

RESULTS OF PRORAIL NEBRASKA SURVEY OF MEMBERS

All of the current ProRail Nebraska membership were mailed an interest survey in October 2007. Of the 110 distributed surveys 49 were returned by the end of November deadline. The results of this survey give the ProRail Nebraska Board good indications of the issues that the organization's membership feel are important.

On the survey five rail passenger issues were listed. The following are these issues in the order of importance based upon survey responses:

1st Continue and improve the current daily Chicago to San Francisco AMTRAK service through Lincoln (California Zephyr) 39 ranked this as their highest interest and 47 ranked it from medium to highest.

2nd Insure the continuation of Nebraska's active participation with eight other states in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact 27 ranked this as their highest interest and 40 ranked it from medium to highest.

3rd Increase to beyond once a day the Chicago to Denver AMTRAK service through Lincoln 26 ranked this as their highest interest and 41 ranked it from medium to highest.

4th Develop commuter rail, possibly high speed, in the Lincoln and Omaha corridor 24 ranked this as their highest interest and 40 ranked it from medium to highest.

5th Provide a route alternative to that of the current California Zephyr in Iowa (such as service through Des Moines) 14 ranked this as their highest interest and 38 ranked it from medium to highest.

Other issues identified by respondents included general expansion and improvement of rail passenger service, government subsidizing of rail service and public transit, other AMTRAK service concerns and creating a Nebraska Department of Transportation. 35 respondents ranked passenger rail travel in the US as average to poor with six ranking it as excellent.

34 respondents ranked their interest in passenger rail service as high with 44 ranking it high to medium. 16 respondents had traveled by passenger rail in the past year and 16 had traveled in the past two to five years. Only two had never traveled by rail and only six had not in the past 30 years. 28 respondents belonged to at least one other rail passenger support organizations with 25 belonging to NARP.

If the survey had a down side it would be related to attendance at ProRail Nebraska meetings. 30 had never attended a meeting in the past three years while only eight averaged at least one meeting a year in the same period. However of those who did attend 21 ranked the value of the meeting as high to medium. 44 ranked the value of the quarterly ProRail Nebraska newsletter as high to medium.

The ProRail Board would like to thank all of the respondents and will be using the survey results in their future planning and prioritizing.