

ProRail Nebraska (PRN)

Statement of Mission and Objectives

Revised and Adopted January 10, 2015

(Mission) PRN is a member organization advocating for improved passenger rail transportation serving Nebraska. It is an affiliate of the National Association of Railroad Passengers (NARP), which advocates passenger rail service on a national basis. Our priority objectives are:

1. **(MIPRC)** Nebraska is a member of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC), an association made up of officials and citizens appointed by the Governors and Legislatures of the member states (10) in the Midwest. Nebraska's representatives include two State Senators and two public representatives. MIPRC's purpose is to coordinate development of passenger rail service in the several Midwest states. PRN advocates that Nebraska's legislative and executives branches take full and active participation in MIPRC. Such participation should 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 (\$15,000) to the commission.
2. **(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. The State of Nebraska needs to restudy the feasibility for such commuter service.
3. **(NE-CHI Service)** The State of Iowa's DOT is designing the establishment of a second Chicago – Iowa train service which would be routed through Des Moines and would terminate in Omaha/Council Bluffs. PRN advocates that 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 actively participate in this Iowa DOT project to insure such a Nebraska termination.
4. **(NDST)** Until there is a significant and identifiable passenger rail organization in Nebraska state government, efforts to improve and increase passenger rail service in the state will not occur. PRN advocates for the creation of a Nebraska Department of Surface Transportation with a clear function to plan, develop, and implement passenger rail service.
5. **(Stations)** PRN advocates for the expansion of the use and accessibility of the AMTRAK stations in the state as hubs for all surface public and private passenger transportation systems.
6. **(CA Zephyr)** The AMTRAK California Zephyr is an impressive train, but it operates only once a day at night with east and west service through Nebraska. PRN advocates for additional daylight AMTRAK passenger service between Chicago and Denver through Lincoln and Omaha. We encourage the State of Nebraska and the cities of Omaha and Lincoln to actively participate in and support such increased service.
7. **(OMA/LNK to KC)** PRN advocates for the creation of a passenger rail line from Omaha and Lincoln to Kansas City. The states of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Missouri currently are studying and undertaking a passenger line that would connect Dallas-Fort Worth through Oklahoma City/Tulsa and Newton, KS to Kansas City. We encourage the State of Nebraska and the cities of Omaha and Lincoln to actively support and participate in this project to include its extension to Nebraska.