



ProRail Nebraska News

Dedicated to supporting and advocating for railroad service in the State of Nebraska

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Volume XXXVI **Time to renew memberships and pay dues – See Page 4** May 2026

ProRail Nebraska Annual Meeting

Saturday, May 9, 2026 – 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Gretna Public Library, 736 South St., Gretna, NE 68028

All ProRail Nebraska members, supporters, and general public are invited to participate.

If you can't attend in person, join us on Zoom. Go to our website for the link.

ProRail Nebraska is excited to announce the details for our annual meeting on May 9th at the Gretna Public Library. We have great speakers lined up to give updates and take questions on rail initiatives, legislative action, and progress on the Omaha Streetcar. We hope you can join us!

Tentative Agenda

- 2:00 Refreshments & Welcome
- 2:15 Legislative Update from Senator Margo Juarez (Legislative District 5)
- 2:30 Omaha Streetcar Presentation by Steve Jensen (City of Omaha) See article on page 3.
- 3:00 ProRail Update from Matthew Roque
- 3:10 Treasurer Report from Bridger Corkill
- 3:15 Election of Officers – Vice President, Secretary, Dist. 2 and 4 Directors terms expire in 2026



Directions to the Gretna Public Library located at 736 South St. – **From Omaha** proceed west on I-80 to Exit 439-Route 370. Then proceed west on Route 370 for 4 mi. to US 6; then turn left and proceed 0.5 mi. to West Angus Rd. Turn right and go 0.5 mi. to S. McKenna Ave.; then turn left on McKenna and go 0.2 mi. to South St. Turn right on South St. and the Library is on the right (north). **From Lincoln** proceed northeast on I-80 to the Route 31 Nebraska Crossing Exit 432. Proceed north on Rte. 31 2.6 mi. to S 216th St., then turn left and proceed on 216th St. 0.4 mi. Then bear right onto South St. and proceed 0.2 mi. to the Library.

Parking is available on South St. and the Elementary School across the street from the Library.



Nebraska Legislative 2026 Session News

By Matthew Roque, ProRail Nebraska President

It's been a big year in Nebraska for passenger rail advocates.

Last year ProRail co-hosted a series of town hall meetings across Nebraska to gather feedback from people about what they want to see the State do to advance passenger rail. Events were held in Lincoln, Omaha, Grand Island, Columbus, and North Platte, and drew over 200 participants across the state. This sends a clear message to the Legislature that people want more from their

transportation system in Nebraska. Feedback we received was used to develop a bill, LB1098 the Adopt the State Rail Plan Act, to help get Nebraska back on track with rail planning. to debate and pass them.

I'm happy to report that because of your hard work the hearing of LB 1098, the Adopt the State Rail Plan Act, was a smashing success! Five people spoke in favor of the bill including Senator Juarez, myself, and fellow PRN board member Jim Hanna. Thanks to those who came down to the capitol after meeting us this Fall! It was wonderful to see new faces advocating for the many benefits of passenger rail, and to hear from a wide range of perspectives. Former Senator Al Davis gave a great testimony about the fact that the bill only commits the state to planning, and that rail planning is the bare minimum the state should be doing. PRN was blown away by the depth of knowledge and variety of reasons that people gave for supporting passenger rail. We're excited to channel that energy into future efforts to adopt a state rail plan.

In addition to in person testimony, **43 of you submitted testimony in online support of the bill!** Your dedication makes a difference. Thank you for answering the call and making your voices heard! In addition to feedback from rail advocates, both major railroads and several organizations made valuable comments that will help us refine the bill for the next legislative session. We can't wait to tell you more about it at our annual meeting.

Recent Success in Passenger Rail and Public Transit Advocacy

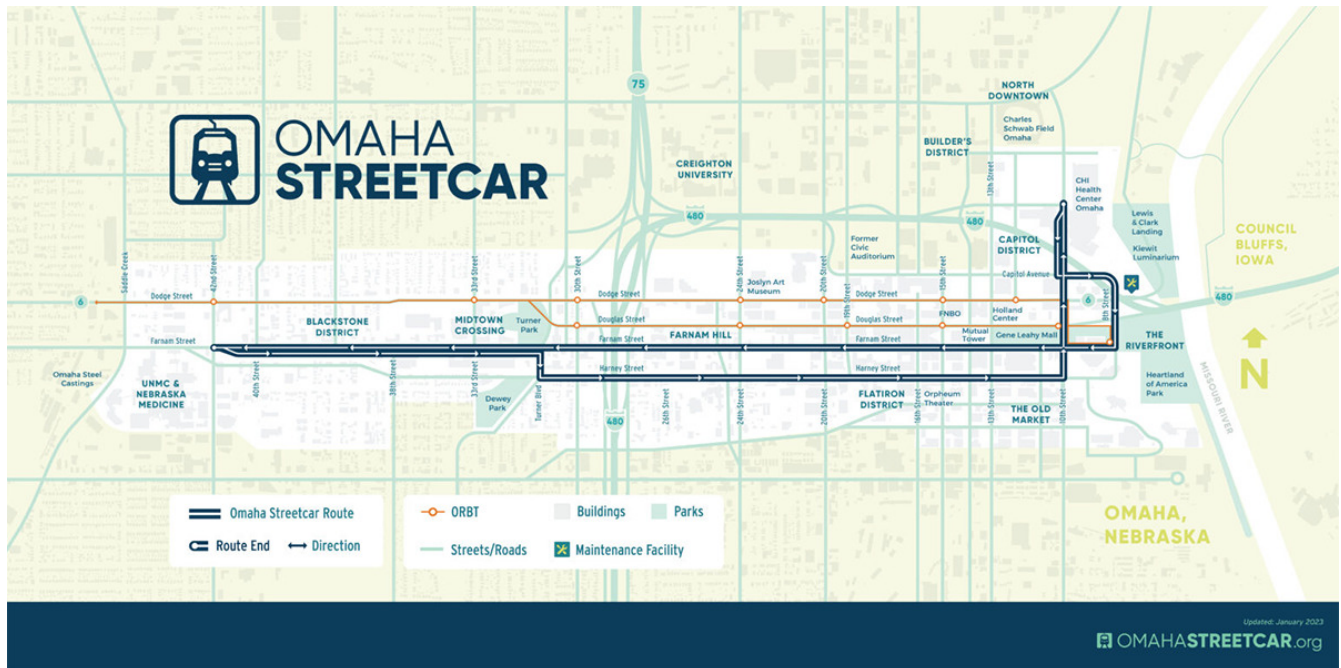
Compiled by Bridger Corkill – ProRail Treasurer

