

# All Aboard NORTHWEST

206-222-3735 / 541-568-6700 / 208-600-1096 / [allaboardnw.org](http://allaboardnw.org)

## Sponsorship Request

### Spreading the Word on Opportunities for Improved Transportation

There are unprecedented funds available for transportation improvements under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Many communities are unfamiliar with these opportunities. All Aboard Northwest (AANW) is working to spread the word, because a robust, seamless transportation system will bring significant [economic, environmental and equity benefits](#) to communities of all sizes.

All Aboard Northwest is conducting community outreach through our “Train Trek” events and the 2023 Greater Northwest Rail Passenger Summit. We invite you to sponsor these efforts.

### About All Aboard Northwest

AANW advocates for the needs of rail passengers in the Greater Northwest (GNW) region of the United States. We build relationships with infrastructure and transportation interests across state lines to promote rail investments that improve economic, environmental, and equity outcomes for our region’s inhabitants. In 2021, several Senators from the region [requested that a GNW working group be created](#). AANW is the regional rail advocacy organization that was created as an outgrowth of the informal working group as a 501(c)(4) nonprofit in 2022. Our tax ID number is 87-4397946.

AANW's [vision](#) is for seamless multimodal transportation connectivity for the GNW Region of the United States focused around a robust passenger rail system core. Improved door-to-door connectivity between sidewalks, local public transit, and intercity rail provides economic, environmental, and equity benefits to all, including low-income, tribal, disability, and rural communities; locations where transportation alternatives are limited; and the [nearly 30 percent](#) of the population that does not drive.

# Working Toward Achieving Our Vision

BIL funding in states provides an unprecedented opportunity for communities to improve their transportation infrastructure. But many people don't know about it. We have been working to get the word out through our "Train Trek" events and the 2023 Greater Northwest Rail Passenger Summit.

National organizations such as the Federal Railroad Administration, Rail Passengers Association, and Transportation for America have limited outreach capacity outside the Washington, DC Beltway. Our region needs coordinated, on-the-ground community engagement that hits home and builds local awareness and support for these projects.

Therefore, AANW focuses on engaging, educating, and energizing the public, elected officials, the press, business and local leaders through a wide variety of outreach activities such as Train Treks; presentations for legislators and communities; soliciting resolutions and letters of support; content publishing; coalition building; and event planning.

## Train Treks

We conduct the "Train Trek" series of in-person and electronic meetings in communities of all sizes throughout the region.

Train Treks are a series of outreach and engagement meetings held in local communities. They are an efficient and effective way to meet local stakeholders, gain valuable information, make the proper connections, and build the coalitions needed to realize visionary, large-scale, infrastructure projects.

Train Treks can be focused along a specific corridor (for a specific route proposal), a specific audience (elderly, college students, etc.), a specific type of development (Transit Oriented Development, local industrial economic development), or scope of service and benefit (rural communities with few other options).

AANW is requesting sponsorship of Train Treks in order to further the call for a robust multi-modal transportation network. A sponsor can fund the Train Treks, or one or more specific Train Trek that aligns with their specific goals.

Even in the 21st Century, showing up matters. We gain far more insight, local engagement, and respect by meeting with people in person, while still offering electronic connections to those who cannot attend otherwise.

In 2023, AANW is planning a Collegiate Train Trek that will visit university campuses, and an Upper Midwest Train Trek traveling in the Wisconsin and Minnesota region.

## Purposes

The purposes of Train Treks are to:

- Improve awareness of rail issues and opportunities in the Greater Northwest by educating the public.
- Discover and leverage opportunities for better collaboration with stakeholders and partners.
- Increase AANW's capacity to educate the public and elected officials to serve its mission and vision, in line with its charter as a nonprofit organization.
- Promote multi-modal transportation options, focused on a comprehensive network of long-distance, intercity, and regional passenger rail services that are economically-viable and user-friendly.
- Solicit community support such as resolutions and letters to elected officials.
- Encourage community action in support of a specific proposal, vision, project, or legislation.
- Receive local feedback so that we can convey community needs to elected leaders.

## History

### 2022 Train Trek

Over eighteen days in August 2022, [All Aboard Northwest](#) traveled through the Greater Northwest to gather support for restoring the Pioneer, the North Coast Hiawatha, and other passenger train services.

We completed the All Aboard Northwest 2022 Train Trek community outreach efforts in August, and they were quite successful. We traveled around the region to discuss the benefits of passenger rail with local communities, and received public feedback on how we can best work together to improve our transportation system.

We met with many elected officials and community leaders, all of whom were anxious to work with us. In addition, Train Trek events were covered by the press in small towns and large cities.

