

EMPIRE BUILDER HIGH SPEED RAIL COALITION

712 Main Street
La Crosse, WI 54601

Ph: 608-784-5488
ladco@centurytel.net



NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION

James Hill, 608-784-5488

Please be advised that the **Empire Builder High Speed Rail Coalition will hold a News Conference on Saturday, January 23rd, 2010 at 10:15 a.m. at the La Crosse Amtrak Depot (601st Andrew St).** Immediately following the News Conference, supporters of high speed rail along the river route will board Amtrak for a trip to Milwaukee for the Milwaukee Bucks vs. Minnesota Timberwolves NBA Basketball Game, emphasizing a message of the many advantages of this route.

La Crosse, WI. -1-23-2010 – **Supporters of High Speed Rail along the Empire Builder Route** (Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, Tomah, La Crosse/ La Crescent, Winona, Red Wing, St. Paul) will travel to Milwaukee via Amtrak on Saturday, January 23rd for the **Milwaukee Bucks vs. Minnesota Timberwolves NBA Basketball Game**. Supporters from Minnesota and Wisconsin will board Amtrak at stops from St. Paul to Columbus and will then travel together to Milwaukee for a weekend filled with fun, networking and most importantly, advocacy for High Speed Rail along the Mississippi River Route. Participants will return to their respective destinations via Amtrak on Sunday, January 24th.

James Hill, facilitator of the Empire Builder High Speed Rail Commission and Executive Director of the La Crosse Area Development Corporation said, “This event demonstrates the unified goals of communities on both sides of the Mississippi River. It’s in the best interest of Wisconsin and Minnesota to bring higher speed **and** more frequent rail service to fruition on the existing Empire Builder Route.”

La Crosse County Administrator Steve O’Malley commented, “High speed rail travel with more frequent service will make tourism, convention and business travel across Wisconsin and Minnesota much more convenient for a large population and already established ridership base. High speed rail on the existing Empire Builder Route builds on what is already one of the most successful Amtrak long distance routes.”

The Empire Builder route offers the greatest chance for operational success given the existing passenger level trackage, existing right-of-way to accommodate double trackage which will be critical in maintaining both freight and passenger service simultaneously and the Empire Builder Route is one of AMTRAK’s most successful long distance routes with continual increases in ridership. In addition to high speed service along the existing river route, The Empire Builder High Speed Rail Coalition supports commuter rail service between St. Paul and Eau Claire with eventual service all the way to Green Bay.

The Amtrak Trip to the Milwaukee Bucks vs. Minnesota Timberwolves game is being sponsored by the Empire Builder High Speed Rail Coalition in cooperation with Onboard Midwest.