

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
COMMERCE
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

April 21, 2023

Mr. Amit Bose
Administrator, Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose,

I am pleased to support the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's (WisDOT) application for Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) program funding through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA). If awarded, funding will help to support the extension of Amtrak *Hiawatha Service*, which currently operates between Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to the Twin Cities, Minnesota via Eau Claire, Wisconsin and Madison, Wisconsin.

The Minneapolis-St. Paul-Eau Claire-Madison-Milwaukee-Chicago Corridor would provide two underserved cities in Wisconsin – Madison, the state capital, and Eau Claire, a thriving city in west central Wisconsin – with intercity passenger rail service and would connect the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul with passenger rail. The service would extend the popular *Hiawatha Service* and build upon successful intercity bus service that currently operates multiple round trips per day between Madison and Eau Claire. The service will also provide all-weather mobility options for cities and communities across this Corridor.

Wisconsin DOT has worked with Amtrak on their Wisconsin Corridor Development Study, which identified the *Hiawatha Service* extension to the Twin Cities via Eau Claire and Madison as an important link to business headquarters, cultural attractions, and educational opportunities in the Madison, Eau Claire, and Twin Cities areas.

In studying the potential development of this Corridor, WisDOT proposes to work with the FRA, Minnesota, Illinois, Tribal and local governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations, Amtrak, hosts railroads, and other interested parties in detailing local routing, service plans, and service options. Local needs and conditions across the corridor will be considered.

I strongly support projects that help to improve our regional transportation infrastructure for all users. For this reason, I request full and fair consideration be given to WisDOT's application for Corridor ID program funding. Please keep my staff informed on the progress of this application by e-mail at projects_grants@baldwin.senate.gov. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator