



# Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail Association (NOPRA)

Advancing Passenger Rail for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century  
A 501 (c) 3 Organization Founded in 1993

## Mission

- Educate the public on the availability and advantages of passenger rail
- Work to upgrade the quality and frequency of passenger rail through northern Ohio
- Ensure inclusion of northwest Ohio in regional and national passenger rail systems
- Encourage rail manufacturing to locate in northwest Ohio

**The Vision** is a new day for rail. New rail equipment manufacturing will create more jobs for Ohioans. Fast, frequent, modern trains will link cities, spurring new development. Toledo will be a major passenger hub, and rail upgrades will add freight train capacity as well. And fuel-efficient rail will benefit air quality and ease highway congestion.

**The Opportunity** is for northwest Ohio to utilize its manufacturing infrastructure and skilled trades to re-invigorate the economic well being of the region and its residents.

- Significant economic benefits in spending and employment are expected due to high speed rail.
- The total level of economic benefit that high speed rail brings to a region depends on local economic characteristics. Northwest Ohio, with its strong labor force and abundance of underutilized manufacturing facilities, has the opportunity to attract labor and heavy industry.
- Employment benefits would not only be realized in jobs, but also in the kinds of jobs. From this perspective, high speed rail promises to create diverse jobs at different rungs of the employment ladder including planning, engineering, construction, maintenance, service and operations, leading to a range of potential career paths.

**The Strategy** is for our region to unite, to deliver one clear message. NOPRA is a strong consortium of public and private sector leaders that will carry that message.

## Our Message

- Provide state funds to leverage federal funding and to upgrade rail service in Ohio and Michigan.
- Provide economic incentives to attract rail equipment manufacturing to Ohio.
- Work with adjoining states to build a strong rail network.
- Make Toledo routes a top priority, to provide new north-south linkage (Detroit-Toledo-Columbus) and enhance east-west travel (Cleveland-Toledo-Chicago).

## Passenger Rail Fast Facts

- Toledo is the busiest Amtrak passenger station in Ohio, with service to Chicago, Cleveland, New York/Boston, and Pittsburgh/Washington, D.C.
- Rail is most competitive between cities 100-500 miles apart. In America 2050's analysis of 27,000 city pairs, Chicago-Cleveland ranked 16th in best potential for high speed rail.
- For every \$1 spent on the Midwest Regional Rail system, nearly \$2 of benefit is expected.

## Contact Us

Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail Association, PO Box 839, Toledo OH 43697  
419.241.9155 ext. 117 - [NWOhioPassengerRail@gmail.com](mailto:NWOhioPassengerRail@gmail.com)

**Membership Application** - NOPRA seeks the assistance of all organizations and persons interested in the future of rail transportation and manufacturing in the State of Ohio and beyond. NOPRA is a leading advocacy group, regularly engaging with elected leaders. NOPRA participants represent a wide range of interests, including businesses, universities, economic development agencies, and local governments.

To learn more, see the *Ohio Hub Plan* (2007) at [www.ohiohub.com](http://www.ohiohub.com), the *Midwest Regional Rail Initiative* (2004) at [www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/onepagers/midwest.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/onepagers/midwest.html), and "*On the Move: 2007-2035 Transportation Plan*," Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG, 2007).



## Application for Membership in Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail Association

Name/Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

### SPONSOR LEVELS

- GOLDEN SPIKE SPONSOR \$500.00**
- SILVER RAIL SPONSOR \$250.00**

### Annual Membership

- Individual \$25 one year
- Individual \$45 two years
- Corporate/Organization \$100 one year
- Corporate/Organization \$175 two years

Make checks payable and mail to:

**NOPRA  
PO Box 839  
Toledo OH 43697**

