



Multi-State Rail Equipment Procurement Bilevel Passenger Rail Car Request for Proposal Fact Sheet April 20, 2012

The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA) is the legislation that established a [Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee](#) . Through a collaborative process, the Committee developed standardized specification for a bilevel passenger rail procurement and to review options to finance, administer and procure standardized next generation corridor equipment.

The Committee is comprised of the Federal Railroad Administration, Amtrak, host freight railroad companies, passenger rail equipment manufacturers and suppliers, interested states and other passenger rail operators.

Grants funded by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Caltrans and Illinois (representing the Midwest states of Illinois, Michigan, and Missouri), will procure the nation's first standardized railcars to improve rail service, expand domestic manufacturing and increase jobs.

New bilevel passenger rail cars will be in service beginning in 2015 in California, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, Indiana and potentially Iowa.

The RFP calls for 130 new railcars including 88 cars for the Midwest coalition states, and 42 cars for California, including Coaches, Cab/Baggage cars, Cafe/Lounge cars, and Cafe/Business Class cars.

Timeline

The RFP will be released April 20, 2012, with bids due by May 30, 2012. Selection of the manufacturer will occur in the fall 2012, and the cars will be delivered beginning in mid-2015.

Equipment purchased and benefits

- The primary benefit of a multiple state RFP results in a lower per-unit cost for the new railcars – saving taxpayer money.
- The new rail cars will allow California and the Midwest states, including potentially Iowa, to expand ridership capacity, increase revenue, reduce operating costs and improve on-time performance.
- The new units will also offer greater bicycle storage and improved passenger amenities, including Wi-Fi.



- This procurement will comply with FRA's "Buy America" provisions, using railcar components manufactured in the United States.
- Future multistate procurements include high performance locomotives that can travel up to 125 mph, and single level passenger cars.

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