

ProRail Board Meeting Minutes: 07/19/2025

Attendees: Bridger Corkill, Oluseye Fakinlede, Jim Hanna, Robert Kuzelka, David Purdy; Richard Schmeling

Discussion Items:

- **Survey Items**
- **Posters/Flyers for Town Halls**
- **Letter of Agreement with Oluseye Fakinlede**
- **Press Releases**
- **Meeting Attendance**
- **Next Meeting is Saturday, August 2nd at 2:00PM. Scooters on 27th and Pine Lake. Bridger to set up Zoom Link.**

Detailed Notes:

- **Survey Items – motion to adopt passes 5-0**
 - Request Senator's office add:
 - In addition to cities in NE currently serviced by Amtrak (Omaha, Lincoln, Hastings, Holdrege, McCook), what other NE towns should receive daily passenger rail service? (Blank?)
 - What destinations outside of NE should be accessible by daily passenger rail service?
 - Coastal destinations
 - Chicago
 - Kansas City
 - Twin Cities
 - US South Central Cities
 - Other
 - What time of day would you be most likely to use passenger rail? Morning, afternoon, or overnight.
 - What would make you use passenger rail (check all that apply):
 - Frequent service
 - Station amenities
 - Convenience
 - If I could access more destinations
 - Free parking with my fare
 - Other (blank)
 - If parking were included with your fare, would you travel from your city to one serviced by Amtrak to take the train?
 - Add to item #6 from Sen. Juarez – Visiting Relatives
- **Posters/Flyers for Town Halls**
 - Propose changes to the draft from Juarez's office.
 - We want to clearly state these are about passenger rail.
 - A bit more colorful.
 - Add our logo.

- Make it clear we are co-hosting. Change the line about the presentation.
- **Letter of Agreement with Oluseye Fakinlede motion to adopt 5-0**
 - Draft letter presented by Bob Kuzelka
 - Bob to supervise, Bridger to process reimbursements
 - The same terms as discussed in our previous meeting with a lid of \$2,000 unless increases are approved by the board.
 - Bob to make minor corrections and reprint for signatures dated 7/19/2025.
- **Press Releases**
 - Richard and Bob to discuss the scope and content of these with Senator's office.
- **Meeting Attendance**
 - Discussion of who plans to attend which meetings.
 - Oluseye to attend/facilitate tech at all of them.
 - In general, everyone to attend their hometown meeting, trying to attend as many as possible as schedules permit.
- **Next Meeting is Saturday, August 2nd at 2:00PM. Scooters on 27th and Pine Lake. Bridger to set up Zoom Link.** Discussion to include finalizing material to bring to town halls and other logistics.

From last meeting notes:

- **Tentative Agenda for Town Halls**
 - Welcome/legislative introductions from Senator Juarez
 - PRN Officer provides a brief history of rail planning efforts in the state and the need for legislation.
 - Two short videos promoting successful transit projects in the US
 - Sonoma-Marín Area Rail Transit (SMART)
 - Rail Runner (NM)
 - Amtrak Downeaster Boston Portland Improvements
 - PRN Officer or potential video explaining the regional (NE/SD) Amtrak proposals.
 - Open time for questions from Attendees
 - Invite attendees to complete a short survey

Provide postcards to send feedback directly to elected officials