

ProRail Nebraska (PRN)

Statement of Mission and Objectives

Adopted October 12, 2019

(Mission) PRN is a member organization advocating for improved passenger rail and all forms of surface public transportation serving Nebraska. It is an affiliate of the Rail Passenger Association (RPA), which advocates for passenger rail service on a national basis. Our priority objectives are:

- **(MIPRC)** Nebraska became a member state of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Compact in the Midwest Council of State Governments in 2001. The Compact created the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC), an association made up of officials and citizens appointed by the Governors and Legislatures of member states (currently 8) in the Midwest. Nebraska's representation could include two State Senators and two public representatives appointed by the Governor. MIPRC's purpose is to coordinate and advocate for development of passenger rail service in the several Midwest states. In 2018 the Nebraska Legislature withdrew the state's membership. PRN advocates that Nebraska pass legislation to rejoin MIPRC. Upon taking this action the Nebraska legislative and executives branches should take full and active participation in MIPRC. Such participation must include but not be limited to appointing a full contingent (4) of representatives from Nebraska to the commission and the continuation of paying the state's annual membership dues to the commission.
- **(OMA/LNK Commuter)** The urban region of Lincoln and Omaha contain the major population centers and growth in Nebraska. PRN advocates establishing commuter public transportation service including commuter trains for this Omaha/Lincoln urban region. We urge Nebraska Department of Transportation to study the feasibility for such commuter service.
- **(Urban and Rural Public Transit)** The movement of citizens within and between the urban and rural areas of the Nebraska is critical to the economic and social development of the state. PRN advocates and supports programs, private and public agencies and organizations that plan, develop, support and finance such means of public transport.
- **(NE-CHI Service)** The Illinois and Iowa DOTs are designing the establishment of a second Chicago – Iowa train service which would be routed through Quad Cities and Des Moines and would terminate in Omaha/Council Bluffs. PRN advocates this line be established to include service through Omaha terminating in Lincoln. We encourage the State of Nebraska and the cities of Omaha and Lincoln to actively participate in this multi-state project to insure such a Nebraska termination.
- **(CA Zephyr)** The AMTRAK California Zephyr is an impressive train, but it operates through Nebraska only once a day at night with east and west service. PRN advocates for additional daylight AMTRAK passenger service between Chicago and Denver through Lincoln and Omaha in Nebraska. We encourage the State of Nebraska and the cities of Omaha and Lincoln to actively participate in and support such increased service.
- **(Stations)** PRN advocates for the expansion of the use and accessibility of the AMTRAK stations with full staffing in the state as hubs for all surface public and private passenger transportation systems.
- **(OMA/LNK to KC)** PRN advocates for the creation of passenger service between Omaha and Lincoln and Kansas City.