling the daily service. I would be far more prone to take the train to the Twin Cities, Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago if given two timetables per day, including a second train if the first is late due to weather or freight trains causing time on the siding.
3496	3/31/2021	Please add a Madison stop. Doesn't make sense to bypass the city
		How could you consider a route that prioritizes the Wisconsin Dells over Madison, WI, the capitol of the state and an employment hub? Additionally, this should be routing through Eau Claire, another larger and growing metro, instead of following the river to Winona?
3497	3/31/2021	Please re-route to include Madison and Eau Claire. I am marking as [quote]less in favor[quote] below because of the poor routing. Would be strongly in favor if the routing were fixed.
3498	3/31/2021	I'm excited about more rail service in Wisconsin. Please consider including Madison in the development. It is hard to get to Columbus, which is the nearest Amtrak station. There used to be a train between Madison and Chicago.
3499	3/31/2021	I am in favor of the additional rail service between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities. I have family in the Twin Cities and would prefer to travel by rail as opposed to the long drive or the hassle and expense of flying.
3500	3/31/2021	Route this one through Madison. There's even a station there that used to serve trains to the Twin Cities. Pretty obvious if you ask me.
3501	3/31/2021	I'm not sure how many people would take advantage of increased traffic, but I think it's a great idea. Trains running at times other than the current Empire Builder schedule would facilitate new options for connections to cross-country trains out of the Chicago hub. I believe it would also open better options for local vacation and business travelers going either direction. Maybe the high speed rail plans can also be resurrected and incorporated into the new service. Bring it on!

3502	3/31/2021	I support adding another daily Amtrak passenger rail round trip option between Chicago, IL and Saint Paul, MN. Having more choices for travel among the cities of this corridor would be a benefit to business and leisure travelers. It would be a further improvement if service to Madison, WI station could be included as another option.
3503	3/31/2021	Please consider at least one additional round-trip of service for the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago passenger train. This is the very least we need to do to work towards rail travel as a viable option given the reality of global warming and climate chaos. There is so much we need to do to put US rail travel on a par with European and other countries. This would at least be a good start. Many more people would choose rail over autos or air travel if they felt they were not sacrificing convenience or financial costs to do so. Thank You
3504	3/31/2021	I'm supportive of adding the second train, I will use to get to Minneapolis from Madison via the Columbus stop. I will also use it to get to Chicago.
3505	3/31/2021	I totally support this project. It would be great for tourism and business. I love train travel and have done it a lot in Europe. Our train system is so antiquated compared to theirs. We need to catch up. It'd be nice to include Madison.
3506	3/31/2021	This is a great idea! Rail transport is vital for many people.
3507	3/31/2021	I fully support this project.
3508	3/31/2021	I strongly support this project to add rail line service/capacity for Chicago-Milwaukee-Twin Cities!
3509	3/31/2021	I am very much in support of this project. I would use this train route on a semi-regular basis to visit friends and family in Minneapolis.
3510	3/31/2021	I live in Monroe County and travel to Chicago, Milwaukee, and Minneapolis often. While the Tomah station is convenient for me, the train times aren't. I long for the days when there are 4 or 5 trains a day running from Chicago to Minnesota. Please add at least one.
3511	3/31/2021	How absolutely fantastic! This is long overdue and will be of massive benefit to city and country folks alike.
3512	3/31/2021	I strongly support this project! This would be an enormous benefit for rural and urban Wisconsinites alike, as well as seniors and students. It will create jobs and green WI's infrastructure.
3513	3/31/2021	This is an excellent idea. Rail service from Minneapolis- Eau Claire- Green Bay-Milwaukee would be the next great idea.

3514	3/31/2021	I'm a proponent of rail service connecting to rural areas. I live in Oconto, pop. 4,513, and having come from California, I'm shocked that there are NO: rental cars, city bus, regional bus, Uber, Lyft, or any other option besides a personal vehicle or bicycle to get where you need to go here. If you don't have a car or a friend with a car, you're screwed. You can't get to a job. You can't get to the airport. You can't take advantage of opportunities outside your immediate location, which makes things hard. We lost our only department store last year and have only two fast-food places, three chain dollar stores, two gas stations and three restaurants, in addition to several industrial plants. People need more options. It would also just be nice to get to Green Bay airport without taking the family car and leaving those staying home without a vehicle. Not everyone has a driver's license (in my situation, just me and my son who doesn't drive.) Please provide some access between Milwaukee-Green Bay-Marquette?
3515	3/31/2021	I think it would be of great benefit to the public and to business in all three states to move this project forward. I think it would be especially beneficial to the tourist industry. Public funds are well spent on improving rail travel.
3516	3/31/2021	I support this project. Alternate time slots make this train a more reliable option for travel
3517	3/31/2021	Increasing the number of trains running to Chicago would significantly increase the probability that my spouse and I would use the train to visit family in Chicago and take trips on Amtrak to other parts of the country through Chicago. The Columbus (WI) to Chicago schedule is what has held us back from taking the train. We would also consider visiting Milwaukee this way as well.
3518	3/31/2021	It would be beneficial to invest in multiple services between Chicago and St. Paul. My family would enjoy options when traveling between Milwaukee and La Crosse.
3519	3/31/2021	I would like to point out that both current alternatives for transit between Minneapolis and Chicago are both more carbon intensive per person than a rail line would be, even with a diesel engine. The route also needs to be taking into consideration the ability for future development with a look towards possible electrification in future projects. Also that services to areas surrounding the stations should be built out considerably. Demand for alternatives to car transportation is only growing.
3520	3/31/2021	I think that this connection would be a great improvement to the greater area.
3521	4/1/2021	Yes, please add additional routes that would link St. Paul, Minnesota with Chicago and especially Milwaukee! Thank you!!
3522	4/1/2021	please do this, we need more train travel in our state!!
3523	4/1/2021	This is an excellent idea and has my full support, especially if it gets in to the Twin Cities earlier than the current schedule.
3524	4/1/2021	I strongly support the effort to increase passenger rail service between Chicago and the Twin Cities, with an intermediate stop in Milwaukee, and other urban areas. I have traveled on this route to the west, and have utilized other Amtrak routes. I would definitely use this service if it were available. This would have the effect of reducing the amount of traffic on the highway, and would reduce pollution.

3525	4/1/2021	Sounds like a good idea which is far overdue.
3526	4/1/2021	It would be wonderful to have two trains a day to serve the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago section of the Empire Builder route. What would be even better is if that service could be expanded to include a passenger rail line to Madison, because for anyone living in Madison or south of Madison, getting to and from Columbus adds so much travel time and distance as to make riding the train impossible. It makes no sense to exclude Madison from passenger rail service, a service that the state should be continuing to expand.
3527	4/1/2021	
3528	4/1/2021	I strongly support this project. It would greatly improve travel options through this part of the midwest and allow visitors the ability to also travel more easily throughout the region as well.
3529	4/1/2021	This is sorely needed and long overdue. It would benefit all of the communities along the route and provide an alternate mode of transportation for business and leisure travel, as well as students traveling to/from college. I grew up in the Chicago suburbs and would frequently take the Amtrak to/from Champaign-Urbana when I attended the University of Illinois. I am in support of this rail improvement and really hope it is approved and funded.
3530	4/1/2021	Please get this done. We need more mass transit connections in the midwest asap!
3531	4/1/2021	I support this 100% and would welcome the expanded rail options connecting Milwaukee to other parts of the state and to Minneapolis. As a frequent rider to Chicago it's a great way to travel and not have to take a car.
3532	4/1/2021	I support this! The more trains the better!
3533	4/1/2021	I approve of this being done. Safer travel and more comfortable than driving.
3534	4/1/2021	Build the train!
3535	4/1/2021	There are already prospective workers from out of state who work good jobs in the state because there are better opportunities in Wisconsin. A passenger train line would encourage them to take more Milwaukee jobs and encourage more out of state workers to come to Wisconsin and pay Wisconsin taxes. It works both ways too, Wisconsin workers can find new work out-of-state so they are not out of a job or work better jobs. A train line would also encourage more visitors to Wisconsin businesses. It's honestly a win-win-win for everyone.
3536	4/1/2021	Inver Grove Heights MN resident with 8 kids. I'd definitely use it. Sometimes the hubby has to work and I'd want to go out of town but don't want to drive all 12 hours to and from Chicago or 7 round trip from the Dells.
3537	4/1/2021	
3538	4/1/2021	I agree with the proposal as long as it actually stops in Madison - possibly at the airport - and any new construction lays the ground work for the high speed rail the entire route should be by now.
3539	4/1/2021	Current Amtrak services are inadequate to provide a reasonable alternative to driving for most people. Adding an additional service each day is a step in the right direction for commuters and general travelers.

3540	4/1/2021	This project is overdue. We need more stations or stops between Milwaukee and Madison. An aging population would appreciate an alternative to auto driving.
3541	4/1/2021	I am fully supportive of this investment in rail travel between to Minneapolis and Chicago. We live in Milwaukee and take the Hiawatha to Chicago 3-4 times a year and would particularly appreciate increased service to the Twin Cities. Currently the return trip of the Empire Builder is almost never on time, often late by several hours. A dedicated train between Mpls and Chicago would make those train trips considerably more reliable and timely.
3542	4/1/2021	It's a service that is well needed and one that I and my family would use.
3543	4/1/2021	These additions would not only help the environment, but save lives by decreasing traffic accidents, and increase tourism and jobs. Let's get this done and add more stations and stops!!!
3544	4/1/2021	
3545	4/1/2021	I love this idea. I drive to Minneapolis to visit family. This would allow me to relax going there
3546	4/1/2021	Please consider adding service in Madison, WI.
3547	4/1/2021	Public transportation is lacking in this state. Please, please do it!
3548	4/1/2021	This is an amazing idea, and I think that residents of all states and cities would get a lot of use from it! I think a second daily round trip should be added b/c it will likely be popular and increase interstate tourism. Many money making opportunities for each state involved, including a larger potential skilled workforce.
3549	4/1/2021	Great idea on new Chicago-Twin cities route. One problem with taking the empire builder is that the long haul trains are often late especially in the latter half of the trip. It comes to the twin cities from the west coast and is frequently late. It would be great to have a train that starts at the twin cities and has a better chance to start on time and get to the other cities on time (or close to on time). Also the empire builder leaves MKE late afternoon and doesn't get to Minneapolis until 10 pm, if on time. I took it once and it was 4 hours late out of Chicago, getting me into Minneapolis at 2 am (7 am meeting the next day). Would be nice to have an earlier train.
3550	4/1/2021	Also, revisit the failed high-speed rail opportunity that former Governor Scott Walker messed up on. The second route is key and could be a great advertising campaign for Milwaukee and Madison residents to know about. Many friends and acquaintances don't think/know about the train as being an option.
3551	4/1/2021	I think the second twin cities to Chicago train should also stop in Madison.
3552	4/1/2021	The more train service we create the better. Train travel can, at least potentially, be much better for the environment. However, let's be honest. People will not switch to train travel simply because it is good for the environment. It must also be convenient, affordable, and most importantly fast. Until we commit to actually building true high speed trains like the rest of the industrial world thus transportation option will always be the 3rd or 4th travel choice.
3553	4/1/2021	I am STRONGLY in favor of this new service and renovations. I would use it very frequently .

3554	4/1/2021	Yes, I support th plan for an additional daily round trip Amtrak Chicago to Twin Cities Please dp all you can to make it happen. Thank you. Jane Kircher
3555	4/1/2021	I strongly support the expansion of rail travel in the Midwest, especially the connection of major urban hubs.
3556	4/1/2021	I would use it, as would friends and family coming to Milwaukee from Chicago
3557	4/1/2021	I think this is a great project, and long overdue. Not only would it be a boon to the region, providing far reaching opportunities to those on the line, but it will inspire the rest of the country, hopefully, to follow our example.
3558	4/1/2021	I used to live in the twin cities. I grew up in Racine county. This is a great way to explore and share all 4 cities with our neighbors. Great idea!!!
3559	4/1/2021	Great idea will it be a high speed rail
3560	4/1/2021	Please do this project and include Madison if you can. This will make getting around the Midwest a whole lot easier for folks without cars and will bring in so much money for tourism especially for small businesses who need it
3561	4/1/2021	I support expansion of passenger rail service in the Midwest.
3562	4/1/2021	Thank you for the work you are doing in adding this valuable service to the people of the Midwest. I have ridden trains between Milwaukee and Minneapolis several times, and between Milwaukee and Chicago fairly frequently. Greater flexibility in departure times would make these trips easier to plan, and would encourage me to use the AMTRAK routes much more frequently. I believe they would also encourage thousands of other Wisconsinites to choose the train as a safe and convenient alternative to driving when they need to travel along this route. On other long intercity routes, involving Chicago, Detroit, New York and New Orleans I have experienced delays lasting four or more hours. I look forward to track and scheduling improvements not only on the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago corridor, but also systemwide.
3563	4/1/2021	This will be just the beginning of a much needed improvement for Wisconsin rail service.
3564	4/1/2021	I think this is an absolutely fantastic idea! Let's make it happen as soon as possible!
3565	4/1/2021	We desperately need more options to travel and connect outside of car use. Improving public transportation would be a huge step for our region. My family would benefit as we live in La Crosse but are originally from Chicago where our extended relatives still live. We would love to have more ways to visit family without driving to reduce carbon emissions and pollution. This would be attractive to other young families like ours who live in more rural communities but want to stay connected with urban spaces in the region.

