

Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission

Spring Meeting

Washington, D.C.

June 22 & 23, 2004

On June 22 and 23, the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission held its summer meeting in Washington, D.C. Commissioners formulated a four-point message on federal passenger rail funding needs and presented these requests at meetings with over 25 Midwestern members of Congress, their staff and other congressional leaders.

During these meetings, MIPRC commissioners and allies worked to expand Midwestern congressional leadership in making federal passenger rail investments a priority. The MIPRC also stressed the importance of enactment of a dedicated federal funding program for passenger rail.

Also, during its business meeting, commissioners elected Sen. Robert Jackman and Ms. Elizabeth Solberg (both Indiana MIPRC commissioners) as co-chairs of the MIPRC for the FY 2005 fiscal year; Rep. Charles Schlottach of Missouri as its vice chair; and Sen. DiAnna Schimek as financial officer. Outgoing chair Sen. Joan Bray of Missouri and vice-chair Sen. Sheila Kiscaden of Minnesota were warmly thanked for their tenures, which saw the MIPRC develop from a compact idea to the commission it is today.

The meeting also included a presentation on the Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency (CREATE) Project, from Kevin Brubaker of the Environmental Law & Policy Center; and an update on the **Midwest Regional Rail Initiative** from Randall Wade of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation.

The MIPRC thanks all its allies who participated in its June business meeting and Congressional outreach. Special thanks to HNTB for its monetary support of the meeting.