



**TMACOG Passenger Rail Committee**  
Wednesday, November 16, 2016 – 2:30 p.m.  
TMACOG Boardroom

**Minutes**

1. **Convene meeting/introductions/notes** – Rebekka Aparidian convened the meeting. Notes were accepted with a motion from Lee Markham, seconded by Tim Porter.
2. **Legislative Agenda- call for issues** – Christine Connell presented the current draft of the 2017-2018 Legislative Agenda. She explained the new format designed to be readily digestible by lawmakers, and showed the new website that will be available for all modes of transportation and funding policies. She passed out the sheet for passenger rail and explained the current draft items. The committee was asked to review the draft and provide comment by mid-December.
3. **2018 AWP Review-** Rebekka went over the draft of the Annual Work Program for FY 2018, including the proposed projects that the Passenger Rail Committee will work on. Tim commented that he would prefer more than one event as a product. Rebekka said that the current wording, “at least one event,” left open the possibility for an additional one.
4. **Passenger Rail Forum Recap** – Tim Porter gave a recap of the Passenger Rail Forum with Eugene Skoropowski’s presentation on the new Brightline underway in Florida. It was a great presentation and some valuable conversations were had as a result.
5. **Passenger Rail News**
  - a. The Committee discussed election implications for passenger rail and funding opportunities
  - b. STB withdrew its proposed policy that would have prioritized freight rail over passenger rail in some cases
  - c. Underway is a project that will result in passenger rail service from Ann Arbor to Traverse City, will be following the development of this closely
  - d. TMACOG has posted resources to its Passenger Rail website, including links for on-time performance, statistics for boardings, etc.
6. **2017 Committee Leadership-** The Committee agreed to consider whether or not they wanted to seek new leadership for the coming year.
7. **Updates, upcoming events, roundtable-** Nothing discussed
8. **Adjourn**

**Next meeting: Wednesday, February 15 at 2:30 pm**