

## COMMITTEE MINUTES for TRANSPORTATION

**Date:** January 31, 2008

**Place:** Room 19

**Convened:** 1/31/2008  
10:05 AM

**Recessed:**

**Reconvened:**

**Adjourned:** 1/31/2008  
10:55 AM

**Present:** Representatives Huser-CH, Lykam-VC, Tjepkes-RM, Arnold, Bell, Bukta, Dandekar, Gaskill, M., Gipp, Huseman, May, Mertz, Olson, D., Rasmussen, Reasoner, Roberts, Swaim, Whitaker, Windschitl, Worthan

**Absent:** None

**Excused:** Representative Cohoon

Chair Huser called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

Roll was called by the clerk.

The meeting minutes of Tuesday January 29th were unanimously approved.

Chair Huser announced that HSB 514 and HF 2018 will be debated at the next Transportation Committee meeting.

Representative Bell introduced the speakers for the presentation of the day. The presentation was given by Laura Kliener, the Director of the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission and Tammy Nicholson, of the Iowa Department of Transportation. Ms. Nicholson began her presentation with the background of rail service in the United States and Iowa. She proceeded to give information specifically on Iowa, including the Amtrak state supported routes and the railway route between North Liberty and downtown Iowa City. Ms. Nicholson stated various reasons for the attractiveness of railways as a means of transportation, including energy efficiency, expanding job opportunities in rural Iowa, and the issue of high fuel costs in other means of travel. She also presented a feasibility study on a potential railway between Chicago and the Quad Cities. Detailed information on this study is available at [www.IowaRail.com](http://www.IowaRail.com).

Ms. Nicholson began her portion of the presentation with background information on the creation and purpose of the MIRPRC, the purpose being to promote, coordinate, and support regional improvement to passenger rail. Discussion continued on the proposed railway between Chicago and the Quad Cities.

Members of the Transportation Committee received a handout of passenger rail data, a handout on the economic impact of Midwest Regional Rail System, an Executive Report on Midwest Regional Rail System, and a slideshow presentation.

With no further business to come before the committee, Representative Worthan moved that the committee arise. The meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

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Representative Geri Huser

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Kelli Huser, Committee Secretary