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# ProRail Board Meeting

Saturday, April 4, 2026

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## Attendees

Matthew Roque  
Clyde Anderson  
Bridger Corkill  
Jim Hanna  
Taylor Benzel  
Senator Margo Juarez

## Agenda

### Last Meeting Follow-up

1. LB 1098 Next Steps
2. Annual Meeting Planning
3. Newsletter Planning
4. Dues Postcard Planning

### New Business

5. Unicameral Survey Planning
6. USDOT ROUTES Initiative Comments Planning
7. Next meeting will be the annual meeting -**Saturday, May 9th at 2PM, Gretna Public Library** (if needed, Board can also meeting prior, on May 2)

## Notes

- **LB 1098 Follow Up**
    - Senator Juarez plans to meet with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce in the beginning of May (May 5?). Senator would like to seek feedback from Chambers specifically on the possibility of Omaha (and maybe Lincoln) Chambers for the next rail plan bill.
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- ProRail Board and especially Clyde (on transit advisory committee for Omaha transit) would like to attend Chambers.
  - Feedback from Union Pacific (UP) and BNSF's written testimonies were specific and clear. Matt would like to seek feedback from both organizations after updating rail plan bill language prior to the next legislative session. ProRail should prioritize maintaining relationships with these influential businesses between unicameral sessions.
  - Need to ensure ProRail is also considering other rail uses outside of just passenger rail to appeal to a broader audience and gain interest of more businesses/organizations.
- **Annual Meeting Planning**
  - Speakers:
    - Senator Juarez confirmed to give Welcome and Legislative Update.
    - Steve Jensen from City of Omaha confirmed to present on Omaha Railcar initiative.
    - Sam Will reached out to Union Pacific and asked if they could attend the annual meeting, still in discussions to confirm their attendance.
  - Senator Juarez has requested that we encourage people to vote (with rail in mind) in our outreach materials. Discussed adding a QR code linking to voting registration page.
  - Planned to bring refreshments/snacks to the annual meeting. Matt will provide.
- **Annual Newsletter**
  - Clyde will complete the newsletter with annual meeting speaker information, and stuff envelopes.
  - Newsletters to be sent the week of April 13th.
- **Membership Renewals**
  - Renewal postcards planning to be sent shortly before newsletters.
  - Will try and get pay online button on ProRail website to allow people to join and pay dues online (Bridger verified bank info, will send link to Clyde).
  - Discussed using QR code that links to ProRail Paypal as an alternative to adding Paypal button.
  - Bridger to send Clyde google forms link for taking information on the website.

- **Unicameral Survey**

- Previously, the board sent out surveys to members of the unicameral to seek their feedback and gather information about their support for rail legislation. The board would like to do that again this year. Bridger will search historical ProRail documents for previous survey questions utilized.
- Proposed question: Have you ever ridden a train? Have any family or close friends ever ridden in a train?
- Could publish results or showcase “rail positive” candidates on the website/facebook page.

- **USDOT’s Request for Information for the Rural ROUTES Initiative (Feb 23)**

- Comments due **April 24, 2026**
- ProRail may want to submit comments on the initiative, should comment on daylight services from Amtrak (to Denver/Chicago) instead of focusing on long services to California.
- Put statistics in (Nebraska Tourism Board?) for the number of passengers utilizing Colorado/Chicago routes. Board members may attempt to find relevant statistics for ROUTES comments and provide to Bridger.

## Action Items

1. Bridger will complete dues letters with annual meeting speaker information and stuff envelopes to be sent out the week of April 6.
2. Clyde will send out the newsletters and Bridger, Matt, and Jim will get him their content by Friday April 10th.
3. Bridger will link Paypal and ProRail bank account, and add a button to pay online / QR code to the website.
4. Bridger will look for previous survey questions and create a survey to send to state senators.
5. Bridger will draft USDOT comments for ROUTES initiative and send them out for review. **Comments due April 24.**
6. Matt will provide annual meeting refreshments/snacks.
7. Matt to e-mail Senator Juarez to remind her about annual meeting time and our request for her to speak.



## Next Meeting Agenda Items

- Next meeting will be the annual meeting -**Saturday, May 9th at 2PM, Gretna Public Library**
- If need arises, the board may plan to meet **May 2.**