3566	4/1/2021	I have taken the train between Milwaukee and St Paul dozens of times between 1995 and 2019. It would be amazing to get a second route. West-bound, the current train gets into St Paul quite late. East-bound, I have often encountered weather delays. The Empire Builder is a great service, I would love to see it expanded. I would also love to see a station added closer to Madison. When I was a student at UW-Madison I would have loved an easy rail connection back to the Twin Cities where I am originally from. I think the Twin Cities should be easier to get to from Chicago, Milwaukee, and Madison. I would also support more space on the train cars for bicycles.
3567	4/1/2021	I support rail service from Milwaukee to the twin cities
3568	4/1/2021	This should be a no brainer minimum for normal service. More options and a schedule not dependent on a much longer but needed route, makes so much sense. why is this not already the normal schedule?
3569	4/1/2021	This project is long overdue! This will allow me easy access to Milwaukee, Chicago and the Twin Cities from my home in La Crosse. I make frequent trips to these places for business and pleasure and as I age, I find that I dislike driving.
3570	4/1/2021	Columbus, Portage and WI Dells- 3 stations all in close proximity in lower population dense areas, but no stations in Madison or Waukesha County WI? Those 2 major population & economic locations are an obvious choice a station and should be strongly re-considered.
3571	4/1/2021	I am in full support and think it's a great idea to have a second, daily round trip passenger rail services along the TCMC corridor. I would encourage you to please have a stop at the airport, like the Hiwatha stops there.
3572	4/1/2021	Please make this project happen! Wisconsin is woefully under-developed for passenger rail service compared to many other areas.
3573	4/1/2021	In think it is a wonderful idea. I have written the train from Milwaukee to Minneapolis and back again several times. All in all it is less expensive, and less time consuming and certainly more pleasant than flying. It is an excellent way to encourage travel between the cities.
3574	4/1/2021	It would be helpful to have a stop in Waukesha or Pewaukee/Oconomowoc. There is a huge gap between Columbus and Milwaukee and many communities in between would benefit from this service.
3575	4/1/2021	The state's largest population center needs more rail connections and this is a welcome additional train, although even more investment in rail connections to Milwaukee must be made as they are long overdue. Let's finally get the high speed rail projects started over a decade ago going once more between Milwaukee and Chicago and between Milwaukee and Madison. Build this project out right with high quality temperature controlled stations along the route where they don't already exist and invest in it with the thoroughness it deserves. More rail and less highways!
3576	4/1/2021	I am all for this! Please make it happen.
3577	4/1/2021	Want to add some additional stops to the route- Going through Madison and Going through OHare
3578	4/1/2021	Madison should be added as a stop

3579	4/1/2021	This would definitely be a benefit to residents of La Crosse. It would be safer and ease up highway traffic.
3580	4/1/2021	WI is overdue for mass transit upgrades...this would be great!
3581	4/1/2021	This would be so great for tourism!! New visits to the Midwest! New jobs for construction and railroad operations as well. I only see pros!
3582	4/1/2021	I'm thrilled to see this project moving forward. It's good for consumers, for communities and for our environment. We need more public transportation options to take cars off the roads and to attract young families. I valued the well-designed 20 minute You Tube presentation outlining specific enhancements and the thorough process. Funding sources seem realistic and stable.
3583	4/1/2021	Get started tomorrow, I will use the service as I travel frequently through or to these cities
3584	4/1/2021	Long overdue. Reliable rail service to areas like La Crosse and Winona would be great. Driving from Milwaukee to Minneapolis is out of the question for me, due to partial disability and distance involved. Empire Builder is, unfortunately, not reliable due to its distance (Portland to Chicago). Rarely on time. And the Empire Builder route around Minneapolis is VERY slow, through swamps on old rail line. Not like the typical routes followed by the major freight carriers along the Mississippi. Please find a faster route. Thank you.
3585	4/1/2021	Great idea. I drive a lot to Twin cities from SE WI and would love to take the train instead, especially in the winter.
3586	4/1/2021	This is so needed. As someone who uses Amtrak multiple times a year, it will be nice to have options on time. I have friends in Minneapolis and it's so inconvenient to get in so late there. With another train too, I'd be way more likely to do day trips to places closer to me by train.
3587	4/1/2021	I am in support of adding route and capacities to these destinations. I would also support a link to Madison and/or lines from stops along the way. Treat this like Metra and CTA trains. Partial diesel, partial electric with plans to keep evolving the service.
3588	4/1/2021	I think the increased number of daily round trips will be a huge benefit to a number of different demographics. People of lower income who many not have reliable vehicles now have more options for regional travel. Those without driver's licenses will also benefit greatly. Better punctuality for arrival times is a benefit that needs no explaining. As our country stands currently, we rely too much on travel via automobiles. Government-funded rail is a necessity, especially if urbanization is to continue at such a rapid pace.
3589	4/1/2021	Archaic and non-forward thinking. The distance of the stops from Madison combined with the slow speed of the train will not not attract potential Madison riders. Given the number of stops and the distance of the stops from major population centers, the speed of the train needs to much higher to make this an attractive option for travelers.

3590	4/1/2021	The focus could also be high-speed rail. The shorten commute would be an additional incentive, especially for people who do have a car. If driving to from Milwaukee to Chicago takes 1.5-2 hours and the rail takes 45min-1hr, I think you would find many people with or without cars taking the rail instead.
3591	4/1/2021	I am in favor of improvements to the TCMC that increase and improve service throughout the entire TCMC route, stations, and frequency of service. I am in favor of implementing connecting shuttles between Madison, Eau Claire and other larger population centers. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.
3592	4/1/2021	This is welcome news! We really need to have more reliable, robust, and regular train service. My sister lives in Duluth, and while we usually drive because of limited rail options, I'm getting older and would welcome the possibility of taking the train to St Paul in the future. I lived in Europe for a number of years and travel was so easy by train. If we want to address climate change we need to be thinking in this direction.
3593	4/1/2021	
3594	4/1/2021	This would be a welcomed addition to Wisconsin's transportation options. The public currently can only fly from MSP to CHI and if the weather is bad, there are none. This would help get traffic off of the highways. I was very disappointed when the rail project between Milwaukee and Madison was killed about 10 years ago. A concern I have is how long this trip would take. If you want people to use the service, the service has got to be good. It would be great to have connections to Eau Claire and Madison also.
3595	4/1/2021	Do not waste this kind of money on a rail line at will never support itself financially.
3596	4/1/2021	This project is a great idea that will bring better travel options to residents all along the route. I have traveled from Milwaukee to Wisconsin Dells on this route and enjoyed the convenience. I live in Waukesha and have family in Tomah and friends in Minneapolis, so having this additional train service would be terrific. I also applaud any improvement in rail service as a good, safe, and eco-friendly transportation option.
3597	4/1/2021	Yes, do it. Please.
3598	4/1/2021	I am writing to express my strong hope that this project will reconsider adding Madison to the route. It would be an incredible shame to bypass the second largest and fastest growing city in Wisconsin. Madison is a hub for healthcare, education, political activity and start-ups, regularly welcoming visitors from across the Midwest. Portage is as close as this project gets to Madison and that simply isn't close enough to make using this tool accessible for residents of Wisconsin's second largest city. Madison has many residents who would be thrilled to access this service (including college students and low-income residents) who do not own a personal vehicle whom this project completely fails to consider. Again, I strongly urge the architects of this project to consider shifting this route to include a stop in Madison, Wisconsin to support equity, accessibility and economic growth.

3599	4/1/2021	The more access to rails and public transportation, the better. If only it was cheaper than flying/driving, we could have a network more like Europe. This is a good step forward.
3600	4/1/2021	This is a great idea. My family has ridden between Chicago and Milwaukee for decades, and have often wished for the opportunity to go from Milwaukee to the Twin Cities easily, and between Chicago and the Twin Cities. I believe many others feel the same way, so I hope it happens.
3601	4/1/2021	Expanding public infrastructure is crucial. This project can assist the development of rural Wisconsin, create jobs and curtail the use of automobiles. It should have been done long ago, but better late than never.
3602	4/1/2021	Please fund this. I am a physically handicapped senior residing in Milwaukee County. Since the Empire Builder was cut back to 3 days per week I have been unable to visit my family in the Twin Cities.
3603	4/1/2021	I think this is excellent news. Our railroad systems are aging. This creates jobs, improves access along with growth to that sector of transportation. Before the creation of the interstate highway in the USA, trains were a major source of transportation for most goods. Many people used trains as well to travel within the United States. It is about time for America to reinvest in the railroad system. With expected population growth there is a greater need than ever for mass public transportation. The improvements also boost interstate commerce. Billions of revenue and tax dollars are generated along with job creation.
3604	4/1/2021	We really would appreciate this extra train, especially because the eastbound Empire Builder can be very late, given the vast terrain it covers before reaching St. Paul. That uncertainty for our return to Milwaukee makes us drive instead. To make it easier for more people to use the service and avoid congestion at the downtown station, it would be good to have an outlying western stop as well.
3605	4/1/2021	I live in Milwaukee. When I do business or training in Chicago, I always consider Amtrak. Unfortunately we need a business friendly schedule. A 545pm or 6pm Hiawatha from Chi to Mke would be appreciated by the business community. Many times I've had to leave meetings early because of this non business friendly schedule. Thank you.
3606	4/1/2021	As a Milwaukee resident I am very much in favor of this project moving forward. It would greatly benefit our city and residents to have an option to travel to Minneapolis (and even the Wisconsin Dells!) by rail. I would rather my tax dollars go to a project like this than to sports stadiums.
3607	4/1/2021	The only negative in my eyes is that it doesn't stop in Madison. Excellent idea!
3608	4/1/2021	I love the idea of adding a second train on the Minneapolis-Chicago route. It would be even greater if the long standing problem of there being no stop in the city of Madison could be addressed.

3609	4/1/2021	A Milwaukee to Twin Cities train that does not go through Madison is a ridiculous notion. There is no excuse for excluding the state's capital and second largest city from this route. Additionally, Madison is home to thousands of UW students from the Twin Cities area.
3610	4/1/2021	A second train to the Twin Cities would allow me to visit my friends more often. I used to live in Minneapolis but now live out of state and I love to visit but driving is boring and tiresome. A second train would make travel to and from Minnesota more convenient and make long weekend trips much more realistic. I'm very excited for this to happen. It's also well documented that increased rail frequency leads to economic benefits for cities along the route and I think this will be a huge benefit to all of the intermediate stops.
3611	4/1/2021	First of all I must say that any addition/improvement is welcome and thus I support this. However, I must say that I am hugely disappointed that we are not talking at all about modern high speed transit system. Look at the China and some other European countries. We are falling behind and are trying to patch and fix obsolete technology if you will. We are supposed to be world leaders but it seems to me that we are losing the battle here. Not just railroads, look at the state of roads and state of the airports for example. We are way behind and still live in the 50's. Mass transportation system should be in higher demand year on year due to increased population size. Also, people started moving green (driving electric cars and/or not driving cars at all and relying on transportation system more) so having a high speed (time is money) green train system in place would benefit everyone. I know it's a big challenge in any and all ways but it is not impossible. If you think that it's impossible you might not be suited for a job (no offense) but we sure need to step up the game otherwise in 20-30 years we will be a third world county when it comes to infrastructure. Thank you!
3612	4/1/2021	I completely support any rail options which reduce the need for air travel from or to Chicago or Minneapolis, which are very busy airports. I also strongly support adding other travel options to smaller towns along the route. Given the stated project description — [quote]The \$53 million TCMC Project will improve mobility and increase reliable travel options between the Midwest economic hubs of St. Paul, Minnesota, La Crosse and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Chicago, Illinois.[quote] — I don't understand at all how Madison, WI is not part of this project.
3613	4/1/2021	Strongly support additional passenger trains per day along this corridor. Would use this service to get from the Madison metro area to downtown Chicago multiple times per month if service was not limited to just one train per day.
3614	4/1/2021	We need good rail service.
3615	4/1/2021	I strongly support the investments in the improvements needed to support a second, daily round trip on the Chicago, Milwaukee, Twin Cities corridor.

