

# ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS: SERVICE ALTERNATIVES

## SERVICE ALTERNATIVE SCREENING PROCESS

### 1 LEVEL 1 SCREENING

Eliminate alternatives that present significant challenges in operating an efficient service when analyzing the following factors:

- » Time-of-day departure
- » Scheduled trip time
- » Stations served
- » Train consist
- » Operational integration with the existing *Hiawatha Service*

### 2 LEVEL 2 SCREENING

Eliminate alternatives that:

- » Result in higher operational and equipment impacts
- » Require additional infrastructure improvements between Milwaukee and Chicago

### 3 LEVEL 3 SCREENING

Eliminate alternatives that:

- » Do not operate within 4- to 6-hour lag before/after *Empire Builder* service departure times
- » Do not have available passenger capacity on either existing or proposed *Hiawatha Service* frequencies

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### 4 LEVEL 4 SCREENING

**Operations modeling evaluation:**  
Identify and compare infrastructure improvements among alternatives

**REASONABLE AND FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE(S)**

The project team used a four-level screening process to identify reasonable and feasible service alternatives. Each screening level provided a greater level of detail in analyzing the identified alternatives.

- **NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE:** Passenger rail service between the Twin Cities and Chicago continues as one daily round trip at speeds up to 79 mph on Amtrak's long-distance *Empire Builder* service. No additional passenger rail service provided.
- **ALTERNATIVE 1:** Proposed TCMC service frequency operates as an extension of one of the **existing** seven *Hiawatha* service schedules.
- **ALTERNATIVE 2:** Proposed TCMC service frequency operates as an extension of one of the **proposed additional** *Hiawatha* service schedules.
- **ALTERNATIVE 3:** Proposed TCMC service frequency and *Hiawatha* service operate individually – except between Milwaukee and Chicago, where they would be attached and operate as one train.
- **ALTERNATIVE 4:** Proposed TCMC service frequency operates as separate, additional frequency (eighth round trip per day between Milwaukee and Chicago) to existing *Hiawatha* service.