

Federal
Railroad
Adminstration
Program

For informational purposes only

Intercity Passenger Rail Projects

Several Federal Railroad Administration Program funded projects have been identified in studies of two existing intercity passenger rail corridors and are eligible for federal funding for final design and construction.

In addition, WisDOT has submitted federal discretionary grant applications under the Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Program, Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) and Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) programs in SFY 2018, SFY 2019, and SFY 2020 for five passenger rail projects. All five of these projects have been selected for grants and will be fully funded projects in SFY2021 and SFY2022.

Corridor Improvement Projects:

- 1) Adding one to three additional daily round-trip frequencies between Milwaukee and Chicago on the Hiawatha Service, in cooperation with the State of Illinois. The full corridor improvements would involve final design (SFY 2022 – 2023) and construction (SFY 2024 – 2025), pending completion of the Environmental Assessment and Service Development Plan (completion SFY 2022). The corridor improvements in Wisconsin are already underway.
 - a) Projects in Wisconsin required to accommodate the additional round-trip frequencies (capital costs provided are rounded preliminary estimates):
 - i) Muskego Yard signalization and track/bridge improvements (Milwaukee):
\$54.6 million
 - ii) Milwaukee Airport Rail Station second platform with overhead access (Milwaukee):
\$10.1 million
 - iii) Centralized train control (CTC) signalization between Milwaukee Intermodal Station and Cutoff (Milwaukee): \$5.4 million
- 2) Adding one new state-supported intercity passenger rail frequency between Chicago and the Twin Cities on the Amtrak Empire Builder corridor. Final Design will commence in late 2021 through 2022, with construction in 2023 and 2024. Service will start late 2024.
 - a) Infrastructure improvements in Wisconsin include:
 - i) Rebuild Second Canadian Pacific (CP) Rail Main Track to the west and east of the La Crosse Amtrak Depot and extend La Crosse CP Rail Yard Lead West

SFY 2022 Final Design and Construction Projects:

At the time of publication of the STIP, there were five projects with grant applications selected for the award by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for the final design and construction of passenger rail improvements. The selected projects were obligated in SFY2021 or will be obligated in SFY2022.

- 1) Milwaukee Airport Rail Station second platform with overhead access (Milwaukee):
\$10.1 million ***Grant awarded***
- 2) CTC signalization between Milwaukee Intermodal Station and Cutoff (Milwaukee):
\$5.4 million ***Selected for award***
- 3) Acquisition of three cab-coach cars and six coach cars for the Amtrak Hiawatha Service:
\$38.9 million ***Grant awarded***
- 4) Muskego Yard Improvements and freight train bypass of Milwaukee Intermodal Station (Milwaukee):
\$54.6 million ***Selected for award***
- 5) Twin Cities-Milwaukee-Chicago Intercity Passenger Rail Project
\$53 million ***Selected for award***

Federal funding sources include, but are not limited to, the following grant programs:

- Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA)
- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI)
- Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD)
- Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair