



Get MORE Involved

Help make the TCMC Second Train and expanded passenger rail a reality

Expanding passenger rail services along the River Route in Minnesota takes the combined effort of local elected officials, business and community leaders, and residents. Your involvement is welcome and vital to the success of the vision of the Great River Rail Commission. There are three different levels of involvement that you can participate in. Find the level that is right for you and start spreading the word about the TCMC Second Train project and increased passenger rail opportunities.

Experience Trains

Have you experienced passenger rail firsthand? Did you enjoy traveling by train? Do you want more opportunities to travel by train? This level is for you! Get more info from Great River Rail via our website, follow us on Facebook, and tell others about your interest in passenger rail.

- Like [Great River Rail](#) and [Minnesota Department of Transportation](#) on Facebook and participate in discussions.
- Consider educating and motivating your co-workers and elected officials to get involved. Get the word out!
- Keep up with recent train news and other project details via [MnDOT](#) and [Great River Rail](#) and share it with your network.

Get Involved

Love train travel but read for things to start moving a little faster down the track? Sign up for the e-news to keep up with opportunities to participate in public meetings. Lend your story and voice a supporter spotlight and let us know how increased passenger rail options would affect you.

- Sign up for our occasional e-newsletter to stay current on River Route and commission news.
- Attend public hearings and meetings to get updates and provide feedback. Great River Rail Commission meeting details can be found [here](#), and MnDOT Public Engagement efforts can be seen [here](#).
- Share your story with us! Be featured on our supporter spotlight by letting us know how a second train would benefit you. Where would you go by train? Email us your story at info@greatriversrail.org or share your story on our Facebook page.

Get More Involved

Ready to take action to the people who make the decisions? Get more involved by writing letters to your local newspaper, visiting and emailing your legislators, and encouraging others to do the same. It takes a powerful network of supporters to make things happen. Lead the way!

- Send a letter to the editor of your local newspaper. Tips for a great letter are below
- Contact your legislators, they want to hear from you! Tips for reaching out to legislators are below.
- Contact the commission member from your area to make your opinions about passenger rail options known.



We advocate for:

- The Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago (TCMC) Second Train, a daily round trip passenger train between the Twin Cities, Milwaukee, and Chicago
- A vision of faster, expanded passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago

Contacting your Legislators

Some of us are a bit nervous or may feel intimidated about contacting their legislators. And do they really want to hear from us – would my call make a difference?

The answer is that legislators really do want to hear from their constituents. They want to know what is important to you, they want to hear from you, and there's no reason to be intimidated. Your voice is very important, so contacting your legislators is an excellent way to play a role in our democracy. Here are some suggestions.

During the Legislative session

Legislators are very busy during legislative sessions. Your communication should be brief and concise. In a voicemail or email:

1. Immediately state why you are contacting them. (e.g. "I am calling about the TCMC Second Train and expanded passenger rail")
2. In a sentence, describe how you feel about the project (for or against).
3. In a sentence or two, describe why you feel that way – it's best to personalize your statement by describing how the project would impact you. (e.g. "More frequent trains between the Twin Cities and Chicago would help me get to and from college." Or, "I would like to have another option to use to visit family along the Mississippi River Route.")
4. To schedule an in-person meeting, contact your representatives Legislative Assistant.
5. During an in-person visit, leave a brief summary of the reason you are visiting your legislator so they can add it to their file.

During the Off-Season

Legislators may have a bit more time to discuss issues. You can send email or call, but a personal visit may be more effective.

1. Invite your legislators to your company or home. However, agree to meet at a different location if it is more convenient for them. It may be possible to meet with a few legislators at the same time, but it may be more effective if you schedule individual meetings.
2. If a meeting is not possible, send your legislators a personalized letter or email.
3. Outline for them—in your own words and with information specific to your situation—your concerns on the issue of mobility, the environment, transportation options, or frequency of service. Tell them how you think the TCMC Second Train or higher-speed rail will impact your situation.
4. Legislators don't want to hear canned talking points, they want to hear real stories that they can share with other constituents and legislators.

Who represents me?

Learn who your representatives are [here](http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/) - <http://www.gis.leg.mn/iMaps/districts/>

Follow legislative progress

Learn how to [track bills](#), and find out what is being discussed on the floor or in committee. <https://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/trackbill>

