



## Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WisARP)

January 20, 2022

### **TCMC UPDATE to Arun Rao Presentation at WisARP Meeting October 23, 2021**

*Update from comments by Dan Krom at Great River Rail Commission meeting January 6, 2022*

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been signed by Canadian Pacific and the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois.

Discussion is underway between the three states over the percentages of sharing the cost of the TCMC. Operating Agreements between all the parties still needs to be signed.

A contractor for the Final Design and Construction phase has been chosen, but the decision has been made to not begin the Final Design phase until the FRA portion of the money has been procured. This is the \$31.8 million awarded to the TCMC from the Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) grant.

The current expectation is the Final Design phase will begin this summer.

*Update from comments by Arun Rao at West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition meeting January 20, 2022*

The CP-Amtrak agreement should open up an 8<sup>th</sup> Hiawatha train between Milwaukee and Chicago, which would facilitate easy managing of the TCMC train, and the two trainsets needed for that service.

It was also announced the Hiawatha will have all new Siemens coaches by 2025, which would allow the introduction of a Business Class option.

The Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WisARP) has since 1977 been involved in planning, advocating, and educating the public on the need for more passenger trains.

WisARP, an association with more than 600 members, exists to promote passenger trains as a part of a balanced national transportation system. It is made up of people who enjoy traveling by train, find it a practical way to travel, and are dedicated to preserving and improving the quality and quantity of passenger trains in Wisconsin and the nation. We are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. Our funding comes entirely from dues.