

Chicago-Milwaukee Tier 1 Environmental Assessment (EA)/Service Development Plan (SDP)
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Agency Stakeholder Meeting
Monday, November 19, 2012
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. (Central)/11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Participants

Webinar:

Arun Rao – Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT)
Ron Adams – WisDOT
Scott Lee – WisDOT
LeAnna Wall - WisDOT
Miriam Gutierrez – Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)
Andrea Martin – Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
Peter Schwartz – FRA
Dick Cogswell – FRA
Walter Lander – Amtrak
Derrick James – Amtrak
Moses Amidei – Village of Wadsworth (Wadsworth)
Tony Repp – Village of Glenview (Glenview)
Jeff Sriver – City of Chicago (Chicago)
Ryan Hoel – Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC)
Kevin Muhs – SEWRPC
Alice Halpin – Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP)
Marie Kopka – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Ethan Johnson – Quandel Consultants (Quandel)
Bob Moore – Quandel
Charlie Quandel – Quandel
Melanie Johnson – Quandel

Background and Purpose

The purpose of the meeting was to:

- Enable Agency Stakeholders to learn more about the Chicago-Milwaukee Intercity Passenger Rail Tier 1 Environmental Assessment (EA)/Service Development Plan (SDP)
- Provide an opportunity for Agency Stakeholders to provide comments
- Describe future public outreach opportunities

Agenda

- 1.0 Welcome and Introductions
- 2.0 Project Overview and Status Update
- 3.0 Purpose and Need for Proposed *Hiawatha Service* Improvements
- 4.0 Alternatives Analysis Summary
- 5.0 General Infrastructure Improvements Strategy
- 6.0 Public Outreach Opportunities
- 7.0 Summary and Next Steps

Discussion

1. A. Rao welcomed meeting participants and led introductions.
2. E. Johnson gave a presentation that provided information on the following topics:
 - a. Meeting purpose
 - b. Project overview
 - c. Project schedule
 - d. Existing Amtrak service (*Hiawatha Service*) in the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor
 - e. Project Purpose & Need
 - f. Project Alternatives Analysis
 - g. Proposed *Hiawatha Service* train schedules
 - h. Proposed infrastructure improvement strategy
 - i. Stakeholder and public outreach opportunities
 - i. WisDOT will notify stakeholders of future public outreach opportunities.
 - j. Project contact information
3. M. Amidei asked if the proposed 90-mph train schedule (where all local and express train travel at top speeds between Rondout, IL and Milwaukee, WI) precludes the possibility of adding additional station stops between Rondout and Milwaukee.
 - a. A. Rao responded that the goal of this Project is to improve the existing service by decreasing travel times and increasing train frequencies.
 - b. A. Rao noted that the proposed 90-mph train schedule would not necessarily preclude the possibility of adding additional station stops in the future.
 - c. A. Rao noted that this Project does not consider new stations. The potential for adding new stations would need to be addressed in a separate study.
4. M. Amidei requested that an electronic copy of the presentation be sent to him.
 - a. E. Johnson indicated that he would forward a copy of the presentation to M. Amidei.

Action Items & Next Steps

- A. Quandel will forward an electronic copy of the webinar presentation to M. Amidei.
- B. WisDOT will notify Agency Stakeholders of future public outreach opportunities.