

MIPRC Fall 2006 Meeting Overview

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission held its fall meeting Nov. 27, 2006 in St. Louis, Missouri. The Commission discussed business such as the status of member and non-member states, FY 2007 dues and a strategic plan for the future. The commission also outlined some of its key goals: implementation of the Midwest Regional Rail and Ohio Hub systems and a dedicated source of federal funding for passenger rail.

Also at the meeting, the commission released a report on the use of passenger rail in emergencies, entitled *Responding Regionally: The Role of Passenger Rail in Midwestern Emergency Planning*. Members of the commission also conducted interviews with the media about the report, which was distributed to commissioners, allies and government officials, can be found on the MIPRC's Web site.

The commission also passed a resolution on the use of biodiesel in passenger trains.

The commission would like to recognize three retiring commissioners for their dedicated service to passenger rail in the Midwest. Indiana Rep. Ralph Ayres, Minnesota Sen. Sharon Marko and Ohio Sen. Jeffry Armbruster have been an integral part of the work of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission and will be sorely missed.

On Nov. 28, several members of the commission, along with staff, traveled to Springfield, Ill. to testify before the state Senate during its proceedings to adopt the compact. The MIPRC would like to thank those commissioners, along with the many allies, for their generous support of House Bill 4344, which allowed Illinois to become the eighth state to join the MIPRC.

