



Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WisARP)

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Expanding Passenger Rail in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers (WisARP) received some long-anticipated news when Senator Tammy Baldwin announced Wednesday that five passenger rail routes in Wisconsin have each been awarded \$500,000 grants totaling \$2.5 million statewide to provide funding for the planning and development of the new passenger rail routes in Wisconsin. The five routes are part of the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) Corridor Identification and Development program. The routes accepted into the program include Milwaukee to Green Bay, Milwaukee to Chicago, Milwaukee to Madison to Eau Claire, Eau Claire to Twin Cities and Chicago to La Crosse to St. Paul.

The Corridor ID Program is part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (BIL) that was passed in 2021 to provide funding and guidance for proposed passenger railroad routes. The \$500,000 for the planning of each route is entirely paid for by the Federal government.

John Parkyn, President of WisARP Board of Directors stated that "The many years of work by the Wisconsin Association of Railroad Passengers members, volunteers, citizens and state and local community leaders to establish these routes in Wisconsin have brought this successful outcome to our state. I want to express our gratitude to Amtrak, FRA, and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for recognizing the tremendous economic, social and community-based value that these new passenger train routes can bring to Wisconsin. I especially want to thank Senator Tammy Baldwin for her support for the expansion of passenger rail in Wisconsin."

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 just under 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.