3616	4/1/2021	I strongly support this expansion of service. I lived in Japan over 50 years ago where the bullet train connected Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto and Osaka with regular service. It will be so beneficial to Wisconsin residents. It will add more convenience to residents, cut carbon emissions for the environment, and encourage more tourism for the state.
3617	4/1/2021	I've traveled extensively from Milwaukee to St. Paul by both car and train. For me to want to take the train more often I'd need to see two things: 1) lower fare and 2) travel time by train less than or equal to travel time by car. Right now I can drive there faster and less expensively. So, unless these two things can happen, I'm against spending on this project.
3618	4/1/2021	Will this another money losing/taxpayer rip-off boondoggle?
3619	4/1/2021	This is an excellent plan. We need more available mass transit - other than airlines.
3620	4/1/2021	Please connect Madison. Columbus is not close enough. Don't leave hundreds of thousands of people without this valuable service if there is a way to help now. We had hope before the Walker years. Please give us hope again. Thank you.
3621	4/1/2021	I support the rail project and I will use it for recreational travel with my grandchildren
3622	4/1/2021	I support adding additional train Chicago-St. Paul.
3623	4/1/2021	<p>I am in favor of this project. It will provide a great option for minimal marginal investment.</p> <p>This is a heavily trafficked corridor so freeing up space by giving people the freedom to choose an alternate option would be a wonderful thing. This will also help connect the rural community stations along the route.</p> <p>My wife and I share one car and I have ridden the Empire Builder getting off at Columbus, Wisconsin Dells and beyond. This climate friendly option is a much less stressful than driving.</p> <p>This would also be a win for those who do not drive due to financial, medical or legal reasons. I am proud to support this project.</p>
3624	4/1/2021	<p>I strongly support the Amtrak plan to add the TCMC to the upper Midwest. My family and I operate a farm south of Eau Claire, WI and would regularly use the TCMC to travel from our home near Chicago. For years I've hoped for service to Eau Claire, knowing full well how the old Northwestern Twin Cities 400 served that community and all of western Wisconsin. We have taken Amtrak to Tomah, but for our purposes a stop in Eau Claire would make things much more workable.</p> <p>Since 1972 we have traveled I-94 to our farm near Osseo, WI. Every year I-90,94 becomes more congested and dangerous. We travel I-90,94 in all seasons of the year and would especially appreciate regular, safe, on-time travel.</p> <p>Please do this. I and others would be most grateful and would use the TCMC as often as possible Call me at 847-420-0940; e-mail is lomifarm@gmail.com</p> <p>Thanks, Mike and Lois Taft</p>

3625	4/1/2021	I feel as though this is a great idea. The less automobile based highway travel, the better. This would provide more options for travel to the Twin Cities from Milwaukee as well.
3626	4/1/2021	This project should have been completed years ago but thanks to Scott Wailer turning down a federal grant never took place. Let's put it on a fast track and get it done.
3627	4/1/2021	I support expanded rail service. The areas serviced are ones that are not easily accessed via air. Having spent time in Europe I believe rail service is a great alternative
3628	4/1/2021	Diversity is a strength in any complex system, including transportation. We have a diverse population with diverse needs, which can change over time; with aging, availability of fuel, vehicles and cost of vehicle ownership only a few of those variables. Our rail transportation system is minimal in Wisconsin, and needs strengthening to be truly meaningful and useful for more daily use. Twice daily Amtrack service is the obvious next step toward improving rail utility in our transportation system.
3629	4/1/2021	I support the project. I believe this is a solid investment that would create greater demand for the service since it is known that the eastbound train is often quite behind schedule. As similar projects have shown in other cities, ridership increases as more options for transportation increase; this consistently has a net positive economic impact. Further, mass transit has an encouraging environmental impact during this era of greater societal recognition of these issues.
3630	4/1/2021	Please do whatever is needed to create additional rail service for Wisconsin! Public transportation has been allowed to go straight downhill for decades. This would be a great reversal of that trend. Pre-pandemic I rode Amtrak frequently for family visits and vacations, when possible, and I would definitely be more likely to ride with this additional service, having family in Milwaukee, La Crosse, and St. Paul. At some point in the past ten years, I have used the stops in Winona, La Crosse, Wisconsin Dells, and Columbus.
3631	4/1/2021	Please find the funds to pay for this project. It would be great to be able to travel to Milwaukee and take in a Brewer or Bucks game while in town. The amount of additional revenue to the state would more than offset the costs the state would need to chip in.
3632	4/1/2021	Please increase the service along the Empire Builder route. So often this train is completely full as many people use the train to travel to Chicago.
3633	4/1/2021	i would utilize this for business and pleasure.
3634	4/1/2021	This is an excellent project that should move forward. I would most likely use the service a few times per year to travel with my family to see other friends and family.
3635	4/1/2021	Would like to see a route from Tomah to Eau Claire to Minneapolis
3636	4/1/2021	I highly support this project
3637	4/1/2021	I believe that this new rail service would greatly benefit every stop on the route. It would help tie the three states together and provide a welcome way to enjoy travel in the upper Midwest.

3638	4/1/2021	I have relatives in the Milwaukee area and friends in Chicago, so use the existing once a day (before pandemic closures) train from St. Paul to Chicago quite often on an annual basis. I enthusiastically support expanding rail service for short-distance trips for greater convenience for train passengers as well as the environmental benefits of taking single passenger vehicles (cars, SUVs, etc.) off the roads.
3639	4/1/2021	Excellent idea. It's time we invested in improving rail service and diminish reliance on highways and cars.
3640	4/1/2021	To whom it may concern: Please consider adding Madison to the proposed route, or at a minimum, add the shuttle service from Madison. Adding our city to this important regional infrastructure will provide great benefits to our city and state. The economic possibilities for growth are hard to overstate if the Chicago/Milwaukee/Madison/MSP regions were better connected. Thank you.
3641	4/1/2021	I believe adding a second rail service along this route would greatly aid all communities along it. The route would also reduce traffic within the region and better connect major cities that people wish to visit. Please approve this new route and work with all state and federal partners to make it happen.
3642	4/1/2021	I fully support this proposal. I currently travel to the Twin Cities and Chicago frequently with Amtrak and have been hoping for expanded service with better departure times for weekend trips.
3643	4/1/2021	I am excited to hear about expansions in service. I used to take the train regularly when I lived in a metro area which had an Amtrak stop, and still take it on trips when I can. I most often currently make use of the train between Milwaukee and Chicago. I would appreciate the chance to use the train more often. I do like to travel from Milwaukee to visit the Twin Cities. I would also support further improvements and expansions in service - particularly high-speed rail between Milwaukee and Madison and the Twin Cities.
3644	4/1/2021	I believe it would benefit alot of people and be a boost for Amtrak to add more rides. I am in favor of the train Mn and Ill would be my destinations.
3645	4/1/2021	This offers virtually zero benefit to 50% of the citizens of Wisconsin who will be asked to fund the route forever. The route primarily benefits Chicago and Milwaukee in Wisconsin. Mid point cities like LaCrosse will likely drive to St. Paul or Milw. since one would need a car at the destination. Fares for Amtrak don't come close to covering the cost of operation much less maintenance. The eastbound Empire Builder has poor on time record especially in the winter. The Empire Builder, like all long distance Amtrak trains, runs ancient equipment that hasn't been updated in decades. Will this same ancient equipment be used on the second route?
3646	4/1/2021	Wisconsin needs modern rail service that connects rural and urban areas while providing transportation options that reduces the cars on our roads. This would increase rail travel to communities like La Crosse, Portage and Wisconsin Dells. This would be an important first step in creating a modern, statewide rail service.

3647	4/1/2021	Are there any plans to make a designated walkway between the light rail station on University Avenue and the former Saint Paul Midway Depot?
3648	4/1/2021	Great project. I hope the planning is done in a way that makes it easier to continue to add frequency in the future. Add another round trip every few years. Also passenger rail to Madison, fox valley, GB, eau Claire should happen!
3649	4/1/2021	Along the route of tcmc I strongly believe extending the line through midway and adding a stop around Dinkytown would be beneficial not only for downtown Minneapolis residence but University of Minnesota students not to mention people Who are in a situation where it's not necessarily the most convenient for them to drive to Midway or downtown Saint Paul for public transportation
3650	4/1/2021	Yes absolutely yes. A Green Bay resident, I have been waiting since then-Gov Walker rejected funds for the already-started rail project, 9-ish years ago. I would love to park in MKE and rail travel through both neighbor states on a regular basis. What a gift this will be on my car, the environment and our state.
3651	4/1/2021	I have waiting for this since Doyle left office and Walker killed the high speed rail. I would use this service frequently to travel to Chicago, the Twin Cities, and Milwaukee from Wisconsin.
3652	4/1/2021	I strongly support the entire proposed Intercity Passenger Rail Project! I have traveled in trains in Japan, Europe as well as in the US. And I find it it appalling how poor the US rail system is. This proposed project is a small step towards improving the rail infrastructure in this country. And it is also an important step to address climate change. We need much more investments in the rail systems!
3653	4/1/2021	As an older adult with a disability with no car and I am also a member of several organizations that represent my demographic. The proposed rail project would be very helpful for all of us and we would be sure to use it! We're especially pleased that there will be stops along the way that will help others in more rural communities.
3654	4/1/2021	I'm in favor of this. But, why not a commuter train that runs the River corridor from Winona to the Twin Cities?
3655	4/1/2021	a train needs to stop in Madison, WI
3656	4/1/2021	This is a great idea. The more access we have between major cities and points along the way, the more we ease traffic on the highways and carbon pollution. I would like to see a European style rail system in the US.
3657	4/1/2021	This project will provide a long overdue improved connection between these major cities and population centers. It will a So benefit the economy of this part of the mid-west.
3658	4/1/2021	I am so happy to hear this might be coming. My daughter and family live in Minneapolis and this would be earth changing for us.

3659	4/1/2021	I am supportive of expanding mass transit opportunities between MN, WI, and IL. I have taken the Empire Builder out west and would take it to Milwaukee or Chicago as well instead of driving, flying, or taking a bus. It's important to cut down on emissions and efficient long distance mass transit is one way to do so.
3660	4/1/2021	I am excited by the prospect of more regular passenger rail service between the vibrant major cities of Milwaukee, Chicago, and Minneapolis/St. Paul and look forward to the chance to avoid long road trips to visit friends and family in all of these cities! Hopefully, with time and continued improvements to service, speed and frequency of service can be increased! (maybe even Madison could be brought into the line someday for even greater regional connectivity)
3661	4/1/2021	Running the route through Madison would dramatically increase ridership, both between Milwaukee and Madison, but also Madison and the Twin Cities. Please find the \$\$ and land rights to re-route through our major academic center. And if possible encourage the state of Minnesota to provide an efficient connection to Rochester (Mayo Clinic).
3662	4/1/2021	This would be a wonderful service if it stops in Sturtevant morning with a mid morning stop in Madison, and return service later in the day. I would use it often for doctor appointments and business at the UW. If you cannot stop in Madison, it would be good to have a shuttle service into the city. I think students, workers and medical patients would welcome this service. It would be even better if it there were 3 runs a day. Please do this ! Then publicize it so people use it!!!
3663	4/1/2021	Awesome initiative which will optimally link these three major business areas in the region by two round trips a day!! From the world of the medical products business, linking the design capabilities of Minneapolis/Minnesota with the manufacturing capabilities of Milwaukee/Wisconsin with the capital and investment capabilities of Chicago/Illinois will be a true boon to the region. again, full speed ahead!
3664	4/1/2021	helping people move efficiently and at a cost everyone could afford is a service that NEEDS to be instituted!
3665	4/1/2021	
3666	4/1/2021	I would welcome this improvement in rail service. I regularly take the Amtrak service from Milwaukee to Chicago, and I have family in the Twin Cities, and would take the train just as regularly there if there weren't significant delays. Having lived in both Europe and Australia, I've seen how rail systems can remove the need for a car. It would be wonderful if we could achieve this in the Midwest!
3667	4/1/2021	I think this is a wonderful idea! Especially with the option to visit places in between, this could boost the tourist business.
3668	4/1/2021	This connection would so help our state, especially if we have rest stops in towns w/on and off service to accomodate small children and elders. With use of automobiles adding to climate disruptions, we need to be proactive in our approach to the future.

3669	4/1/2021	Yes please! It is past due for something like this. Hopefully it will not be expensive for tickets. It will be great for our cities to be connected like that. It would be great if some day green bay was added.
3670	4/1/2021	This is a drastically needed project but should focus on providing effective transport first, not how much it costs the taxpayers. A well-exectued service could make money for both states, don't let concerns over the initial price tag stop it from happening or affect its quality. We paid Billions for a useless football stadium that only benefits wealthy property owners, we can afford more Intercity rail lines.
3671	4/1/2021	Yes! This would be amazing for Wisconsin's economy and for opportunities for all of Wisconsin no matter where they live. Connecting many parts of Wisconsin together.
3672	4/1/2021	Please, please, please consider coming through Madison or creating a link from Madison to the existing route!
3673	4/1/2021	I support these improvements as a more environmentally sustainable option for regional travel and also to make it easier for those without cars. My family would certainly take advantage of Amtrak travel on this route if it were more frequent making day trips or weekend trips easier.
3674	4/1/2021	This is a great project. My family would love more rail options to the Twin Cities and Chicago.
3675	4/1/2021	This is a great project. My family would love more rail options to the Twin Cities and Chicago.
3676	4/1/2021	Will become great added value service to Downtown, MN or Saint Paul
3677	4/1/2021	
3678	4/1/2021	I would think expanded bus service in this corridor would be less expensive and more efficient
3679	4/1/2021	I'm hoping this will get more people riding trains. The US very much needs a better passenger rail system.
3680	4/1/2021	yes, all for route from milwaukee to st paul,mn

3681	4/1/2021	<p>I support this project. I particularly appreciate your work here to serve the majority of Wisconsin's population on this project. Investing in infrastructure where the people are is the key, and this project serves cities important to Wisconsin's economy. I also appreciate that this project provides additional rail service to alleviate the demand for highway travel.</p> <p>I would like you to list the GDP contribution of the population area this project serves. That would make the economic significance and impact more clear. So please list the % of Wisconsin GDP produced by this corridor. Give the GDP % for Minnesota and Illinois also.</p> <p>The most significant benefit is one that you don't explain at all: This project forges closer ties by rail for the residents in Wisconsin along the corridor to the third-largest mega-region in the world (Bloomberg CityLab, https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-02-28/mapping-the-mega-regions-powering-the-world-s-economy). This is no small matter: global competition doesn't happen in provincial terms, but in global terms, in mega-regions that act as single economic zones extending beyond state borders. Bringing Wisconsin into the world's third-largest megaregion is a significant advantage for our economy.</p>
3682	4/1/2021	Please go forward with this it is much needed and would be used by members of my family!
3683	4/1/2021	This route is very much needed for our area and would be a boost for tourism, local resident convenience and businesses.
3684	4/1/2021	This service is very needed & has been for years. Would take it to Madison, Green Bay, & the Twin Cities. Improvements to the MKE-Chicago line too; it's slow & we got stuck once behind a freight train.
3685	4/1/2021	I support this project but I would like you to study the possibility of including Madison in the planning. A stop in Madison would increase ridership and make the finished route more useful. Thank you.
3686	4/1/2021	I support this project but I would like you to study the possibility of including Madison in the planning. A stop in Madison would increase ridership and make the finished route more useful. Thank you.
3687	4/1/2021	I very much support this expansion of the Amtrak. It will reduce highway traffic which will in turn make our roads better and last longer. I would use the new line to Green Bay and to Madison several times each year.
3688	4/1/2021	This project is very needed!! I live in South Milwaukee and have children in Chicago and lacrosse. We would utilize this often!
3689	4/1/2021	A second frequency is a useful start, although having the morning train originate in the Twin Cities, in order to have dependable timings is desirable. Three or four frequencies ought be a short-range goal, particularly if those connecting regional trains via Madison and Eau Claire become a reality. Timings more like those of the old Hiawatha and Afternoon Zephyr, with top speeds of 110-125 mph ought be longer range goals.

