

# Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission

## Spring Meeting

### Washington, D.C.

### May 18 & 19, 2005

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On May 18 and 19, the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission visited Washington, D.C. to advocate for a stronger U.S. passenger rail system.

The Commissioners and MIPRC staff met Members of Congress from throughout the Midwest region, including key leaders in transportation. This included Rep. Steve LaTourette of Ohio, Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Railroads, and Rep. Jim Oberstar of Minnesota, the Ranking Member on the House Transportation Committee.

The MIPRC also had its Spring Meeting, where the body approved its FY 2006 budget, elected officers and created a policy letter for the upcoming year, which is busy with the TEA-21 reauthorization and a controversial vote on transportation appropriations.

The policy letter called on Congress to:

- Develop a multimodal transportation policy to help solve the transportation crisis;
- Provide full funding for Amtrak while reform options are debated;
- Invest in rail as it does in other modes of transportation (80% federal, 20% state)
- Authorize and fund a study of the condition and needs of the nation's transportation systems.