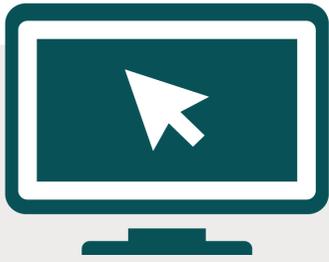


PROJECT PURPOSE AND NEED



REVIEW THE COMPLETE PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT FOR THE PROPOSED TCMC PROJECT ON THE PROJECT WEBSITE AT WWW.DOT.STATE.MN.US/PASSENGERRAIL/TC-MIL-CHI/

WHAT IS THE **PURPOSE** OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

The project would address regional transportation system gap with an additional, second daily round-trip service connecting the Twin Cities, Milwaukee and Chicago, cities in between, and General Mitchell International Airport in Milwaukee.

The proposed service would ...

- **Be cost-effective** to implement, operate and maintain;
- **Address projected population increases and economic growth** by providing a **second daily service about four to six hours apart** from the *Empire Builder* schedule;
- **Integrate with the *Hiawatha*** service between Milwaukee and Chicago; and
- **Begin at Union Depot in St. Paul** with connections to the *Empire Builder*, which travels from Portland and Seattle to Chicago.

WHAT IS THE **NEED** FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT?

The need is based on the following transportation gaps:

- Communities along the corridor have **limited transportation options** for trips to major metropolitan areas, and the *Empire Builder* service **does not provide sufficient connections to nearby destinations or airports** in Milwaukee and the Twin Cities;
- Projected population increases along the proposed TCMC corridor are expected to spur **more travel delays** on roads and strain airline services;
- The one daily round-trip passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago **does not provide schedule choices** for intercity and other travelers within the region; and
- The ***Empire Builder* service reaches near-capacity** during peak travel months, and travel demand within the proposed corridor is projected to rise.



TWIN CITIES - MILWAUKEE - CHICAGO INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE PROJECT