

Fox Valley Passenger Rail Newsletter 1.

March 5 2009. This email is being sent to anyone who identified themselves as supporting the reinstatement of Passenger Rail Services in the fox Valley. If you do not want to receive information from this group just reply with unsubscribe in the subject line.

Firstly I want to let those who could not be at the meeting know how well attended it was. I was expecting between 6 and 20 people. Over 100 came and the meeting had to be run twice. Any questions email me gbpassrail@new.rr.com (preferred) or call 920 445 3758.

Thanks **Frank Ingram**

I am planning the next general meeting for April after Easter at the Tiletown Depot (they have been very helpful and have a bigger room upstairs. The date has not yet been fixed as I hope to get **Rick Harnish**, Executive Director of the **Midwest High Speed Rail Association** <http://www.midwesthsr.org/> to speak. Similar meetings to Wednesdays aimed at getting general public support will be held in Appleton, Oshkosh and Fond du Lac during March

Meantime something that everyone can do is send in a comment on the WisDOT **Connections 2030 Plan**.
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/state/connections2030.htm>

The formal last date for comments has passed but because the Oshkosh meeting was delayed by the weather until Wednesday, March 11, from 5:00 to 8:00 PM at the UW-Oshkosh Reeve Memorial Student Union, I think that you can still make by email comments to connections2030@dot.state.wi.us . Any submission supporting Fox Valley Rail would be welcome.

The **Midwest High Speed Rail Association Annual Meeting** is in Chicago on 21 March. Details at https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2228/t/1597/event/checkOut.jsp?event_KE Y=47745 .

For the record Wednesday's meeting discussed Fox Valley Rail under three headings

Why Particular emphasis was placed on Economic development, including business travel. It would promote Access for all. Particularly the Elderly, Young, Any unable to Drive. It was thought environmentally greener and would avoid the need for extra roads. Other points made included a pleasanter experience than driving, develops downtowns, and getting traffic off roads for Packers Games

What and Where. David Schwengel of West Bend described how train service could be established relatively quickly from Green Bay Milwaukee/Chicago (much quicker than service will be established to Madison which need more work) using existing track. See <http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/docs/railmap.pdf> for the route. The route GB-Neenah is already mostly 59mph and can easily be upgraded to 79mph. Neenah- Duplainville-Milwaukee is mostly 79mph already. Rugby Junction-Milwaukee would be a better route but it is slow at present (20mph). However it is owned by the State and can be upgraded. For what service would be like see [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiawatha_\(Amtrak\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hiawatha_(Amtrak)) for details of the existing service to Chicago. Hopefully more modern cars could be used similar to those used on the Surfliner <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surfliner> . David also discussed the option of 90-180 day demonstration run of a Green Bay-Chicago service via Duplainville. In general Wikipedia is a good source of railroad information - see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portal:Trains> .

How. Organization was discussed with the consensus being to set up a citizens group without membership by other organizations or official bodies. The final decisions on this will be taken at the April general meeting.

Suggested **Officers** were a **President**. (Chairs meetings, Represents group to Press and in Public Presentations.), an **Organizing Secretary and** when needed a **Treasurer**, and **Membership Secretary**

Working Groups were suggested.

Publicity – Web Page – Press – Information Packs.

Political Liaison- Contacting Representatives at Federal, State and Local Level to garner support.

Technical – advise on the most practical ideas to support. Review obstacles and suggest solutions.

Anyone who wants to volunteer for any of these groups should email gbpassrail@new.rr.com

Local support groups - Brown County, Appleton Area, Oshkosh, Fond du Lac, Door County and UWGB. Everyone would be invited to one of these, as well as to any general meetings.

Executive – This would consist of Officers - one person from each local Group, and one from Publicity, Political Liaison, and Technical Groups

Name. We also need a catchy name. Send suggestions to gbpassrail@new.rr.com