

**RESOLUTION**

**ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor James Farrell  
INITIATED BY



8/31/2022  
DATE DRAFTED

**Supporting Expression of Interest – Rock County Amtrak Service Connection**

**WHEREAS**, the economic vitality and livability of Wisconsin communities depend on connectivity with other places across the region; and

**WHEREAS**, passenger rail will be essential to multi-modal transport systems of the future, providing connectivity; and

**WHEREAS**, Rock County is not located on the rail corridor linking Madison, Wi. to Milwaukee, Wi. and the City of Madison has sent a letter of interest to have service to Milwaukee, Wi. and

**WHEREAS**, safe, fast, modern, convenient passenger rail offers time-savings and productivity benefits of all-weather transportation, making Wisconsin more attractive to live, work, or visit; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is currently served by only two Amtrak routes, neither of which cross Rock County; and

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is one the most populous states in the nation without any ongoing passenger rail development or operating program as it has no funds budgeted for passenger rail development in the currently proposed Wisconsin Department of Transportation biennial budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the employment multiplier for transportation sector jobs is 3.76 according to the Economic Policy Institute, meaning that for every Amtrak job added another 2.76 jobs are created among suppliers and in communities where employees live and work: and

**WHEREAS**, a Rock County connection to enhanced passenger rail service would be catalytic to the development of our local community, higher education institutions and southern Wisconsin as a whole and

**WHEREAS**, Congress passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (commonly referred to as BIL), which includes billions in federal funding that can be accessed to improve and increase the reach of Amtrak network. The deadline for submitting a letter of interest for Amtrak service is September 30, 2022.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled this 22nd day of September, 2022, does hereby send an expression of interest to the US Department of Transportation Federal Railway Administration of the need for a Rock County Amtrak connection to Madison, WI. and Milwaukee, Wi.

FISCAL NOTE:

This resolution has no fiscal impact in an by itself.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator

**Committee Action**

Planning & Development Committee

Planning and Development Committee recommended this resolution by a voice vote of 4-1, which Podzilni voting "nay."