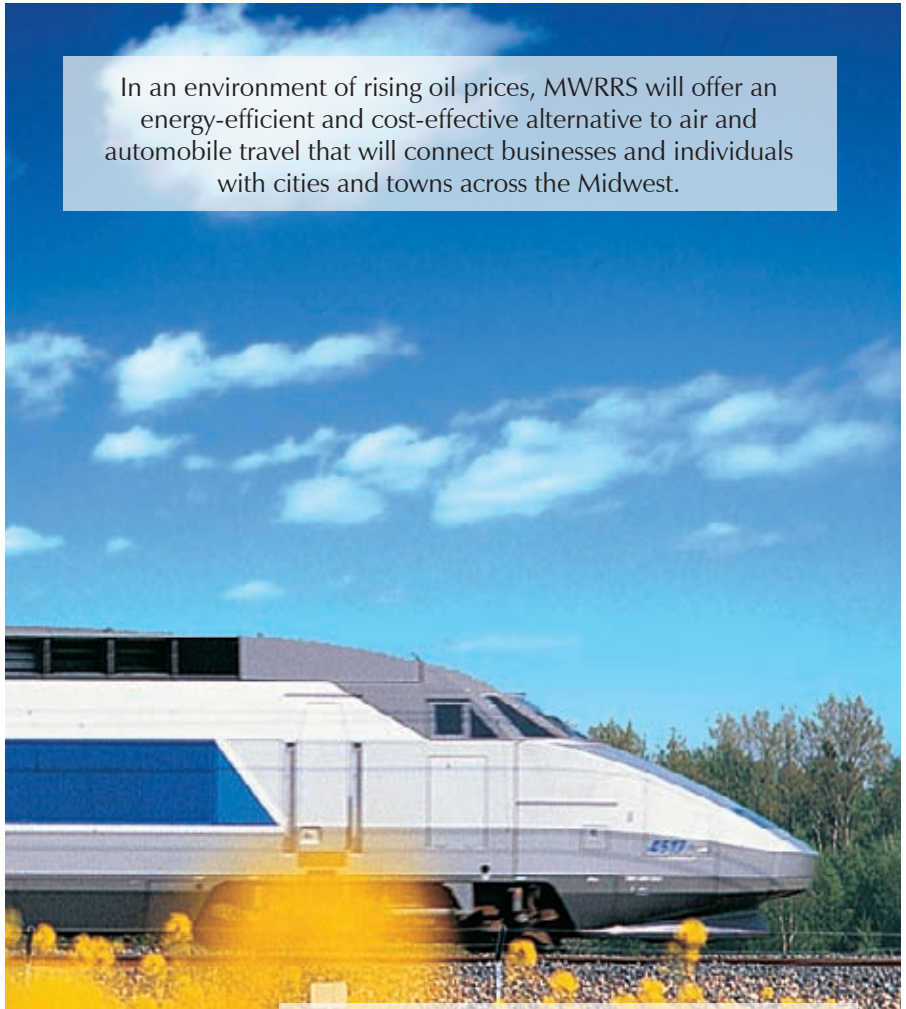
In an environment of rising oil prices, MWRRS will offer an energy-efficient and cost-effective alternative to air and automobile travel that will connect businesses and individuals with cities and towns across the Midwest.



For more information, please contact:
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*All economic figures sourced to: Transportation Economics and Management Systems, Inc.

Benefiting Michigan's Economy

The Midwest Regional Rail System is a transportation network for the 21st Century.

- 3,000-mile rail network connecting Michigan with 8 other Midwest states
- Speeds up to 110-mph, resulting in significantly reduced travel times
- Increased train frequencies
- Improved on-time performance
- Modern equipment

Introduction

The Midwest Regional Rail System (MWRRS) will significantly improve the level and quality of passenger rail service in Michigan. The system will contribute to economic growth and strengthen the state's manufacturing, service, and tourism industries. More frequent and convenient passenger rail service will attract more travelers to Michigan destinations from throughout the Midwest.

User Benefits

MWRRS will generate a $2.3-$3.5 billion user benefit for Michigan; this represents the overall savings to users of the state's transportation network derived from the system. Sources that produce this benefit are:

- A reduction in travel times for users of MWRRS (shown below)
- A reduction in travel times and costs for users of other transportation modes as a result of lower congestion levels
- Reductions in emissions as a result of travelers being diverted from air, bus and auto to MWRRS
- Increased safety for those using the passenger rail service and users of the other transportation modes resulting from reduced congestion

TRAIN TRAVEL TIME SAVINGS ON MICHIGAN ROUTES

City Pairs	Current Service	MWRRS (EXPRESS)	Time Reduction
Chicago-Detroit	5hr 38min	3hr 46min	1hr 52min
Chicago-Kalamazoo	2hr 36min	1hr 40min	56min
Kalamazoo-Detroit	3hr 02min	2hr 06min	56min

One of the factors resulting in reduced travel times is the Incremental Train Control System. Since September 2005, trains have been operating at speeds up to 95 mph between Kalamazoo and Niles with expected speeds of 110 mph by 2008.

Community Benefits

MWRRS will improve access among Michigan communities. This access will support existing industries, foster growth of new small businesses and encourage large businesses to distribute their operations more widely throughout Michigan. Improved access will assist Michigan universities in their roles as centers of higher learning, research, business development and medical services.

6,970 New Permanent Jobs in Michigan*
$138 Million of Extra Household Income in Michigan*

Station Development Benefits

Increased level of service resulting from MWRRS is expected to lead to rising property values and significant public-private development opportunities near stations. These intermodal stations will bring together many modes of travel at a single station.

Increased Public-Private Development Potential in Michigan (in $ millions):

Station	Property Value Increase*
Detroit	$76-$114
Kalamazoo	$53-$80
Ann Arbor	$48-72
Flint	$43-64
Lansing	$42-63
Grand Rapids	$41-61
Battle Creek	$40-57
West Detroit Suburbs (Dearborn)	$36-54
North Detroit Suburbs (Royal Oak)	$27-40
Pontiac	$23-35
Jackson	$18-28
Holland	$16-24
Port Huron	$9-14
Niles	$9-13

Environmental Benefits

MWRRS provides an alternative to auto and air travel that promotes environmental benefits, including reduced air pollutant emissions, less land use, and fewer habitat and water resource impacts compared to expanding existing highways and airports.