



**LA CROSSE COUNTY**  
Exceptional services. Extraordinary place.

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June 21, 2019

Mark O'Connell, Executive Director  
Wisconsin Counties Association  
22 East Mifflin Street, Suite 900  
Madison, WI 53703

Re: Resolution for WCA Annual Business Meeting

Dear Mr. O'Connell,

Enclosed with this cover letter is a resolution by our County Board on an important matter of public policy to enhance passenger rail transportation, which will help to grow business and tourism in the State of Wisconsin.

Our State has a unique opportunity at this time because Governor Evers budget and the legislature's Joint Finance Committee both support funding to expand rail service between Milwaukee and Chicago on the Amtrak Hiawatha line.

Increasing the frequency of the Hiawatha service provides a first step to enable the addition of one daily train in each direction on the Amtrak Empire builder route from Milwaukee to the Twin Cities of Minnesota.

Expanding passenger rail service along the entire Chicago-Milwaukee-La Crosse-Twin Cities route would benefit the economy of the entire State and especially the 17 Wisconsin Counties adjacent to the route representing roughly 50% of the State's population.

La Crosse County strongly encourages the Wisconsin Counties Association to Support the Expansion of Amtrak Services along the existing rail corridor as part of the WCA platform.

Sincerely,

Steve O'Malley  
County Administrator



RESOLUTION # 8-6/19

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 6-12

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:   
For: 25  
Against: 1  
Abstain: 1  
Abs/Excd: 6  
Vote Req: 1  
Other Action: Rec'd - Dist 18

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:   
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 2

RE: SUPPORT EXPANSION OF AMTRAK SERVICES CHICAGO-MILWAUKEE-LA CROSSE-TWIN CITIES

WHEREAS, one way to help grow business and tourism in Wisconsin is by providing a range of affordable, safe, and convenient transportation options including expanding the frequency of Amtrak services along the Hiawatha and Empire Builder route from Chicago-Milwaukee- La Crosse to the Twin Cities; and

WHEREAS, increased ridership via the Milwaukee-Chicago Hiawatha service has increased to the point that no operating subsidy will be required to run the seven round trips per day, confirming that investments in competitive passenger rail service is economically viable; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's budget requested funding to expand rail service between Milwaukee and Chicago on the Amtrak Hiawatha line and the legislature's Joint Finance committee has supported an investment that will provide matching funds for federal transportation grants to complete the improvements to increase service from seven round trips daily to ten round trips per day; and

WHEREAS, expanding the Hiawatha service provides a first step to enable the addition of one daily train in each direction on the Amtrak service route along the Chicago-Milwaukee-La Crosse-Twin Cities rail corridor, which will benefit the economy of the entire State, making business and tourism travel more convenient likely increasing ridership that could eliminate the operating subsidy for the Empire route; and

WHEREAS, expansion of the service along Chicago-Milwaukee-La Crosse-Twin Cities route will enhance service for the 17 Wisconsin Counties adjacent to the route, representing roughly 50% of the State's population, many within 30-45 minutes driving distance to an existing Train Station, the Counties include: Kenosha, Racine, Milwaukee, Waukesha, Jefferson, Dodge, Dane, Columbia, Sauk, Adams, Juneau, Monroe, La Crosse, Trempealeau, Buffalo, Pepin and St. Croix.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors encourages the State of Wisconsin to support the additional bonding authority to secure matching Federal funds to make the track capacity and signal improvements necessary to increase the number of trains to permit one daily train in each direction, serving all communities along the Chicago-Milwaukee- La Crosse to the Twin Cities route.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution will be forwarded to Governor Evers, the La Crosse federal and State legislative delegation and to the Wisconsin Counties Association to include in the WCA platform.

FISCAL NOTE: No direct cost to La Crosse County.

Date: June 12, 2019  
[Signature]  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

[Signature]  
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>50</u>		Requested By: County Board Chair Date Requested: June 6, 2019 Drafted By: County Administrator
Fin. Director	<u>[Signature]</u>			
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>			
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>			

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 20 Day of June, 2019

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE  
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2019.

[Signature]  
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk

# 2019 Wisconsin Amtrak Service

17 WI Counties Adjacent to the Route

Roughly 1/2 the population of the State could be within a short drive of an existing station

Two trains daily would significantly expand convenience from Chicago to Twin Cities

