

## **ProRail Board Meeting Minutes: 2/01/2025**

**Attendees:** Clyde Anderson, Bridger Corkill, Landon Friesen, Bob Kuzelka, Dave Purdy, Matt Roque, Richard Schmeling

### **Discussion Items:**

- **Introductions**
- **Treasurer Update**
- **LB 256 MIPRC Bill**
- **LB 271 Anti Tampering Bill**
- **LB 485 Confidentiality for Rail Operators**
- **LB 128 Investigation of Rail Accidents**
- **LB 37 Adopt Railroad Safety Act**
- **State Rail Plan Bill Draft**
- **Annual Meeting Discussion**
- **Donation to CFIP**
- **April Newsletter**
- **Membership Letter**
- **Investments**
- **St Joseph Service KS North Expansion**
- **Next Board Meeting Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2:00-4:00**

### **Detailed Notes:**

- **Introductions**
  - Introductions for new member Landon Friesen.
- **Treasurer Update**
  - Balance after reimbursements approved at last meeting: \$7565.26
  - 2024 IRS Filing is Complete
  - 2025 Annual Report Due in June to Sec State After Elections
- **LB 256 MIPRC Bill**
  - Update from Bob and Richard on meeting with Senator Quick's aide
  - Moving forward with looking for co-sponsors on the bill
  - No hearing date yet
  - Seeking support from Laura at MIPRC / requesting a letter of support
  - Discussion of Jim Hanna's efforts to follow up with other States' MIPRC reps
  - Discussion of requirements of FRA funding. Clarification that strictly speaking membership in an interstate rail compact is not required to unlock FRA dollars.
  - Richard contacting other senators on transportation committee looking for co-sponsors
  - Discussion of coordinating with Iowa organizations on MIPRC and the ongoing effort in Iowa to rejoin MIPRC
  - Discussion of plans for luncheon etc. on hold while we wait for a hearing date. To work with Quick's on this.

- **LB 271 Anti Tampering Bill**
  - Introduced by Senator Storer
  - Richard gave an overview of the safety background. Discussion of forced derailment. There is not a specific statute covering this kind of tampering.
  - Covers assaults on rail operators
  - BNSF worked with Storer on the bill
  - Discussion on the need for a bill like this and overlap with existing law
  - Discussion of the political advantages of supporting the bill – coalition building with Senators on rail and cooperation with freight rail. Generally, falls under rail safety which historically the organization has supported.
  - Agreement on testifying in support of the bill motion passes of 4-1
- **LB 485 Confidentiality for Rail Operators**
  - Introduced by senator quick
  - Limited discussion – no decision to support or oppose
- **LB 128 Investigation of Rail Accidents**
  - Introduced by Senator McKinnon
  - Adds responsibility to the State to investigate rail accidents in Nebraska by the Public Service Commission
  - Applies to accidents that are fatal or cause loss of property
  - No decision to support or oppose
- **LB 37 Adopt Railroad Safety Act**
  - Introduced by Senator Jacobson w/Conrad as co-sponsor
  - Probably unconstitutional / violates interstate commerce rules
  - No hearing yet
  - No action recommended on this bill
- **State Rail Plan Bill Draft**
  - Discussion of the bad State rail plan bill that was not introduced and not supported
  - Discussion of a resolution that would force DOT to hold hearings and conduct planning for passenger rail
  - Work with Quick's office over the next year to draft a bill for the 2026 session
- **Annual Meeting Discussion**
  - Bridger confirmed reservation of the Gretna public library 2:00PM-4:00PM on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - Discussion of speakers for the annual meeting and invitations
  - Richard to follow up with StarTran
  - Discussion of other rail projects of interest like Amtrak expansions or Brightline
  - Discussion of inviting speakers on other transit interests and State Senators
- **Donation to CFIP**
  - Discussion of \$250.00 donation to Citizens for Improved Transit
  - Motion passes unanimously
- **April Newsletter**
  - Discussion of sending out an April newsletter
  - Include information about legislative activities and schedule for annual meeting
  - Clyde to put together again this year
  - Need content by early/mid-April
  - To hammer out more firmly at a March board meeting

- **Membership Letter**
  - Discussion of sending out the annual membership letter before March
  - Bridger to coordinate with Bob on printing
  - To include the annual meeting date, time, and description
  - Discussion of mailing list updates
- **Investments**
  - Bridger to investigate investments/follow up with Ralph Hayden on history of management practice as well as our old CPA
  - May need to adopt a risk policy in our articles of incorporation
  - Bridger to have more information before the annual meeting if a policy needs to be passed/drafted at that time
  - General agreement that investing the funds in fixed return or similar low risk securities would be more sustainable for the organization long-term
- **St Joseph Service KS North Expansion**
  - Dave purdy brought up northward expansion / St Joseph Service
  - Dave to investigate further how we could support this and how it fits into long-term FRA plans
  - May be something to support as the line could extend north to Fremont, Lincoln, Omaha, or a combination of these
  - Discussion of potential Kansas / Missouri speakers for the annual meeting on this topic
- **Next Board Meeting Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>**
  - No meeting on February 15<sup>th</sup> because no hearing has been scheduled on LB 256