



RESOLUTION # 8-6/19

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

ITEM # 6-12

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 23
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 6
Vote Req: -
Other Action: -
1st - 1st 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 Superivsors 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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended
Co. Admin.	<u>SPB</u>	<u>30</u>	<u> </u>
Fin. Director	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Corp. Counsel	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
Board Chair	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Requested By: County Board Chair
Date Requested: June 6, 2019
Drafted By: County Administrator

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 20th day of June 2019.

Ginny Dankmeyer
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk

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