3690	4/1/2021	My wife and I are all for this service expansion. We are regular users of AMTRAK. Our family has traveled many routes including the Empire Builder from MKE to Seattle and back. It would be sweet to route train through Madison if possible, but understand route is on established track. WE WANT HIGHSPEED RAIL TO MADISON TOO! The train Walker killed should be resuscitated.
3691	4/1/2021	Add Madison station
3692	4/1/2021	I wish to express my support for the Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail Project. Improving on-time performance, adding more opportunities for travel, and interconnecting with other modes of travel will all make this service much more useful to patrons.
3693	4/1/2021	This should have happened years ago! We need more than one arrival and departure to and from Minneapolis a day.
3694	4/1/2021	I believe it would be great to add a stop in the Village of Elm Grove , WI downtown area. This stop would be able to service the west area of Milwaukee County and the SE area of Waukesha County communities as high residential growth is projected. This stop would also give easy access to bus services and other transportation such as bicycles, walking with great connections to the Hank Aaron trail , Bluemound Road, Watertown Plank, and the freeway to either I 94 or I 41
3695	4/2/2021	My wife and I support increased passenger service in Western Wisconsin. We are recently retired and would take a train if we could rather than drive. We live in the Chippewa Valley and would enjoy traveling to the Twin Cities at off hours.
3696	4/2/2021	
3697	4/2/2021	I think it will make travel more accessible to Chicago.
3698	4/2/2021	It is absolutely ludicrous that this proposed route would not go through Madison. Connecting the two largest cities in the state would be a huge service to commuters and travelers while cutting down on emissions.
3699	4/2/2021	I think this would give even more opportunity to give people safe, environmentally friendly travel
3700	4/2/2021	Improving train service between Milwaukee and the Twin Cities is long overdue! Adding a 2nd route with additional times of departure and arrival will increase ridership, provided that track built or added will enable on-time service. It will also decrease cars on the road. This cannot come soon enough!
3701	4/2/2021	I'm in support of rail infrastructure investments, and enjoy taking the train when traveling near existing stations.
3702	4/2/2021	Would love to have this service especially if we could include a stop in Oconomowoc or Watertown.
3703	4/2/2021	I am for this, wish it happened a few years ago...

3704	4/2/2021	Why not connect Madison? Connecting Madison will greatly improve not only the daily life for commuting Wisconsin citizens, but also tourism and travel to the capital. It will also help emission levels, wear and tear on the roads, and less traffic accidents (particularly in winter) because of less road use. Not to mention help promote business between the two biggest cities in Wisconsin. I'm not from Wisconsin, but have family that lives there and would visit much more often if there was a stop in Madison. I think a stop in Madison will be a major help to the small businesses after the struggles they have faced during the pandemic.
3705	4/2/2021	I understand that rail service to Madison is not within the scope of this project, although I am eager to see it happen in the future. Nevertheless, I feel like for this service to be successful, there needs to be reliable bus connections to the Madison area. Currently the plan includes a bus connection to the station in Columbus but I feel like a route to Portage would also be useful in order to ensure a reliable connection, especially in the case of rail or road delays.
3706	4/2/2021	Really excited to get a second train running on this route. Can mean less car trips for us to visit family in IL and MN. Good for all three states. All for it!
3707	4/2/2021	Yes. I am for it
3708	4/2/2021	I am not in favor of this if it can't have a route through Madison. It is the state capital and 2nd largest city in Wisconsin.
3709	4/2/2021	Appreciated the Empire builder since 2001- between Columbus and the Twin Cities- ride several times a year to see family. Met some wonderful people, read books, enjoyed scenery. Can't wait to ride again post Covid
3710	4/2/2021	Why does the route not include Madison?
3711	4/2/2021	This is the optimal route, serving 3 States & Region. Benefits: Reviving Rail Travel, Righting the Wrongs caused by Automotive & Trucking Industries; Economic; Environmental; Accessibility; Reliability; Socializing and Viewing Mississippi River to name a few. My family will celebrate TCMC's completion vacationing along the entire route. We'll tour big Cities, Small Towns, Countryside & Attractions. We'll visit family and friends.
3712	4/2/2021	This is a fantastic plan I fully support. In addition I think we should add tolls on Wisconsin highways between Milw & Chicago and Milw through to Minn to supplement the cost of the highways and it would further promote the rail system as a more economical option.
3713	4/2/2021	Wisconsin's Capital city, Madison, absolutely must have a rail stop included in this route.
3714	4/2/2021	The train from Madison, Wisconsin to O'Hare Airport would be great... since most international flights go through O'Hare... Also, Madison, Wisconsin to Downtown Chicago... since all the embassies are in Chicago (for getting Visas to travel)
3715	4/2/2021	Why doesn't this go through Madison? Seems like a huge oversight.
3716	4/2/2021	This needs to go through Madison.

3717	4/2/2021	I believe that rail service between Eau Claire and Minneapolis/St. Paul would be a valuable addition to the quality of life for people in Western WI. It would open up a whole new work environment for many and bring the economic advantages associated with a larger metropolitan area. Rail service is also in line with a more green and sustainable economy for the area!
3718	4/2/2021	I strongly support this project. As a long time and frequent rider of the train between Milwaukee and Chicago, I see the many individual and collective benefits of traveling by train. I would use the new service if it became available.
3719	4/2/2021	I strongly support this plan. It will be great for the local economy.
3720	4/2/2021	I fully support this expansion and would use it often! Madison to Minneapolis and also to Milwaukee. Need a station closer to Madison.
3721	4/2/2021	This is welcome news for one who has age-related driving problems.
3722	4/2/2021	I am in favor of and would definitely use the service you are proposing. One crowded train a day to Minneapolis is shockingly inadequate. I live in Milwaukee area and enjoy traveling to La Crosse and Winona.
3723	4/2/2021	So, who is going to pay to reinstall the track, which was once double, between Vermillion, MN and Pewaukee WI? The Milwaukee Road removed the second track when I-94 took all the freight and passenger traffic away back in the 1960's. I asked the Wisconsin DOT who would pay to put the track back in and the answer wasn't CP Rail. So, guess who will pay for it? Guess? This will be an issue and needs to be brought up now. Didn't CP just buy the KCS for 29 billion? Gotta hold these Class 1's feet to the fire for performance since they are one root cause we don't have decent passenger train travel in this country.
3724	4/2/2021	Great, go for it. Well worth the money. Gas is not going to be cheap forever and we need additional forms of transportation.
3725	4/2/2021	I'm happy to see that this project appears ready to move. I have been hoping for more options to take the train at more convenient times from and back to the Twin Cities for many years. My biggest concern is just that there should be more service. I really hope that we go beyond just two daily trains, and have trips running several times per day. It would also be nice from a Twin Cities perspective to have a [quote]local[quote] train that runs along the river down to Winona or La Crosse and stops in several of the smaller communities that don't currently have stations.

3726	4/2/2021	<p>I'm a regular (6-8 round trips a year) between Saint Paul and either La Crosse or Chicago and have often wanted an increased frequency on the Empire Builder route. My trips to La Crosse are primarily leisure, where I stay at the Charmant Hotel and eat in local restaurants in walking distance of the hotel. Increased service will only improve the logistics for my getaways to La Crosse. The increased frequency will also let me better consider getaways to Milwaukee.</p> <p>I assume that this work will also improve on-time performance between Chicago and Saint Paul, which is needed in order to make the route viable for more business travelers. I have a very hard time getting colleagues to take the train instead of flying because the on-time performance is so poor.</p>
3727	4/2/2021	I would like to see rail service to Madison, WI. This is the capital of our state and much business is conducted there. It would cut down on carbon emissions if people took the train instead of driving.
3728	4/2/2021	<p>I take the Milwaukee-Chicago (Hiawatha) RT several times a year. I would love to have the same opportunity to travel to St. Paul.</p> <p>Thanks, Jim LaCharite, Fox Point, WI 414-731-7754</p>
3729	4/2/2021	Very enthused about this project and urge that it be undertaken. Single service (once daily) between Chicago and the Twin Cities is insufficient in light of the level of interest and desired use. I have used this service and would use it more with improved availability and more convenient timing. Thank you.
3730	4/2/2021	As someone who lived in MA and took the train to NYC or even down the DC, I wish we had a similar option in MN. I fully support this and think that it would increase my interest in taking the train.
3731	4/2/2021	This is a great project. I wish it would stop in Madison but it appears that Amtrak is working on making another similar route that does stop in Madison. This is a very important connection and I'm happy to see the upgrade of the service.
3732	4/2/2021	<p>Yes, PLEASE DO proceed with the TCMC Passenger Rail Project.</p> <p>I'm nearly 70 yrs old, and have used this stretch of the Empire Builder many times. We have relatives near Milwaukee and in Chicago, and, as we get older, especially appreciate not having to drive. In addition to avoiding the drive, we want to support carbon reduction efforts. Furthermore, like many folks, we enjoy train travel.</p> <p>It does get tiresome when we have to sit and wait for freight trains to go by, or arrival of the train at the St. Cloud depot is hours late because of delays getting out of Seattle or Portland. So the improvements you have planned, as well as the exciting proposals that might get funding through the American Jobs Program, sound fantastic to us. Thank you!!! This is exactly the kind of thing our taxes are for!</p>
3733	4/2/2021	This would be amazing I hope this happens!

3734	4/2/2021	This is vital to our economy and ability to travel. Please proceed! We could really use a stop in Madison. We used to have one, years ago and it is missed. The Columbus station is so far from our capital that no one I know EVER uses it.
3735	4/2/2021	Yes! The benefits to the environment and the convenience for people with and without cars would be tremendous. I would also like to see Madison included in this project.
3736	4/2/2021	Please include a stop in Madison.
3737	4/2/2021	I view this project as long overdue. Despite the obvious projected needs and benefits of passenger rail service, private companies that already own the interstate rail corridors see little economic incentive to divert any attention from a much more lucrative freight transporting business. It is unfortunate that a government of the people funding a project for the people must deal with opposition from companies that would not exist without a history of government support. Being from the Madison area, I am particularly sensitive to GOP interference in public works projects that they view as competing with status quo market-driven transportation systems.
3738	4/2/2021	I would be more willing to take this 2nd train than the EB, because it would have a better chance of being on time.
3739	4/2/2021	This would be great! Please do it!
3740	4/2/2021	I fully support a train line from Chicago to the Twin Cities. I would use it frequently and it would be good for the economy if every city on the route.
3741	4/2/2021	As an avid Amtrak rider and despiser of freeway traffic/long mindless drives from Milwaukee to Minneapolis, this project is very exciting. Myself, a 30 year old female, and many of my peers look forward to a future where train travel is more easily accessible, reliable, and efficient. Connecting cities through rail is an amazing undertaking and one that I am proud to support.
3742	4/2/2021	This is a very valuable improvement. Will it connect with airports?
3743	4/2/2021	My partner will soon be moving to attend law school in either Milwaukee, Madison, or Minneapolis and having a larger variety of service times would be beneficial. Working second shift, I'd miss the majority of the evening times.
3744	4/2/2021	Additional service along the Milwaukee-Chicago route would allow me to use the train to visit Chicago more often. The schedule has kept me from using the train as I would have been stuck in Chicago for several hours longer than anticipated. I would prefer to take the train to Chicago as the cost of parking and tolls are very high.
3745	4/2/2021	Having lived in Eau Claire since 1988, we have seen the city grow and prosper, especially during the last ten years. More and more residents of the Chippewa Valley, including my wife and me, would love to see a viable passenger rail connection between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities. We are willing to pay a fair price in terms of fares and taxes. It is high time to reduce the heavy automobile traffic along Interstate 94.

