

BSPRA Member Counties

Big Horn
Broadwater
Butte-Silver Bow
Carbon
Custer
Dawson
Gallatin
Granite
Jefferson
Lake
Mineral
Missoula
Park
Powell
Prairie
Rosebud
Sanders
Stillwater
Treasure
Wibaux

Ex Officio Members

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes
Crow Tribe
Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Amtrak
BNSF Railway
Montana Department of Transportation



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WHO WE ARE

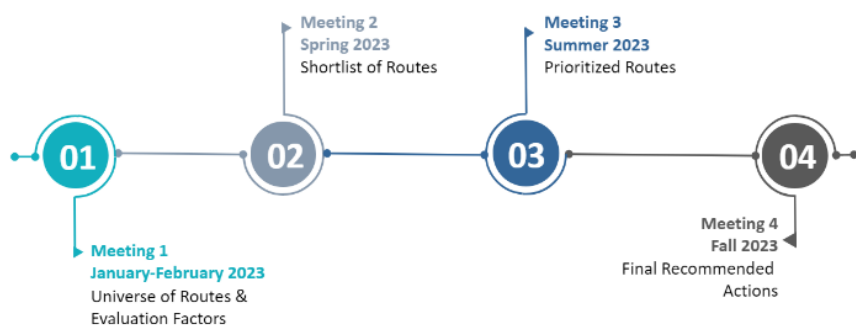
The Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) is a regional passenger rail authority and a political subdivision of Montana, authorized by the laws of the State of Montana (§§ 7-14-1601, et. seq., MCA 2021). The purpose of that law is for the “preservation and improvement of abandoned rail service for agriculture, industry, or passenger traffic.” Under this law, twenty (20) Montana county governments adopted resolutions creating and joining the Authority.

FOCUS

BSPRA’s primary focus is the renewal of passenger service on the former route of the North Coast Hiawatha (NCH), with enhanced service running twice daily in each direction between Chicago and Seattle/Portland—traversing southern Montana and North Dakota along the way. The NCH will transform the economy of the Greater Northwest region, revitalizing rural communities and tribal nations and providing access for underserved citizens to health care, education, other services, and civic resources often unreachable in winter when highways become unreliable or hazardous.

NEXT STEPS

- Continued participation in the [Amtrak Daily Long-Distance Service Study](#), with recommendations delivered to Congress in November 2023.



- Application to and participation in the Federal Railroad Administration’s Corridor ID Program, with successful applicants announced in 2023
- Regional stakeholder engagement—ongoing