

ProRail Board Meeting Minutes: 02/21/2026

Attendees: Clyde Anderson, Taylor Benzel, Bridger Corkill, Oluseye Fakinlede Jim Hanna, Robert Kuzelka, Matthew Roque; Sam Will

Discussion Items:

- **Hearing Review and Next Steps on LB 1098**
- **Annual Meeting Planning**
- **Organizational Planning**
- **Next Meeting is Saturday, March 14th at Scooters on 27th & Pine Lake. Bridger to send Zoom info with reminder email.**
- **Annual Meeting will be 2:00PM Saturday, May 9th, 2026, in Gretna**

Detailed Notes:

- **Hearing Review and Next Steps on LB 1098**
 - Reviewed and discussed how the hearing for LB 1098 went. Overall, the bill received more than 40 comments and had 7 in-person testifiers. Matt to call the legislative clerk to request written testimony and transcripts.
 - Discussion on what worked in hearing preparation
 - Hosting the Town Halls built up a lot of momentum and generated feedback that was valuable in working on the bill and in the legislature.
 - Encouraging people who attended town halls to take action was very successful. Both in person and written testimony were far beyond expectations.
 - Mail and email were used alongside social media.
 - Thank you notes were sent on-line and via postcard. They included information about contacting the committee/contact information.
 - Next Steps
 - General discussion about the momentum that we have and continuing to encourage folks to advocate for passenger rail and public transit.
 - Follow up by email and mail on LB 1098 to encourage people to encourage the committee to prioritize the bill and vote it out.
 - Matt to follow up with Erica on potential next steps/places for ProRail to encourage specific senators to support or cosponsor the bill.
 - Bob to follow up with Sen Quick on possible next steps to move the bill or get additional cosponsors.
 - Sam to follow up with LNK Mayor's office on meeting about the state rail plan and public transportation.
 - Bridger to ping Dave P for progress on setting up something in Omaha.
- **Annual Meeting Planning**
 - Location and time confirmed in Gretna again. See details below. Thanks Taylor!
 - Speakers – we're a little over 2 months away from the annual meeting, so need to make contacts in the next few weeks to finalize speakers before April 1st
 - Jim to follow up with RPA and Miller about potential speakers
 - Sam/Jim to see if there's a good contact for someone from HDR or Omaha to present on the progress of the streetcar.
 - Bridger to follow up with local transit advocates.

- Goal to send letters April 1st with details about the meeting.
- Invitations and Dues Letters – draft letter is attached to the email. Thanks to Taylor for putting it together.
- More general post card could be sent to mailing list encouraging them to attend and join ProRail.
- **Organizational Planning**
 - General discussion about momentum and continuing to host public events. Plan to have at least one fall event again this year, but to find ways to cut costs.
 - Financial sustainability discussion. General discussion about slowing down expenses to more normal levels. We spent around \$2400 on event related costs and another \$1500 on developing materials for the hearing, mailings, and reporting out the town halls. This built momentum, brought in new people, and led to donations from current and former members, but isn't viable long-term without more serious fundraising efforts outside dues income.
 - Discussion on fundraising and growing membership/building on public events.
 - Discussion on Estate planning requests – Bridger to draft request letter.
 - Corporate sponsorship – Matt and Bridger to coordinate on re-vamping the corporate membership tier and encouraging more organizations to join. Bridger and Matt to draft up benefits/more specific pitch. Discussion of hosting a pre-legislative session strategy meeting with other orgs to partner on bills and discuss priorities.
 - General discussion of the other organizations we should target. Bridger to share google sheets from the LB1098 outreach to coordinate efforts.
 - General discussion of dues levels and differences between membership tier. Looking at other organizations to see where we fall and see if adjustments are needed.
 - Bank account and online payments. Bridger to set up PayPal with the new email account. Clyde to add payment button to the website for online dues. Matt and Bridger to coordinate on adding Matt to the account.
 - Website discussion. No decisions made at this time.
 - Matt and Bridger to bring cost estimates for hosting to the next meeting.
 - Bridger to investigate using interest income to cover web costs.
- **Next Meeting is Saturday, March 14th at Scooters on 27th & Pine Lake. Bridger to send Zoom info with reminder email.**
- **Annual Meeting will be 2:00PM Saturday, May 9th, 2026, in Gretna**
 - We have the space reserved from 1:30 to 5:00 to accommodate setup/teardown.