3746	4/3/2021	I would support increased service IF daily schedules can be met. To have hours long delays due to commercial rail traffic steered me away from using Amtrak between Columbus and Glendale. Also parking availability is another concern, both for availability and safety.
3747	4/3/2021	Wisconsin needs modern rail service that connects rural and urban areas while providing transportation options that reduces the cars on our roads.
3748	4/3/2021	This project is desperately needed and long overdue. We need multiple trains a day to and from Minneapolis Winona, La Crosse, Madison, and Chicago.
3749	4/3/2021	I strongly support the expansion of Amtrak service between Chicago and the Twin Cities, along the Empire Builder route. This would make it easier and more feasible for people to travel between these two cities without having to use their cars, thus saving wear and tear on our roads and also reducing carbon emissions. Please support this project.
3750	4/3/2021	This is a clear win for the Midwest and should be funded and green lit immediately. Bolstering our country's infrastructure with a strong rail transit system will help clear traffic congestion, open both intra and interstate economic opportunities, and greatly reduce carbon emissions. Not to mention riding on a train is awesome. This country was literally built on a strong rail system. The degradation of it in favor of highways has ruined communities and divided us as people. Please fund this.
3751	4/3/2021	Yes, I would be highly interesting in riding this route from MKE to Minneapolis. It would add a great deal of tourism to both MKE and Minneapolis with the ability to travel to each city without the dependency of a car. Thank you!
3752	4/3/2021	This venture is a must for this city! It will allow additional streams of income for the state. U have traveled in many countries outside the USA and wondered when this country was houg to get with the 21st-century!
3753	4/3/2021	The more rail service we have, the less cars we have on the road. And more visitors to these cities means economic boosts for local businesses.
3754	4/3/2021	Although I live in Michigan, I have taken the train to meetings and events in several locations along the TCMC route: Milwaukee, Columbus, Portage, Wisconsin Dells and both St. Paul and Minneapolis. Having a second frequency and the greater reliability would certainly make any future trips to the places along the route, particularly Red Wing, much more attractive to me. As a passionate supporter of passenger trains as an efficient, equitable, and climate-friendly mode of travel, I applaud the efforts of the people of Wisconsin and Minnesota to advance this project. That the infrastructure improvements needed will also greatly benefit the freight rail industry strikes me as a no-brainer in terms of implementing this project. I hope the remaining funding will be forthcoming soon from the Minnesota legislature. I hope to be among the first travelers aboard when the service is launched!

3755	4/3/2021	I grew up in LaCrosse, waiting sometimes many hours for the train to finally arrive. Most of us love train travel. Certainly, commuters want expanded rail service. Unfortunately, an uninformed governor and legislature stopped the construction of rail cars in Milwaukee and expansion of rail service. What an investment that would have been. We know the many benefits of expanding three state service for busines as well as pleasure and convenience. Taking more cars off our roads and saving energy costs while promoting our businesses is a win-win situation.
3756	4/3/2021	As frequent rider of current Westbound Empire Builder(EB) from MKE to WIN/ Winona MN en route to Mayo Clinic-Rochester. EB misses out now & you may too by not taking on a jog at Winona to Rochester. Formerly the Winona Stop/Station was the #2 used in state of Minnesota; but ridership dropped since Amtrak removed active/live staffing of Winona Stop around 2017/18. I guess what would differentiate this newest train is speed. Imagine current tracks/railbeds will require reinforcing as this span of existing track has never been used as Hi-Speed Rail.
3757	4/3/2021	please get the faster trains... Please have a stop at the Chicago O'Hare airport from Madison to O'Hare to downtown Chicago. Tens of thousands of Wisconsin college students need to get from Madison to the airport... the traffic from Madison to the Chicago airport is extremely high. UW-Madison has over 10,000 International students if you count both the undergrad and graduate students and postdocs.
3758	4/3/2021	Please make Madison, WI a stop
3759	4/3/2021	A second train between Twin Cities-Chicago would be a great restoration toward decent train service for the region. On-time service would be more predictable (as opposed to frequent delays on full, long-haul Empire Builder route), which would allow for passengers' assured scheduling of connections, activities and business. Opportunities for tourism to Twin Cities, Wisconsin Dells, Chicago would be expanded. Travel convenience for those not able to drive or fly would be enhanced. If a connecting bus to Madison is included in schedule, college students will benefit. I suggest that next step after this is addition of a third train, an overnight between Chicago and Twin Cities, to help capture business and day trip tourism; would be a logical enhancement. That way, a person could sleep during travel, spend day at destination, and sleep coming back, arriving refreshed. The Empire Builder is great for college students, passing by many colleges and universities. Train is more comfortable than bus, allowing for study, sleep, socializing. Only wish Madison were a direct connection.
3760	4/3/2021	We have often wanted to use this rail service, but the service is so limited, it never worked for us. A second daily route would greatly improve access to this service. Thank you
3761	4/3/2021	JUST DO IT.

3762	4/3/2021	<p>Born and raised in St. Paul and having lived in Milwaukee for nearly 10 years now, I am grateful and appreciative of this project and overall 100% supportive. We need another rail option.</p> <p>The reasons cited in the presentation are without question.</p> <p>However, this outcome of this project does not go far enough. Simply put, as long as driving a personal automobile or riding bus from Milwaukee to St. Paul remains roughly 5 hours, the appeal of the current rail offering will continue to be a distant 3rd option to driving and/or flying.</p> <p>I realize high-speed rail is not only expensive, requires a completely separate track and comes with loads of bureaucratic red-tape but with the recent Biden infrastructure bill, to me, now seems like the time to think BIGGER, BOLDER and secure funding for a high-speed rail project.</p> <p>If the triad of DOTs can capitalize on the current collaboration, partnership and additional infrastructure funding... what is stopping us?</p> <p>I would, respectfully, challenge this triad of DOTs to propose a project that cuts the current travel times via rail in HALF with a high-speed rail project.</p> <p>... and if that type of project has already studied, analyzed and presented, let's revisit it with the same marketing campaign currently being used on this project.</p> <p>Personally, I would welcome the opportunity to help promote/advocate such a project.</p>
3763	4/3/2021	
3764	4/3/2021	<p>Why on earth would you skip Madison on that route?</p> <p>If this is not High Speed rail then do not do it. There is zero benefit to slow rail. If there was high speed rail from Madison to Minneapolis and/or Milwaukee I would take it frequently as I am a sales manager that needs to call on customers in both cities. The time savings and ability to do computer work while in transit would be valuable to anyone that travels frequently like my self. Would also expand rural areas ability to work in cities from further distances, thus improving the quality of life and property values of rural Wisconsinites.</p>
3765	4/3/2021	<p>I am so excited that there may be a second train from Milwaukee to St. Paul! It would make it so much easier to visit my family!</p>
3766	4/3/2021	<p>I feel that adding a second train to the Chicago - Minneapolis/St. Paul corridor would be an added boon for tourism, as well as an improvement to existing transportation. The Empire Builder is a good service, but it's long distance run regularly puts the eastbound section behind schedule, discouraging riders. Milwaukee, the Wisconsin Dells and the Mississippi River valley are great draws for tourism and improving rail service would make them more appealing and accessible to people who don't drive.</p>

3767	4/3/2021	I travel a lot between Chicago and Milwaukee, and occasionally between Milwaukee and LaCrosse, and Milwaukee and Saint Paul. The addition of a second route would be great! I definitely would travel by train more than by my personal car. Please add this service!
3768	4/3/2021	We need good, comprehensive commuter rail so that everyone doesn't have to have a car. Cars, insurance, gas, and repairs are too expensive for many people, especially students, young adults, and those in economically-depressed areas. We need rail service like in Europe where you can get everywhere on public transportation. Reducing the need for cars is also absolutely necessary to combat climate change. Please expand rail service so that transportation stops discriminating against those who can't afford a car!
3769	4/3/2021	expand service between chicago and twin cities
3770	4/3/2021	Frequency is the most important component of any rail passenger service because it allows travelers options to choose departure times. This service provides the additional options this corridor has always needed under Amtrak, which at various times throughout its 50 year history has had at least two daily round trips. Another round-trip will strengthen both trains, and the infrastructure improvements will help freight movement when the passenger trains aren't running.. I fail to see why there are any rational grounds for opposition by the Minnesota legislators who don't want to fund a \$10 million match.
3771	4/3/2021	Without adding new stops not already served, this proposal falls short of solving any problem. This is a huge fiscal burden upon the states that already have budgetary struggles, without showing any meaningful gain or value for the taxpayers. Perhaps Amtrak and the states should focus on expanding seating capacity for the existing Empire Builder, instead of adding a whole second trainset.
3772	4/3/2021	Add a stop to Madison WI please.
3773	4/4/2021	Add a stop to madison
3774	4/4/2021	I am a La Crosse senior citizen who has taken Amtrak from La Crosse to Milwaukee and to Glenview, IL. My husband and I used to drive, but are finding it more difficult as we age. Getting elderly drivers off the interstate is safer, too. We feel others like us would love to travel by Amtrak, but we need more service. Now there is only one train per day arriving and departing La Crosse.
3775	4/4/2021	Please consider adding a stop in Milwaukee and/or Rochester.
3776	4/4/2021	
3777	4/4/2021	A great idea. I wish it could expand to include a route to Madison.
3778	4/4/2021	I think any improvement we can do to public transportation in this state is a good idea. We need to create better options for people to travel in ways that are more energy efficient than automobiles. Until people have a variety of options (times and department points) to choose from, they won't use rail.

3779	4/4/2021	<p>As a member of Citizen Action of Wisconsin, a long time resident of Wisconsin and a person who watched as Scott Walker cancelled high speed rail out of Milwaukee to Madison and I believe that Wisconsin needs modern rail service that connects rural and urban areas while providing transportation options that reduces the cars on our roads. In 1966, I road passenger service from West Bend to Norfolk, VA. It was really in decline at that time, but it worked well for me. While stationed in European countries, Japan and other nations about that time, I road rail systems and commutors many times. They were great and a service to their countries and the passengers who road them. A lot of people used the trains and avoided contributing to global climate change. We need to do the same.</p> <p>Right now the Wisconsin DOT is considering expanding daily rail service between Chicago and Minneapolis. That route currently operates once a day, the proposal would increase service to twice a day. This would increase rail travel to communities like La Crosse, Portage and Wisconsin Dells and add additional service to Milwaukee. I would ride that service and hope it would later expand.</p> <p>This would be an important first step in creating a modern, statewide rail service. I urge you to plan and support this project.</p>
3780	4/4/2021	<p>Citizen Action of Wisconsin believes that Wisconsin needs modern rail service that connects rural and urban areas while providing transportation options that reduces the cars on our roads.</p> <p>Right now the Wisconsin DOT is considering expanding daily rail service between Chicago and Minneapolis. That route currently operates once a day, the proposal would increase service to twice a day. This would increase rail travel to communities like La Crosse, Portage and Wisconsin Dells and add additional service to Milwaukee.</p> <p>This would be an important first step in creating a modern, statewide rail service.</p>
3781	4/4/2021	An Amtrak station is needed in Kenosha, mainly for the Chicago-Milwaukee trains
3782	4/4/2021	Should have been done long ago! Let's look to the future, folks!
3783	4/4/2021	Please include stop at Kenosha.
3784	4/4/2021	Add a stop near Madison and Milwaukee
3785	4/4/2021	Add Madison as a stop
3786	4/4/2021	<p>I am highly in favor of this proposal. I believe more rail lines should be developed for public transport, ie Milwaukee, Cedarburg, Green Bay, Milwaukee,, Madison, Wausau, Eau Claire. Public transport if done correctly, could help reduce the number of cars on the road thereby reducing air pollution.</p>

3787	4/4/2021	This is a very exciting project and I'm thrilled to see Wisconsin investing in infrastructure for our state. The impact of a project like this for our business community is huge and I think that this will also provide an easy way for Wisconsinites to travel between several wonderful Midwestern cities and towns.
3788	4/4/2021	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I have ridden the Milwaukee to La Crosse route a few times over the last 10+ years. My opinion is that the service and conditions have gotten worse over that time.</p> <p>Yes, when you buy a ticket, you buy one ticket for one seat and that is all you should expect. However, I find the train cars stuffed (packed) with passengers, usually sleeping or trying to sleep. I know we don't ride the train for a high-class experience, but I find the ambience quite off putting.</p> <p>I would think that adding two or three extra cars would not cost that much and would help improve the riders experience.</p> <p>I am sure it was difficult for Amtrak employees during the last four years where public servants were under appreciated and devalued. However, my interactions with the train staff were at times goofy. I would ask a simple question only to find I had irritated the staff person. I am assuming these are really good people who need to feel appreciated from the top. Maybe better hours, more sleep or a little training. I would get on the train in Sturtevant, WI if I could then go thru to La Crosse. Actually I have done that but then I have to wait for 2+ hours in Milwaukee for another train; and that train came thru Sturtevant but did not stop.</p> <p>Adding a second round trip daily, as I have heard discussed would be welcome. I would like to go to Detroit Lakes, MN but it arrives there and leaves there in the middle of the night.</p> <p>Another thing that makes NO sense is that freight trains having right of way. I know you need God or someone to act to change that, but how many good plans have been ruined by these freight trains.</p> <p>I wish you the greatest of good speed with this. We can not keep adding new lanes and new cars ad infinitum.</p> <p>In China they have thousands of miles of high speed rail service and in the U.S.A. we have none. What an embarrassment.</p>
3789	4/4/2021	Please open the line from Milwaukee to Eau Claire as soon as possible. Eau Claire is about the same distance from Saint Paul as Milwaukee is from Chicago. Eau Claire is the North West commerce hub of Wisconsin. Eau Claire is one of the top 10 cities to live in, in the nation. It is a progressive and growing city. It needs the rail line to go through it; to continue to grow.
3790	4/4/2021	
3791	4/4/2021	Yes, please go forward with these plans! Very exciting and way overdue!
3792	4/4/2021	I live in the Madison, WI area and can access the proposed added train trips between Chicago and St. Paul from the Columbus depot. My destination would be St. Paul, where I have relatives. Adding an additional route would increase the chances of me using this service.
3793	4/4/2021	
3794	4/5/2021	I live in Madison but need to commute to Chicago once a week. I would like to take the train so I fully support improving rail service. Adding a station in Madison too would be great if possible!

