
Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission

October 9 & 10, 2001

Congressional Visits (Washington, D.C.)

The Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission (MIPRC) had a very successful trip to Washington, D.C. on October 9 and 10, 2001. The group advocated for a more balanced transportation system and for major federal investments in passenger rail improvements. Working with its allies, the Commission visited the offices of most of the U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives from the MIPRC states, along with other key federal leaders.

Along with encouraging sponsorship of the High Speed Rail Investment Act and giving information on the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative, the MIPRC distributed a *Statement of Principles for Federal High Speed Rail Legislation*, which had been developed by a coalition headed by the High Speed Ground Transportation Association, and adopted by the Commission.

After its October trip, the Commission worked to ensure that the tax credit bonding authority for high speed rail that was included in the Senate version of the economic stimulus package be retained in any stimulus legislation that passed. Since Congress adjourned in December without passing an economic stimulus package, the MIPRC will start anew in 2002 to advocate for a substantive federal investment in high speed rail.