



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N758
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

PHONE: (317) 232-5523
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Michael R. Pence, Governor
Michael B. Cline, Commissioner

May 13, 2013

Tim Maloney
Hoosier Environmental Council

Re: Invitation to Participate in Stakeholder Meeting for the Hoosier State Passenger Rail Line Study

Dear Mr. Maloney,

Under the provisions of Section 209 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008, all short-distance Amtrak corridor services (fewer than 750 miles) used for intercity passenger rail service must become state-supported and states must pay the proportional costs associated with the corridor route.

In Indiana, Section 209 service includes the Hoosier State passenger rail line, which runs from Indianapolis to Chicago. The Hoosier State operates four days a week with stops in Indianapolis, Crawfordsville, Lafayette, Rensselaer, and Dyer. On the alternate three days a week that the Hoosier State does not operate, the Cardinal provides passenger service to the same stops at the same times. Because the Cardinal operates from New York City to Chicago, it exceeds the 750 mile minimum and is not subject to the funding provisions of Section 209.

The Indianapolis Department of Transportation (INDOT) has initiated a high-level study of the Hoosier State to quantify its benefits related to traffic congestion, public safety, air quality, and its impact on economic development and job growth. The study will compare the values of these benefits to the estimated cost of operating the service. Three scenarios will be evaluated:

1. Elimination of the Hoosier State;
2. Continuance of the Hoosier State with no improvements; and
3. Continuance of the Hoosier State with 79 MPH, 90 percent On-Time Performance, and increased frequency.

The purpose of the study is to determine if funding for this service, by the state and local entities, is justified based on the return on investment. INDOT is committed to maintaining, supporting, and operating current transportation infrastructure at the lowest cost to taxpayers.

INDOT is interested in obtaining stakeholder feedback on the costs and benefits of the Hoosier State. As an individual or organization that may have an interest in this study, you are being extended this invitation to attend a stakeholder meeting.

Stakeholder Meeting Invitation

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INDOT is asking for comments from stakeholders about:

1. Topics that should be considered when evaluating the costs and benefits of the Hoosier State;
2. Topics that should be considered when evaluating the proposed scenarios;
3. Potential effects the continuation or elimination of service would have on the community;
4. Existing and/or planned development that are dependent on continued/discontinued passenger service;
5. Existing facilities sensitive to rail service; and
6. Community long-range plans and economic benefit factors.

Your insight, perspective, and expertise will help INDOT comprehensively evaluate the costs and benefits of maintaining, improving, or discontinuing the Hoosier State. In order to facilitate a productive meeting, we ask that you bring to the meeting any of the following to leave with the study team:

1. Copy of long-range land use plans in the general area of the station
2. Copy of conceptual plans for development in the general area of the station
3. Maps and photos identifying underutilized properties in the general area of the station

The stakeholder meeting will be held on the following date and location:

Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 1:30pm
Area Plan Commission of Tippecanoe County
20 N. 3rd Street, Lafayette, IN 47901

This stakeholder meeting is by invitation only. If you would like to RSVP with your ability to attend, request to send a proxy or if you have any questions regarding this invitation, please contact Abby Weingardt, INDOT Legislative Affairs Director, via email at AWeingardt@indot.in.gov or via phone at 317-234-8231.

This meeting attendance is very important to the study and INDOT would like to ensure that the appropriate community members are available to provide input. If you would like to suggest any additional attendees, you may also contact Abby Weingardt to make that request.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this undertaking.

Sincerely,

Troy Woodruff
Chief of Staff