

In an environment of rising oil prices, MWRRS will offer an energy-efficient and cost-effective alternative to air and automobile travel that will connect businesses and individuals with cities and towns across the Midwest.



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All economic figures sourced to: Transportation Economics and Management Systems, Inc.

Benefiting Wisconsin's Economy



The Midwest Regional Rail System is a transportation network for the 21st Century.

- 3,000-mile rail network connecting Wisconsin with 8 other Midwest states
- Speeds up to 110-mph, resulting in significantly reduced travel times
 - Increase in train frequencies
 - Improved on-time performance

Introduction

The Midwest Regional Rail System (MWRRS) will significantly improve the level and quality of passenger rail service in Wisconsin. The system will contribute to economic growth and strengthen the state’s manufacturing, service, and tourism industries.

User benefits

Over the 40-year life of the project, MWRRS will generate a \$3.5-\$4.6 billion user benefit for Wisconsin; this represents the overall savings to users of the state’s transportation network derived from the system. Sources that produce this benefit are:

- The reduction in travel times that users of MWRRS receive (shown below)
- The reduction in travel times and costs that users of other transportation modes receive as a result of lower congestion levels
- Reductions in emissions as a result of travelers being diverted from air, bus and auto to MWRRS

EXAMPLE TRAIN TRAVEL TIMES FOR WISCONSIN ROUTES

City Pairs	Current Service	MWRRS (EXPRESS)	Auto Drive Time
Milwaukee-Chicago	1 hr 29min	1 hr 04min	1 hr 30min
Milwaukee-Madison	(no service)	1 hr 06min	1 hr 18min
Madison-La Crosse	(no service)	1 hr 31min	2 hr 18min
La Crosse-St. Paul	3 hr 17min	2 hr 02min	2 hr 29min
Green Bay-Chicago	(no service)	2 hr 58min	3 hr 35min
Madison-St. Paul	(no service)	3 hr 35min	4 hr 09min
Madison-Chicago	(no service)	2 hr 15min	2 hr 46min
La Crosse-Chicago	4 hr 59min	3 hr 47min	4 hr 40min

Community benefits

MWRRS will improve access between Wisconsin communities. This access supports existing industries, fosters the growth of new small businesses and encourages large businesses to distribute their operations more widely throughout Wisconsin.

9,570 new permanent jobs in Wisconsin
\$173 million of extra household income in Wisconsin

Station development benefits

Increased train operations from MWRRS will lead to rising property values and significant joint (public-private) development opportunities near stations. These multimodal stations will bring together many modes of travel at a single location.

Increased joint development potential in Wisconsin (in \$ millions):	
Station	Property value increase
Milwaukee Downtown	\$152-\$227
Sturtevant	\$8-\$12
Brookfield	\$69-\$103
Oconomowoc	\$15-\$22
Watertown	\$10-\$15
Madison	\$65-\$97
West Bend	\$31-\$47
Fond Du Lac	\$31-\$47
Oshkosh	\$46-\$69
Appleton	\$46-\$69
Portage	\$10-\$14
Wisconsin Dells	\$12-\$17
Green Bay	\$43-\$64
La Crosse	\$16-\$23

Environmental benefits

MWRRS provides a good alternative to auto and air travel that promotes environmental benefits, including reduced air pollutant emissions, less land use, and fewer habitat and water resource impacts compared to expanding existing highways and airports.