- **Colorado Front Range Passenger Rail** gets track deal needed to launch starter train service. Metro Denver's Regional Transportation District would make a one-time payment of \$156 million, plus operating expenses of \$10 million to \$12 million a year, under a deal that would allow Front Range Passenger Rail "starter service" to start by January 2029, state officials said Thursday. Use QR code to read the full article.
- **St. Paul backs study of passenger rail to Kansas City** after Borealis success. The St. Paul City Council last week passed a resolution supporting the study of new passenger rail service connecting St. Paul with Kansas City, Missouri, as well as a dedicated line between St. Paul and Fargo, North Dakota. Use QR code to read the full article.
- **Amtrak is adding extra daily service between Kansas City and St. Louis** for World Cup. The Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission recently approved \$1.7 million of general revenue funds for an extra run of the



Amtrak River Runner starting in April 2026. Kansas City is hosting six World Cup matches next summer. Use QR code to read the full article.

- **First CSX train crosses Chicago’s Forest Hill Flyover, major CREATE project.**
The Flyover is part of the 75th Street Corridor Improvement Project, a series of infrastructure undertakings to address South Side rail congestion issues. By elevating CSX’s north-south main line above the east-west Metra, BRC, and NS tracks, the new bridge eliminates two sets of diamond crossings that were the source of major congestion as the intersection of 30 Metra SouthWest Service trains and about 35 freight trains. Use QR code to read the full article.



The Omaha Streetcar Authority oversees the design, implementation and operation of the streetcar. Our guest speaker, Steve Jensen, is a member of the Board as well as City of Omaha’s Deputy Chief of Staff for Economic Development. Steve will provide us with an update on the Omaha Streetcar Project.

Imagine an Omaha where people can park their car, then take the streetcar to shops, restaurants and entertainment venues without moving their vehicle more than once. Where people who live and work in midtown or downtown can get to and from work without using a vehicle at all. Imagine an Omaha where visitors can explore new areas of the city by taking a short, free ride on the streetcar. Imagine an Omaha that is more connected, more accessible and even more vibrant. The streetcar is the key to unlocking this potential.

Most of the necessary utility work prerequisite of streetcar construction is almost completed. Replacement of the Harney St. bridge over I-480 was completed in 2025, and replacement of the Farnam St. bridge is being replaced this year. The streetcar maintenance facility is being built near 8th St. along Riverside Drive. And track construction started in April.



It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Letter from ProRail Nebraska's President

Dear Friend,

It is time again to ask for you to renew your support of ProRail Nebraska. Although modest, your dues allow our organization to continually move forward in support of public transportation, and more specifically, passenger rail issues. Your membership not only sustains us financially but goes to show the breadth of support for our issues.

Because of our work this year on LB 1098 (Adopt the State Rail Plan Act), our bank account is a little lighter than in years past. This work was extremely valuable, and we spoke with people at all five of our town hall meetings who are interested in and passionate about passenger rail. Our plan is to continue pressing this issue and working with our members to get this bill reintroduced next year.

It is your continued support of ProRail Nebraska that will make this possible. As we continue to educate State Senators about the benefits of passenger rail, it is great knowing that you stand with us.

Please mail your membership dues (Regular - \$20, Family - \$30, Student - \$10) to Bridger Corkill, Treasurer, ProRail Nebraska, 1945 A St., Lincoln, NE 68502. Or pay with credit card with your smart phone using the QR code below-left. You may also use this QR code to make a donation to ProRail Nebraska.

Matthew Roque, President, ProRail Nebraska

P.S. – If you're not yet a ProRail member, use the QR code below-right to join using your smart phone. Use the QR code on the left to pay your dues.

Use this QR code to pay ProRail dues or make donations



Use this QR code to Join ProRail Nebraska

