

## ***MIPRC Commissioners & Partners Agenda***

### ***Mr. Tim Hoeffner, Michigan, MIPRC Chair, Presiding***

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23** *Red Cap Room, Union Depot, St. Paul (214 4th Street East)*

- 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. **Buffet Breakfast**
- 9:30 to 10 a.m. **Welcome from the Chair, Introductions**  
*Mr. Tim Hoeffner, Michigan, MIPRC Chair*
- 10 to 10:15 a.m. **Welcome from the Host State**  
*Mr. Dan Krom, Director, Passenger Rail Office, Minnesota DOT*
- 10:15 to 10:30 a.m. **Welcome to St. Paul Union Depot (Spotlight on MIPRC Partner Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority)**  
*Mr. Rafael Ortega, Chair, Ramsey County Regional Railroad Authority*
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. **The Status of Passenger Rail Improvements in the Region and Plans for the Future**  
DOT representatives from MIPRC states will discuss the status of passenger rail projects and planning in their states.
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. **Legislative and Other Passenger Rail-Related Activity in Our States**  
MIPRC commissioners and others will update the group on legislative and other passenger rail-related activities in their states.
- 12:15 to 1 p.m. **Lunch, continued discussion on state passenger rail activity**
- 1 to 2 p.m. **Federal Outlook, MIPRC June Federal Delegation and Discussion of MIPRC Federal Priorities**  
First, receive an outlook on the status of federal passenger rail –related legislation from Amtrak’s vice president of Government Affairs, then hear about/from MIPRC’s June federal delegation and discuss MIPRC’s federal priorities.  
*Presenters: Ms. Caroline Decker, Vice President, Government Affairs, Amtrak; participants in MIPRC’s June federal delegation*
- 2 to 2:45 p.m. **Safety First – Positive Train Control (PTC) 101**  
The Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (RSIA) mandated that passenger railroads and Class I freight railroads install Positive Train Control (PTC) by the end of 2015 on main lines used to transport passengers or certain highly toxic materials. What is PTC, why is it important and what progress has been made to date? Hear from an expert on this important issue and discuss how MIPRC may want to respond regarding the pending deadline.  
*Presenter: Mr. Steve Ditmeyer, Adjunct Professor of Railway Management, Michigan State University*
- 2:45 to 3 p.m. **Additional Issues Facing the Freight Rail Industry**  
*Presenter: Mr. Larry Lloyd, Midwest Director, GoRail*
- 3 to 4 p.m. **Tour of Union Depot**
- 4 to 5 p.m. **Break/Depart for Padelford Riverboat Cruise** *(your ticket for the cruise is in your packet; instructions for getting to the cruise will be distributed at the meeting)*
- 5 to 7:30 p.m. **Padelford Riverboat Cruise**  
Happy Hour dockside at 5pm, then cruise the river 6-7:30. 2-for-1 Margaritas & complimentary taco bar.

*(please turn over for Thursday, Sept. 24 agenda)*



Annual Meeting  
St. Paul, Minnesota  
September 23 & 24 (with travel dates 9/22 & 9/25)

## *MIPRC Commissioners & Partners Agenda (cont.)*

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 Red Cap Room, Union Depot, St. Paul (214 4th Street East)

- 8 to 9 a.m. **Buffet Breakfast**
- 9 to 9:30 a.m. **MIPRC Year in Review**
- 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. **The Midwest's FRA-Led Multistate Rail Planning Project**  
Last fall, MIPRC submitted a statement of interest on behalf of the Midwestern states to participate in a federally-led rail planning project. The Federal Railroad Administration recently selected two regions – the Midwest and the Southeast – to partner with in working on forming more comprehensive regional governance organizations and to develop long-term passenger rail visions for our respective regions. Learn what the selection of the Midwest for an FRA-led multistate rail planning project will mean for MIPRC and the region.  
*Presenter: Mr. Kyle Gradinger, Planning Team Lead, Federal Railroad Administration*
- 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. **Amtrak's Priorities in the Midwest**  
Receive an overview from Amtrak's director of national state relations on Amtrak's passenger rail service and plans – both for long-distance and state service – with an emphasis on the Midwest.  
*Presenter: Mr. Ray Lang, Director, National State Relations, Amtrak*
- 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. **Report/Discussion on the Next Generation Equipment Committee, Midwest Next Generation Procurement**
- 12:30 to 1 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1 to 2 p.m. **Preliminary Commission Business**, including MIPRC Priorities for fiscal year, FY 2016 Budget, Proposed Bylaws Amendment, Election of Officers for FY 2016 (Chair, Vice Chair and Financial Officer) and Next Meeting of the Commission
- 2 to 2:30 p.m. **Update from the MIPRC Committee on University Partnerships, Discussion on Next Steps**  
*Sen. David Pearce, Missouri, Chair*
- 2:30 to 3 p.m. **Update from the MIPRC Committee on the Importance of Rail Suppliers to the Midwest's Economy, Discussion on Next Steps**  
*Rep. Randy Truitt, Indiana and Mr. Bob Guy, Illinois, Co-Chairs*
- 3 to 4:30 p.m. **Wrap-up Discussion on MIPRC Priorities**
- 4:30 to 5 p.m. **Spotlight on Target Field Multi-Modal Facility**  
*Presenter: Mr. Peter McLaughlin, Chairman, Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority*
- 5 p.m. **Adjourn**
- 5 to 10 p.m. **MIPRC Commissioners and Partners Minnesota Twins Baseball Game**  
We'll take the LRT from Union Depot to the Twins Stadium, and take a look at the Target Field multimodal facility on the way. The game starts at 7 p.m. *(If you indicated you will be going, your ticket for the game is in your packet, as is a roundtrip ticket for taking Metro Transit to/from the game – we'll travel together as a group to Target Field.)*

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

TBD **Travel back home (check-out time at hotel is 12 noon)**

Note: For those taking the train back to Chicago, the *Empire Builder* is scheduled to leave St. Paul at 8 a.m., and arrive in Chicago at 3:55 p.m.