

ALL ABOARD MINNESOTA



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Representative Frank Hornstein-Chair
Senator Scott Newman-Chair
Conference Committee-Transportation Finance & Policy

Dear Chairs Representative Hornstein and Senator Newman:

As the Transportation Conference Committee convenes on Monday for an overview of Fiscal Spreadsheet and Side by Side for HF1684, we urge the Transportation Conference Committee to increase the amount from \$3M in HF 1684 to \$10M in the final bill. This amount will allow the state to secure a CRISI Grant of \$32M awarded the state last year to enable a 2nd Passenger Train Frequency between the Twin Cities and Chicago.

In our letter to you in February, we pointed out many of the economic, mobility, and environmental benefits this new service will bring to the state. More very compelling information to urge the legislature to invest in this service is a positive net return for the state.

A Benefit-Cost Analysis prepared for the proposed 2nd Train Frequency (2nd Train) between the Twin Cities and Chicago Project and included in the FRA- CRISI Grant Application for the federal matching funds, showed that over a 30-year period the 2nd train project would more than pay for itself with all capital, maintenance and operating costs included. There would be a net benefit to the state of \$63M over this time period. *(This does not include the economic impact associated with wages related to jobs created, money spent by Amtrak in Minnesota to operate the service or the increased economic activity associated with increased ridership, including additional tourism expenditures.)*

The \$10 million state match for the 2nd train will leverage a \$32 million federal capital grant and a \$12.5 million operating grant. This is a return of \$4 for each state dollar invested. This federal funding for intercity passenger rail (which also significantly benefits freight rail) is not transferable or available for road projects. There is no significant competitive federal grant program for road projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions or would like more information please contact us.

Best Regards
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