3795	4/5/2021	Add stop in Madison Wisconsin. Plenty of folks who'd use it and don't have easy access to cars, a stop in the city/on bus line would be best. And LOVE the expansion plan.
3796	4/5/2021	Much needed especially for seniors, students, disabled, etc.
3797	4/5/2021	This line should go through Madison. Madison - the rapidly growing, second largest city in the state – and surrounding parts of Dane County are the most economically vibrant parts of Wisconsin. It would thus be a huge mistake not to include it on the main line from Chicago to Saint Paul. Madison is also strongly progressive and hence its residents are very likely to be supportive of rail travel and add substantially to use of the route. The plain fact of the matter is that access to Amtrak via the Columbia station has been available for decades ... and virtually no one from Madison uses it. Just way too far. This will not change with the improved line. The line MUST go through Madison in order to have a significant effect.
3798	4/5/2021	I lived in East Asia for many years. Building this rail (through Madison) will bring us up to standard of 1970's Korea. They had a passenger railway since the 1870s. Now, they have high speed rail going ~250 mph. I wish we could have that. When are we getting high speed rail? ***A rail from Madison to Chicago O'Hare airport and to downtown Chicago would be great!
3799	4/5/2021	People from Madison, Wisconsin are likely to use this the most, especially if there is a line that goes straight to Chicago O'Hare airport. Many of us use the O'Hare airport for work.
3800	4/5/2021	Please add a stop in Madison
3801	4/5/2021	I like that rail is getting more attention. Easier access to Milwaukee, Chicago, and Minneapolis is amazing. I really, really, really would love to have rail support connecting to Madison. I would use the rail regularly if it stopped in Madison.
3802	4/5/2021	Railway transport is the future! Strongly support this. Madison wi stop will allow many bus connections north too.
3803	4/5/2021	This would be a amazing to have more opportunities for work, vacation, universities, support other WI counties, and encourage others from Chicago and Minnesota to do the same for Milwaukee.
3804	4/5/2021	As a regular rider on the Hiawatha, I can testify that Amtrak service in Wisconsin frees up our highways for people who genuinely need to drive, making their commute safer and more efficient.
3805	4/5/2021	In the past, we repeatedly used Amtrak to visit our daughter in Minneapolis. Traveling via Amtrak was restful, lovely, and quite affordable. Unfortunately, the return trip to Milwaukee using the Empire Builder traveling from West to East was totally unreliable! The train was regularly delayed hours or more. On one occasion a replacement bus drove back roads and meandered through the countryside slowly winding it ways east to Milwaukee. Now, we avoid riding Amtrak. It was just too unreliable. A dependable rail service, with this addition train every day, would be wonderful!

3806	4/5/2021	As a frequent traveler to la crosse & Minneapolis this would be great! As of now we don't take the train as much because it requires us to overnight in Chicago to get back home to Port Huron Michigan. Fingers crossed.
3807	4/5/2021	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am not only in favor of having the additional rail service, I believe it is a necessity and would be a JOY as well. Many of us would prefer to travel by train more than ANY OTHER form of transportation. Seemingly, an important aspect of this proposal should definitely include the addition of adding tracks so that the passenger trains would not have to 'wayside' to allow the freight trains to get their deliveries done. I wonder if this could be any part of President Biden's Transportation Bill?</p> <p>I am a huge fan of the Empire Builder from WA to CHI in a sleeper car then on to DC in a sleeper car. It is HEAVEN. Being able to go from MPLS to CHI and back in one day would also be fantastic!</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>An Avid Rail Customer</p>
3808	4/5/2021	I support implementation of the TCMC project. The project will improve reliability and scheduling flexibility for travelers along the existing Amtrak route connecting Chicago, Milwaukee, and the Twin Cities.
3809	4/5/2021	I am a resident of the Minneapolis St Paul metro with family in Milwaukee. I am glad to hear there is another option as an alternative to driving or flying to Milwaukee. I am in favor of this rail improvement. I am however interested in a high speed rail option that improves upon the maximum of 75 miles per hour this track can handle. I think it would be good to capitalize on the post COVID-19 stimulus to prioritize a high speed rail link. between Minneapolis and Chicago. High speed rail has shown to be beneficial in lengths like this, because it has the potential to be faster than flying given security checks and early arrival. In addition the environmental benefits to electrified high speed rail over flying are high. As far as infrastructure in St. Paul, increased parking at Union depot would be good, the parking is scarce and comes with a cost. Adding more parking and making it cheaper would be nice.
3810	4/5/2021	I would love to have Madison on this route.
3811	4/5/2021	
3812	4/5/2021	This is a great idea!! I'd love a stop in Madison too.
3813	4/5/2021	Strongly support this, would prefer more service if possible. I hope that there are improvements beyond just adding another train as well, adding capacity and speed improvements would be wonderful too.
3814	4/5/2021	Please include a stop/station in Madison, Wisconsin. Thank you.

3815	4/5/2021	<p>We travel between Milwaukee and St. Paul frequently and use the current Amtrak service very infrequently due to it's inconvenient arrive time in St. Paul, and inconvenient and often unpredictable departure time from St. Paul. The proposed daily second round trip would result in our using Amtrak service much more often. Furthermore, the La Crosse area track improvements should result in better on time performance of both the Empire Builder and any additional service which will encourage increased usage of the trains.</p> <p>We whole heartedly support this project and will use it if it comes into being.</p> <p>Richard & Jane Gorton, Racine</p>
3816	4/5/2021	I live in Madison and have family in the Twin Cities, I would love to use the train to go back and forth. Of course I would love even more if one of the daily's could run thru Madison.
3817	4/5/2021	As a retired person living rurally, I anticipate using the train to experience city offerings - particularly cultural and sporting events. I also anticipate using it to visit relatives and to do holiday shopping in a bigger venue. I am not as comfortable driving in a big city as I used to be so welcome a safer option to travel there.
3818	4/5/2021	This is a great idea! There is clearly demand for more rail service in Wisconsin, and all the stops along the line will benefit from more trains and passengers, both economically and for the people who travel there. Would love to see higher speeds and new, smoother rails if possible in certain sections.
3819	4/6/2021	All in favor of this. Hope it happens. Would a station in Waukesha County — Brookfield, Delafield make sense? Otherwise it's downtown or almost Madison. Lotta people between those two points.
3820	4/6/2021	Would welcome passenger rail from Kenosha to Minnesota.
3821	4/6/2021	A passenger train stop in Madison would be a great addition to the city.
3822	4/6/2021	Majorly in favor of a second train between Minneapolis and Shitcago. Great way to further open up these cities to access from rural Wisconsin. Yes. yes. yes.
3823	4/6/2021	add Madison, WI as a stop
3824	4/6/2021	I often take the train from the Wisconsin Dells to the Twin Cities or Chicago for a variety of reasons. Access to an additional train would be wonderful!
3825	4/6/2021	We feel that adding a second, daily round-trip passenger rail service along the TCMC corridor would bring economic growth to the cities, communities and counties along the path. The State of Wisconsin would benefit from this improvement, because it opens up more options for all people to visit our State.
3826	4/6/2021	As someone who travels to and from Chicago, this is a great alternative to flying. As a tax payer, I think this is great, I'm looking forward to improved service.
3827	4/6/2021	Please expand to include a stop in Madison.

3828	4/6/2021	I think it an excellent idea to expand train coverage in the TCMC intercity corridor. I have previously traveled between Milwaukee and Chicago on the Hiawatha service; I experienced outstanding service each trip. I would very much like to see the Twin Cities and other rail stops on this corridor receive an extra train(s).
3829	4/6/2021	A second train between the Twin Cities and Chicago offset the first by 6 hours, will be an exponential passenger multiplier for passenger traffic between the two cities. The current single train a day east and west is merely a lifeline to keep passenger rail from atrophying completely. I strong believe the second train each way will make the TCMC corridor a really usable business commercial corridor, a great change from the current single train a day recreational train market. But most importantly to make this a reliable business travel connection, there has to a train that begins its start east exactly in the Twin Cities. the East bound trains from Seattle and Portland face many weather hazards before they arrive in Minnesota. I think the current on time rating of Amtrak is less then 50%, and this is due primarily to train delays originating out West. With a TCMC consist originating in the Twin Cites, schedule reliability will reach 95% and this will attract business travels for the first time. And with business travelers coming on board, there will be a new possible source of passenger revenue in a new business class seating that can be sold to this new moneyed class of TCMC passenger traveler!
3830	4/7/2021	
3831	4/7/2021	Reading the 2015 feasibility report, there were three possible time tables provided for both east and westbound trains. Has any one time table been agreed upon as being the best or have any other timetables been submitted?
3832	4/7/2021	This whole thing is completely wrong. Seven and half hours one way? Whatever happen to the concept of high-speed rail? Why isn't Madison connected directly? I feel that a beautiful opportunity is being overlooked. Bring back the Madison-Milwaukee-Chicago high speed rail.
3833	4/7/2021	Tourism is the lifeblood of the businesses in the Wisconsin Dells/Lake Delton area. Additional rail service to the area ensures anyone looking for alternate travel options have the ability to visit with out a personal vehicle. Please consider adding this additional route in support of State tourism.
3834	4/7/2021	We need to include Madison in this route!
3835	4/7/2021	I'm in favor of this service expansion and would use it three times a year to Chicago and Milwaukee. Consider extending the service to St. Cloud MN (SCD) when the Northstar Passenger Rail service is extended from Target Field in Minneapolis to St Cloud MN.
3836	4/7/2021	Madison needs to be a stop on this line! Somewhere easily accessible by bike and bus!
3837	4/7/2021	we are in favor of you plans - we would like to suggest that you add an additional station in Watertown as there is a large population that is currently not served by rail as there is no stop between Columbus and Milwaukee.

3838	4/7/2021	I am very interested in expanding the presence of rail, specifically in Watertown. As there are no stops from Milwaukee to Columbus, I feel the rail is underutilized. A good portion of Watertown residents would be interested in using rail to visit the different stops. The rail stop in Watertown would benefit many, including the community, the businesses, as well as the other cities with stops that Amtrak currently has on the line.
3839	4/7/2021	Please add this route! With the timing of the existing trip from Milwaukee to the Twin Cities, which arrives in the Cities after 10 pm, it's difficult for my elderly mother to use the train to visit us here in MKE. She has a hard time driving at night, and would have to do so to get herself home from the station after a trip to see us in Milwaukee.
3840	4/7/2021	Please make this happen! I am Town Chair in West Point, a town in the southwestern corner of Columbia County. Columbia County has 3 Amtrak Stations. It also suffers from inadequate transit, too few opportunities for workers without autos to get to and from work safely and even fewer options for those without vehicles to travel further distances. Two residents in West Point sold their homes and moved away because of the lack of transit opportunities. Ed, one of them, a former member of the board of directors for an active Scouting group, used Amtrak frequently. But he had to time his trips carefully as the limited service made connections difficult, even impossible. Additionally daily service would alleviate some of that. Personally, my oldest son travels home from Milwaukee using Amtrak. He finds other services to get back because of current service constraints. The additional train set heading east from St. Paul would help him out a great deal.
3841	4/7/2021	This project would be a good way to help decrease road traffic. This could get people more on board with public transport and make it more timely and user friendly.
3842	4/7/2021	Yes, please! More high-speed rail is forward-thinking and will help the upper Midwest be ready for the inevitable growth in the face of climate migration.
3843	4/8/2021	TCCM needs a second daily round-trip passenger service. Planning for the future expansion of Amtrak through current funding but importantly to collaborate with efforts to place more rail stops with better passenger station facilities on the routes of the future is essential. This would tie communities along the routes together and earmark properties for improvement. Ideally a system would develop for daily commutes by [quote]fast[quote] routes with fewer stops while also establishing other [quote]slower[quote] routes with multiple stops during the day or evening in the European style for tourists and passengers that want to explore [quote]off the beaten path[quote]. Funding for such systems is coming. That vision now for the TCCM is not only common sense, it would provide public benefits including jobs in the near future.
3844	4/8/2021	Increased frequency usually reduces the required subsidy per seat mile but increases the total dollars of required subsidy
3845	4/8/2021	This train is a wonderful idea. I hope the Amtrak parking lot is improved.

