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*Bringing Together
State Leaders from
Across the Region
to Advocate
for Passenger Rail
Improvements*

The Midwest Interstate
Passenger Rail Commission is
an eight-state interstate
compact commission that
promotes, coordinates and
supports regional
improvements to passenger
rail service. Our member
states include
Illinois, Indiana, Kansas,
Michigan, Minnesota,
Missouri, North Dakota and
Wisconsin.

February 5, 2024

Surface Transportation Board
Attn: Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1)
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20423-0001

Transmitted via e-file at www.stb.gov

Dear members of the Surface Transportation Board,

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) is pleased to nominate Troy Hughes to serve on the Surface Transportation Board's Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) as a representative from a state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail.

Contact information

Troy Hughes, Administrator of Railroads
Missouri Department of Transportation
105 West Capitol Avenue
Jefferson City, Missouri 64104
573.751.7476
troy.hughes@modot.mo.gov

Mr. Hughes is currently the administrator of railroads for the Missouri Department of Transportation, where he has been employed for over 28 years in a variety of positions including nine years in the rail section of the Multimodal Division.

As the Administrator of Railroads, Mr. Hughes leads teams that are responsible for delivering highway-railroad crossing projects, rail safety programs, safety oversight for light rail, and managing Missouri's state supported service, the *Missouri River Runner* – including the *Missouri River Runner/Lincoln Service* train that is operated jointly with the state of Illinois. He also works with Amtrak and communities along Missouri's two long distance services, the *Southwest Chief* and *Texas Eagle*.

During his four years as the Administrator of Railroads, the *Missouri River Runner* transitioned from operating in arrears to Amtrak to delivering the service within the state's budget; this was accomplished in part by working with stakeholders through the Missouri legislative process to increase the passenger rail budget from a low in fiscal year 2021 of \$8 million to \$14.5 million in fiscal year 2024.

Missouri's passenger rail program utilizes a Passenger Advisory Committee (MORPAC) which is recognized as one of the best in the country. MORPAC is made up of representatives from communities along passenger rail corridors, Amtrak, Union Pacific, the labor unions and other interested parties. MORPAC provides feedback on ways to improve passenger service and identifies ways for communities to work together on joint marketing and advocating for passenger rail service.

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MIPRC Nomination of Troy Hughes to STB PRAC 2024 (cont.)

Mr. Hughes also currently serves on the Executive Board of the Next Generation Equipment Committee and on the board for Missouri Operation Lifesaver. He is also Missouri's representative to the States-Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee, States for Passenger Rail Coalition and the Federal Railroad Administration's Long-Distance Study.

In his previous position as Railroad Project Manager for MoDOT, Mr. Hughes led Missouri's effort to improve safety at highway-railroad crossings and delivery of passenger rail projects which received ARRA funding. His efforts in highway-railroad coordination led to projects receiving Noteworthy Awards from the Federal Highway Administration and the President's Award from AASHTO. Intercity passenger rail projects he led included:

- Second Osage River Bridge and track construction (\$28.4 million)
- Preliminary Engineering and NEPA work for 5 projects (\$6.4 million)
- Railroad signal construction at thirteen highway/railroad crossings (\$3.2 million)

Mr. Hughes is always willing to provide input to MIPRC from the state DOTs' perspective and has often provided key insight into our joint efforts. Mr. Hughes is able and willing to serve on the PRAC in a representative capacity, and MIPRC enthusiastically endorses his candidacy. His knowledge on a broad range of rail-related issues, along with his demeanor and willingness to serve, make him an ideal candidate for this advisory committee. His letter agreeing to serve on the PRAC is also attached.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Thank you!

Sincerely,



Beth McCluskey
MIPRC Chair



Peter Anastor
MIPRC Vice Chair



Laura Kliewer
MIPRC Director

Attachment: Troy Hughes' nomination acceptance letter

February 2, 2024

Ms. Laura Kliewer
Director
Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission
701 E. 22nd Street, Suite 110
Lombard, IL 60148

Dear Ms. Kliewer,

It was very flattering to hear my colleagues from across the Midwest was interested in nominating me as a representative to the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee.

Please accept this letter as my confirmation that I am willing and would be honored to serve on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee if selected by the Surface Transportation Board.

Please feel free to contact me at (573) 751-7476 or at troy.hughes@modot.mo.gov.

Sincerely,

Troy Hughes

Troy Hughes, P.E.
Administrator of Railroads
Missouri Department of Transportation