3846	4/8/2021	As local ordinances limiting train speeds have been struct down a number of years back, the infrastructure improvements in the Winona area should increase the train speeds through that municipality from the present 30 MPH speed restriction for all trains to at least 40 MPH for freight trains and 45 MPH for passenger trains. This will be especially helpful if the goal of a 7 hr 30 min schedule between Chicago and St. Paul is to be realized and maintained on a consistent basis.
3847	4/8/2021	Please add a second daily round trip passenger rail service on the Empire Builder between Chicago and Minneapolis. Of course I would love to see the track improved east of Chicago. I took the train to Erie PA a couple of years ago and the tracks were in dismal state of repair. Of course I would love to see the train stop in Madison , Wisconsin also. You are missing a big group of people who would be loyal riders.
3848	4/8/2021	I'd love for Madison, WI to be a stop.
3849	4/8/2021	Add a spur from Madison to Columbus or other spot on route. Very strange that Wisconsin's capital and second largest city has no passenger railroad access. Bring back railroad access from Madison.
3850	4/8/2021	I am strongly in favor of adding a second daily round-trip passenger rail service between Chicago and St. Paul. It will enhance the route, improve service, and provide a better benefit for the public using mass transit. I hope that someday the route can come through Madison, WI, which would make it even better.
3851	4/8/2021	I am very much in favor of this project. My wife and I often use the Wisconsin Dells station as our base for trips across country. Having routes to our favorite places within the proposed corridor would give us the opportunity to visit places we would normally not drive to. Train travel is so much more enjoyable than automobile travel. I would suggest a ticket system within the Minneapolis to Chicago corridor similar to the very popular Eurail passes: https://www.eurail.com/en?gclid=CjwKCAjw07qDBhBxEiwA6pPbHm24KaSqYCe87QFxf0FfNDWC9GhEmctNQ7C2K6yOQ7sLRll_N3Bz2hoCl_oQAvD_BwE&gclidsrc=aw.ds This would allow passengers the flexibility to conveniently explore local communities as well as the big cities.
3852	4/8/2021	Please add a second train from Minneapolis to Chicago. A night train between Minneapolis and Chicago would enable travelers to sleep on the train and make business appointments the morning of arrival, then return the following evening. A night train would also enable passengers from Minneapolis to make the connection in Chicago for the afternoon departures of the westbound California Zephyr and Southwest Chief Trains without an overnight stay in Chicago.
3853	4/8/2021	I'm very pleased to hear that a second daily train should be available from Chicago to Minnesota. The current train is a nice way to travel but is often delayed due to track use to the west. A daily train with a more reliable schedule is just what I want. My siblings are split living between Minnesota and Chicago, and the train is the nicest and most convenient way for us to see each other. We will use this train!

3854	4/8/2021	I fully support this route and wish the delays would stop. It is a fully fundable, well-researched, high-traveled option for business, tourist, student, rural and urban travelers. Minnesota needs to put a stronger foot forward on this opportunity.
3855	4/8/2021	This project should have been completed years ago. I personally would have used the additional service dozens of times if it had been operating when I lived in the Twin Cities. It's possible that the availability of a reliable train service with a decent schedule to destinations southeast of the Twin Cities would have been enough to keep me from moving away from Minnesota. The capital cost is very small considering the scope of the project and its benefits. The fact that such a simple project is taking 10 years is an indictment of US politics and transportation administration.
3856	4/8/2021	I believe Eau Claire offers a better route from Madison to Twin Cities than La Crosse. La Crosse should be the [quote]spur[quote] route, with Eau Claire on the direct route.
3857	4/8/2021	In favor.
3858	4/8/2021	I strongly support this proposed project! This is a good step toward reducing carbon emissions from car travel between our midwestern cities, and for enabling people who do not have cars to get the transportation they need and want. I would use this proposed rail service about once a month to get between Madison and Milwaukee and between Madison and Chicago. I would use it about twice a year to get between Madison and Minneapolis.
3859	4/8/2021	So sad that Scott Walker destroyed our chance at great funding, but how great it is that this route has been rekindled. I support every step of your way.
3860	4/8/2021	I am very much in favor of improving service on this line and upgrading facilities. Railroads provide an important, environmentally sound way of moving people which is also much more comfortable.
3861	4/8/2021	This would be fantastic!
3862	4/8/2021	I wish to register my support of theTCMC Rail Project which reflects my values for an improved, more robust passenger service. I believe the project objectives and infrastructure improvements are needed and should proceed uninterrupted. I support the approval of \$6.2M from the State of Wisconsin as the match required. The upgrades to the Mississippi River Bridge and to the La Crosse Railroad Yard are in keeping with need for this transportation plan. Please consider me [quote]On Board[quote].
3863	4/8/2021	We fully support improvements in the Amtrak service between the twin cities and Chicago. We would take advantage of the service to travel to both Chicago and the twin cities via the Portage station.
3864	4/9/2021	This project would be hugely beneficial for travelers. I've wanted to take the train before, but the times didn't work out and instead flew. I would definitely take the train with the two a day service.

3865	4/9/2021	<p>Milwaukee so the Empire Builder could run as an express from St. Paul to Milwaukee. This might reduce the Empire Builder's travel time by 40 to 60 minutes – a significant improvement. The quicker trip would be a substantial benefit for Empire Builder passengers who are not going to or from the intermediate stops between St. Paul and Milwaukee. For those traveling from St. Paul to Milwaukee (and vice versa) reducing the travel time by ¾ an hour would be beneficial.</p> <p>To do this eastbound, the new local train would leave St. Paul a short time after the Empire Builder departs. The new local train might be scheduled to leave St. Paul 30 minutes after the Empire Builder. This would allow the Empire Builder passengers traveling to intermediate stops in Minnesota or Wisconsin to transfer to the new local train at the St. Paul depot. The new local train would pick up all eastbound travelers at the intermediate stations.</p> <p>Westbound, the new local train would precede the Empire Builder. If it departed Milwaukee 60 minutes before the Empire Builder, it would reach St. Paul about 15 minutes before the Empire Builder. Passengers that are traveling further west by train would board the Empire Builder when it soon arrives in St. Paul.</p> <p>While most Empire Builder passengers would enjoy the expedited service, the intermediate station passengers would have the same or longer travel times and no second train option. This scheduling idea would add 30 minutes and a transfer for Empire Builder passengers traveling to or from the intermediate stops: a diminution of service quality. And the intermediate station would still have only one train per day each way, instead of the 2 trains proposed. (However, the eastbound train would likely be on schedule much more often than the current Empire Builder.)</p>
3866	4/9/2021	<p>This is a plan that is WAY overdue! Many of us would welcome a railway opportunity! I use the Harvard line now when I can!</p>
3867	4/9/2021	<p>I support the TCMC! Thank you for moving this forward. I would like to know more about shuttle service to and from Madison. I would use the existing Empire Builder if there were a usable shuttle; I can't understand why the Lamers schedule is only designed to serve passengers traveling west.</p> <p>I also hope that WisDOT will embrace and say more about what Amtrak recently announced for expanded service in Wisconsin. We need direct train service to cities like Madison, Green Bay, and Eau Claire. I would use service between Madison and Milwaukee several times a week. I would use it to cities like Chicago, the Twin Cities, Green Bay and Eau Claire several times a year.</p>
3868	4/9/2021	<p>I support more passenger rail services connected Milwaukee to other cities in the region.</p>
3869	4/9/2021	<p>I am 100% in favor of expanding this service. I would also very much like to have a Chicago to Twin Cities service through Madison.</p>

3870	4/9/2021	<p>I am in strong support of the TCMC rail project. I would also like to suggest adding additional stops at Watertown and Madison. Sincere thanks, Rail Passenger since 1960. Milwaukee, WI</p>
3871	4/9/2021	<p>I do support the efforts to extend the passenger rail service along the TCMC Corridor of Amtrak's Empire Builder route. It is a practical way to add service for a reasonable cost and the plans do include connecting shuttles which improves connectivity (Tomah to the Chippewa Valley). I like the fact that Amtrak has released a vision for passenger rail expansion that includes West Central Wisconsin on a new through route from the Chicago-Milwaukee-Twin Cities. There are many reasons why the proposal has merit and it does fit with the efforts currently by the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition. These efforts all part of providing a balanced transportation system.</p>
3872	4/9/2021	<p>I strongly support the addition of a second train from St Paul to Chicago. We use the train about twice per year, and an additional line will enable us to use the train more for travel to La Crosse, Milwaukee and Chicago.</p>
3873	4/9/2021	<p>Having a reliable and dependable 2nd daily passenger train service between St. Paul, Milwaukee and Chicago is essential to the region for better mobility and improved access. Key cities such as Madison & Eau Claire, WI will be better served with dedicated shuttle connectors to meet up with the 2nd daily passenger train service for both eastbound and westbound departures at Columbus, WI and Tomah, WI. Rochester, MN will also better served with a dedicated shuttle connector to La Crosse, WI to meet up with the 2nd daily passenger train service. More regional passenger rail service with more frequencies is needed, but having the 2nd daily passenger train service is a good start. The TCMC name should be rebranded. Call it the [quote]Twin Cities Hiawatha[quote]. This has better name recognition and ties in with the current Hiawatha service name used between Milwaukee and Chicago. The name has railroad history associated with it just like the Empire Builder name.</p>
3874	4/9/2021	<p>Please don't forget about northern Wisconsin, again. A route through Eau Claire could provide many riders from the surrounding area plus people would travel to Eau Claire from northern and Eastern counties to ride the train to Minnesota or Southern Wisconsin. I would be the first one on, if I could. The route through LaCrosse would leave a big chunk of Wisconsin(northern Wisconsin) behind, again. A route to LaCrosse, to Eau Claire and then Minnesota would be best but I'm not sure if this is even possible. Please consider the Eau Claire route.</p>

3875	4/9/2021	<p>I live in Eau Claire car-free and do not drive, and in order to travel between cities my options are limited, so I will often catch a ride with a friend or a work colleague, bicycle, or take an inter-city bus when leaving Eau Claire. I grew up in the Twin Cities area, and have lived in La Crosse in the past, and try to make it to those cities plus Madison and Milwaukee a few times a year each -- but would go more often if there were more options by passenger train and there was a connecting shuttle bus to Tomah or to St. Paul Union Depot. I would like shuttle buses to be able to take bicycles, because I often bring a bike on Amtrak -- have travelled as far as Oregon on the Empire Builder, with a bike. I see this additional train frequency as helping the environment by replacing car trips, and helping to create a more equitable region so that everyone has more freedom of movement. It is a transportation justice issue, and it would help support the economies of our cities and small towns. I am a strong supporter of Amtrak and I think we need more attention from the federal government in Wisconsin and Minnesota.</p>
3876	4/10/2021	<p>Presentation was complete and I greatly support the project, as it is long overdue. I would like to disagree slightly with the proposed schedule. The schedule should be at least 4 to 6 hours different than the current train, which is the long distance train named the Empire Builder which has a 7am MSP departure and 2pm Chicago departure. For the second train, I would highly recommend an early afternoon MSP departure, as one does not want to have 2 morning departures when there is only 2 trains a day. A 1:00pm MSP departure would arrive Chicago about 8:15pm and would allow a full morning in MSP before a passenger departs. Also, a 8:00am Chicago departure would arrive MSP about 3:15pm and would serve people much better than yours proposed 11:05am Chicago departure, which is just 3 hours before the current Empire Builder.</p> <p>Also, a split of 2 coaches from this new train at MSP could continue to Duluth, to provide one train a day to that destination.</p> <p>Connecting bus service to both Rochester and Eau Claire is very important to boost ridership. Also, some sort of lounge or food car must exist for a trip of this length and business class service should be offered as a premium cost with seating of 2x1 instead of the standard 2x2, as there is a segment of the ridership willing to pay for upgrades and capturing this extra revenue is imperative to the overall operation. The important suburban station of Glenview also needs to have at least a part-time ticket agent, as the agent can act as much as a distributor of information and schedules to many people who are not aware of the service, at least at the start of the second train to MSP.</p>

3877	4/10/2021	I support this project in the strongest possible terms! It would bring amazing benefits to the people of MN, WI, and IL in terms of better service (with the additional more convenient departure/arrival each day), faster service, and service that is less delayed. The track improvements would greatly benefit both Amtrak and the freight railroads, too. The benefits to the public include another sustainable intercity transportation option that strongly supports rural communities, seniors, students, disabled people, business travelers, families, and more. It is important to have real alternatives to car travel in this corridor beyond a short flight. This project would be a game-changer for passenger rail in the Upper Midwest!
3878	4/10/2021	This would be so welcome! I use Amtrak frequently for MKE to St. Paul & try to encourage others to do so. But, the unreliable schedule is a deterrent! The eastbound Empire Builder can especially be a problem. The long route causes delays from weather, track issues & other. The train has been delayed hours & even a day. Please add a shorter train route!
3879	4/10/2021	As a frequent rider of the Empire Builder to the Twin Cities, I am strongly in favor of an additional frequency being added, and will always utilize the new train to return to Chicago because of it's later departure time + reliability since it originates in the Twin cities. However, I want to add, that in the context of the upcoming infrastructure bill, the ultimate service plan for this route should be much much more ambitious than it currently is. There should be service from every station along the line a minimum of every two hours. Frequency of that sort makes this train a viable travel option, and also allows the service to fit into a bi-hourly takt that can be tightly coordinated with other rail/bus services and replicated throughout the day.
3880	4/11/2021	Hello, I want to express what is obvious to many people in Dane County, especially younger people who are being financially squeezed out of automobile ownership. Any new passenger route between Chicago and Minneapolis needs also to serve the City of Madison. It does not make sense to me to spend millions of state and federal tax dollars on a route that does not serve Madison - with a stop within the City of Madison. I am certain that a survey of potential users would show that people in Madison would greatly prefer not to have to drive to Columbus, Portage, or Wisconsin Dells, or take a bus to Chicago, in order to travel by rail. I am sure also that a new route would achieve much greater ridership if makes a scheduled stop in Madison. Has WDOT or Amtrak ever conducted a study to gauge the impact of including Madison on the route??
3881	4/11/2021	
3882	4/12/2021	There needs to be a station in Madison.
3883	4/12/2021	Why would you not include Madison? Literally the capitol of your state and one of the most populous cities.
3884	4/13/2021	Please consider Madison as a stop.

3885	4/13/2021	<p>Much needed addition to local capacity and local options besides the [quote]thru[quote] train Empire Builder. Ideally in the future there will be two additional trains to the Empire Builder. This would copy the original Milwaukee Road [quote]Morning[quote] and [quote]Afternoon[quote] Hiawatha's which ran on this route. This train is huge step in convenient travel options for locals and potential regional travelers.</p>
3886	4/14/2021	<p>The rail should definitely go through Madison.</p>
3887	4/15/2021	<p>Can you please add a stop in Madison, WI as part of this project?</p>
3888	4/18/2021	<p>Arun Rao Wisconsin Dept. of Transportation PO Box 7910 Madison, WI 53703-7910</p> <p>Please accept these comments from the Four Lakes Group of Sierra Club - Wisconsin, regarding the proposed additional Amtrak train between Chicago and Minneapolis (projected to begin service by 2023 or 2024). The Four Lakes Group has over 5500 members in the 9 counties of south central Wisconsin.</p> <p>The Four Lakes group is very interested in improving and expanding passenger rail transportation in and through Wisconsin, both for improving access for those who cannot or choose not to drive and for reducing greenhouse gas emissions from intercity travel by car and plane.</p> <p>While the Four Lakes Group of the Sierra Club heartily supports rail transportation for its wide variety of benefits, we suggest that the current proposal as-is will fall short of maximizing benefits to Wisconsin citizens.</p> <p>The City of Madison and greater Dane County needs to be included as part of the service expansion proposal. Continuing to bypass Madison as Amtrak service expands and takes hold is like the Cascade service bypass of Olympia, WA - with the station outside the city - but worse.</p> <p>The Lacey Amtrak station is over 7.5 miles or approximately 20 min from the Washington State Capitol building, a disconnect for people doing business at the capitol or attending Evergreen State College. Currently, passengers starting or ending</p>
3889	4/20/2021	<p>I'm a strong supporter of expanding rail and transportation routes connecting the Twin Cities and Chicago.</p> <p>I will support any proposal that expands options. I would prefer this train route to flying from Minneapolis to Chicago.</p> <p>That said, there are two keys factors that I believe will hold back adoption of this route.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is a major benefit to having Rochester and Madison as stops on this route. Adding those two stops would have the potential to greatly reduce car and plane traffic along these routes. 2. Speed. Anything that we can do to increase the speed along this route will have huge returns in adoption.

3890	4/21/2021	I would like Amtrak to bring service to Madison, which is currently not served by any passenger rail and could greatly benefit from service to Milwaukee, Chicago (by way of Milwaukee), and the Twin Cities.
3891	4/23/2021	Please create a route through Madison WI
3892	4/23/2021	I am a frequent rail traveler between Chicago and St. Louis, and Chicago and Centralia, Illinois. I have found the train to be convenient, economical and very fitting for a day trip downstate - or a quick overnight to St. Louis. I have often wanted to take a train to St. Paul and visit the Twin Cities. I find it much more relaxing than flying and much more comfortable. In following the discussions and planning for additional service, I have hopes that the service will be offered sooner rather than later. This would foster so much more flexibility into the travel schedule being a corridor train. I can't wait to get aboard. In my view, this would be a great public benefit, help business along the route, and provide opportunities for economic development in Wisconsin and Minnesota.
3893	4/24/2021	We need to expand all rail service, not only as an energy saving option, but also for people who can't afford a car and/or have a disability that prevents them from driving. WI citizens, particularly of smaller cities and towns, have been deprived of opportunities for expanded rail service by the Koch-backed Republican party takeover under Gov. Walker, despite thousands of us who tried to stop it. This would be one small but important step in remedying that travesty and helping us reconnect with family and friends and access to more medical and other important facilities.
3894	4/26/2021	I am a Dallas Metro area Texas Resident but have extended family in Wisconsin and visit twice a year. At least once a year by Amtrak LD train to Chicago and then into Milwaukee. I support this project as we also sometimes take extended family trips to the Dells and the Twin Cities while I am up there visiting and this would be a really nice option vs taking the car. I firmly believe that WisDOT should look at a West Milwaukee Station location in Pewaukee as was mentioned in an earlier MnDOT study on this same project. I think MnDOT made a case there of netting more passengers for the route if such a station were opened. Additionally I think per the Chicago to Milwaukee train corridor, WisDOT should consider a station at the Brewers Stadium as a fairly large number of Amtrak riders from Chicago take the Chicago to Milwaukee trains for the Brewers - Cubs games and it would be far more convenient as well as attract more riders to the route if on those game days the Chicago - Milwaukee train could be extended 3-4 more miles down the rail line to the Brewers Stadium for disembarkation as well as for pickup around game end time. I can't see that CP Rail would demand much more infrastructure for this minor accommodation.
3895	4/26/2021	My husband and I regularly take cross country trips on Amtrak. We look forward to additional Empire Builder service to add flexibility to our use of that route. We encourage you to include train access from a Madison station to Milwaukee which we would plan to use regularly. Including the Capitol city would increase the overall train use for purposes of commuting for work, education & training, financial & other business needs, and visiting museums, restaurants, Sports Events, specialty stores, etc.

3896	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>Much prefer to take the train versus driving. Takes about the same time but I can relax versus worrying about weather, other vehicles and breakdowns. Also can grab a bite to eat without adding to travel time.</p> <p>While it will help Amtrak, it will help the states because more people will be traveling and spending money. Thanks to covid more meetings can be held virtually which means more people can take a vacation without worrying about if they will miss an important meeting.</p>
3897	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>A 2nd daily train each way on the Chicago to Twin Cities route is long overdue. Increased access, reduce congestion, enhance the environment, improve the transportation network.</p>
3898	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>Would someone please explain why, whether it's this rail project, the 'high-speed rail project' of a few years back, and even highway improvements, Rochester, the third largest city in the state, is left out of the consideration?</p> <p>I moved to Minnesota almost 40 years ago and this has happened consistently since I settled here. What's up?</p>
3899	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>The line needs to run through Madison, not Columbus. You'll get a LOT more ridership</p>
3900	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>I live in Ramsey, MN and I absolutely support expanded Amtrak service in Minnesota. I think passenger rail is an important and often overlooked aspect of ground transportation.</p>
3901	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>Chicago - Mpls connection is a great idea (should've already happened), but I think the I-94 corridor (via Eau Claire and Hudson) would be a superior route.</p>
3902	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>I support adding another train route St. Paul to Chicago. This route would add more passengers and save on carbon emissions from personal vehicles. Thank you for considering the proposal to add another train.</p>
3903	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>This would be great for our household. I have a sister in Chicago and would love to use it.</p>
3904	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>My spouse and I have frequently traveled on the Empire Builder for trips out west and back. The last/first leg is always a problem. This new line would solve all our problems.</p>
3905	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>This is a corrected comment: Currently there is no good way to connect from the California Zephyr to the Empire Builder and vice versa in Chicago. It concerns Union Station.</p>
3906	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>This would be a great help for me and my family if the cost is reasonable. We have family in Niles Michigan we could see more often.</p>
3907	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>Unless it's high speed rail, then there's NO point. It's time to enter the 20th century and put in proper high speed rail like the rest of the world.</p>
3908	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	<p>Fabulous! Welcome to the 21st century. No thanks to the regressive Republicans and Scott Walker.</p> <p>This would connect Twin Cities-Madison-Chicago in so many ways!</p> <p>Thank you</p>

3909	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	I love this design project; I was a frequent user when I lived in St. Paul, Milwaukee, and Chicago to get back and forth for work and weekend trips. Living on the outskirts of Madison and as a City Council woman for Middleton, WI, my only hope is that some day we can have an extension and I can use the train more frequently.
3910	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Very much in favor of light rail from St Paul to Milwaukee
3911	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Yes, please!!!
3912	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Great idea Students in Winona would appreciate this
3913	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Add Madison to the stops. Used to live in WI and have relatives in Mke and Msp and Madison
3914	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	We need a stop in Madison!
3915	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	My friends have mentioned that they think the route should include Rochester (for Mayo Clinic patients), but after much thought I disagree with them. The river route is beautiful and direct, which makes for faster travel and more diverse revenue as people will surely start to take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy the year-round colors and scenery that would be sidestepped if the railway were rerouted through Rochester. Rochester, like Minneapolis and Madison, which are also not stops on this route according to the map, will be able to provide connections from Winona or Red Wing either from public transit or a private shuttle company, which will further increase local revenue and create more flexible options for passengers. I support the decision to not run this railway through Rochester.
3916	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Why cant they make a high speed rail that has its own right of way? Its so cheap how instead of doing the right thing and building a separate rail line that reaches high speeds and can run its own schedule, everything for passenger rail is secondary to the needs of freight. Go big or go home, you could travel faster by rail in the 1920's than today. Uzbekistan has better high speed rail than here, its embarrassing.
3917	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	It would be a fantastic idea to expand the rail system and possibly update it for higher speeds for commuters
3918	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Great idea! Anything that improves mobility especially for those who can not drive is a great idea!
3919	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	I would love to see a second train running from Minneapolis to Chicago! It is my preferred mode of travel, but the current schedule isn't always a convenient time. Please do it.
3920	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	I take the Empire Builder often from Red Wing to Chicago. A 2nd train would allow me to make connections to other trains leaving from Chicago without staying overnight in Chicago. Thanks, Don
3921	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Please add Madison, Wisconsin to this route. As the capitol city of Wisconsin, it's full of college students and many other people who need to travel from Madison south to Milwaukee and north to the Twin Cities. Thank you.
3922	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Excellent idea. We love taking the train to Chicago but usually hesitate because of the on-schedule unpredictability of the e.b. Empire Builder. This is particularly difficult when we need to make a travel connection in Chicago.

3923	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Is this really the best proposal we can do here? Where is the vision? The big ideas? The Hiawatha on the Milwaukee Road was running this exact same route at speeds of over 100 mph in 1930. Freight trains block the Empire Builder like the Ever Given blocks the Suez Canal. The solution is dedicated high speed tracks in straight lines with stops only in larger cities. If other countries can do this why can't we?
3924	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	This is a great idea! It will make travel between the cities on the route much more efficient and environmentally friendly.
3925	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Additional public transportation to/from Chicago area is unnecessary. There is no demand for regular travel through this corridor, before and after pandemic shutdown businesses. MN DOT does not need to spend funds or participate in mass transit options, such as NorthStar commuter train.
3926	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Not one dime. 12 stops. This thing couldn't beat a pony express. It might make sense if it was underground or covered, straight line to Chicago, no stops, and at least 200 miles an hour.
3927	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	This is not a good idea this will bring criminals here from Chicago. This will also increase ebt and welfare fraud which is already happening they claim residents in two states.
3928	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	Perhaps worthy of study would be the prospect of high-speed rail (possible maxima 100 mph) using conventional-design coaches not unlike how the Canadian National in pre-VIA Rail days (starting in the late 1960's) embraced such in the Ontario/Quebec corridor region with the Tempo (Windsor-London-Toronto) and Rapido (Toronto-Ottawa/Montreal) concepts. Consultation with railfans, especially such with an interest in Canadian rail history, may want to be sought, as well as the Canadian National's archives. Too--and I hope this isn't going too far--could there be wiggle room for a study into perhaps incorporating a coach or two which would be set out/picked up at Winona to provide a through service for Rochester via this same corridor?
3929	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	My wife and I would use this form of transportation when it becomes available. I am not sure how much, but we would use it.
3930	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	I feel there is a great need for transportation from Milwaukee to Madison, Eau Claire and Minnesota . Traffic is very heavy from Kenosha, WI to Madison. This would help give workers an option to travel by rail and take traffic off the highways. In our area we have people that work and travel to Chicago and use the rail service by both trains in our area. People I know who take a train experience a relaxing ride and have the option to use the internet during travel to work if needed. I enjoy the train and would never shop in Chicago if I had to drive. This would also help bring business into other cities. It would bring more people who do not want to travel by car for a shopping experience in other cities.
3931	3/23/21 - 5/5/21	I am a huge fan of passenger rail, and I am extremely excited about this project, as well as the eventual development of passenger rail across the state, midwest, and the nation. I am concerned, however, that the project may be losing steam. I would like to know the current progress, and receive frequent updates on passenger rail projects across the state.

3932	5/5/2021	I think this is a wonderful idea. Granting more transportation options to we the people of Wisconsin is great. I am 100% for this plan.
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