### 2021 East-West Train Trek

From August 12 - 21, 2021, Patrick and Charlie led [a series of meetings](#) across Washington and Idaho, in the communities of Edmonds, Everett, Leavenworth, Wenatchee, Yakima, Toppenish, Richland, Walla Walla, Spokane, Cheney, Ritzville, and Ellensburg, Washington; and Lewiston, Idaho. Funding for this series was provided by All Aboard Washington (AAWA), with additional support provided by AAWA donors.

## 2021 Colorado-Wyoming-Montana Train Trek

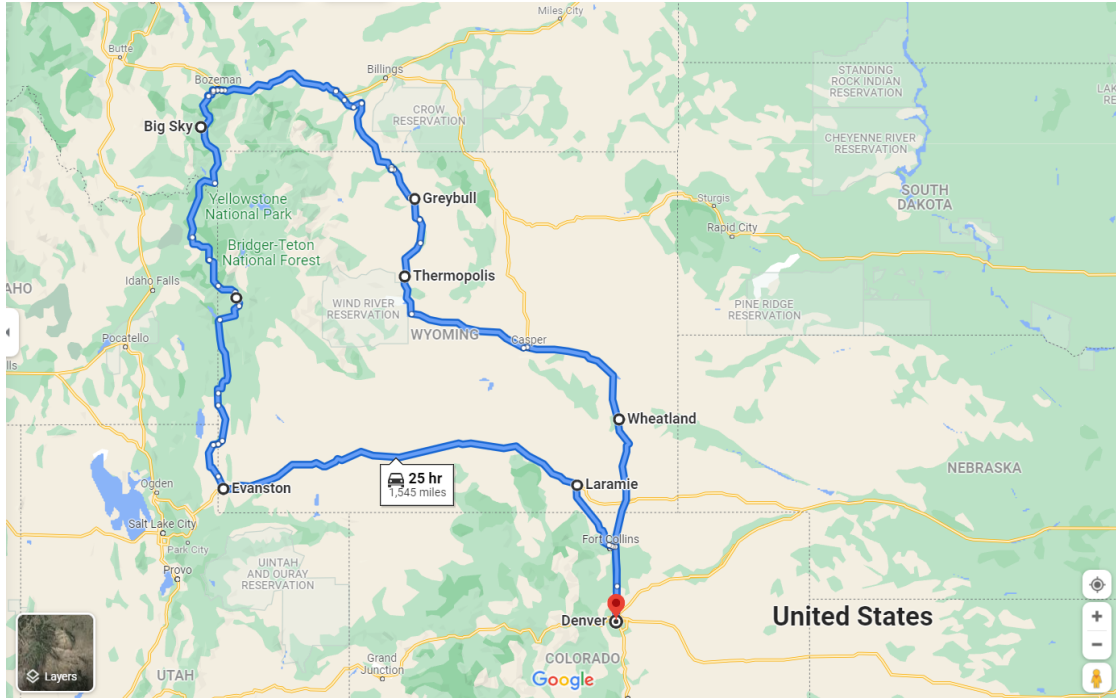


Image: Example of a “Train Trek” route taken by founder Dan Bilka in August, 2021.

From August 12 - 21, 2021, Dan Bilka conducted a number of meetings across Wyoming, in the communities of Cheyenne, Wheatland, Douglas, Thermopolis, Greybull, Evanston, Rawlins, and Laramie, with stop-overs and information requests with Worland, Wyoming.

### 2021 South Dakota Train Trek

From June 28 - July 8, 2021, Dan Bilka conducted volunteer community outreach across South Dakota, in the communities of Salem, Mitchell, Plankinton, Chamberlain, Kennebec, Presho, Murdo, Kadoka, and Hot Springs.

### 2021 Wyoming - South Dakota Train Trek

From August 26 - 30, 2021, Dan Bilka conducted in-person outreach across Wyoming and South Dakota, in the communities of Sheridan, Gillette, Moorcroft, Sundance and Lusk, Wyoming and Spearfish and Sturgis, South Dakota.

## Summits

The Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Summit brings passenger railroad organizations, advocates and enthusiasts together with local, state and federal elected officials and policymakers, host railroads and rail infrastructure experts to educate, innovate and

coordinate for the restoration, expansion and enhancement of passenger rail service across the Greater Northwest.

The passage in late 2021 of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has created the best opportunity in decades to expand and improve passenger rail access, and no region of the country is in more need of that expansion and improvement than the Greater Northwest. Now is the time for rail advocates and policymakers from across the region to start coordinating to ensure the “second rail revolution” doesn’t pass us by.

The [2023 Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Summit](#) will be held July 16-20, 2023 in Boise, ID.

## History

### 2022 Summit

AANW had significant participation in planning and execution of the 2022 [Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Summit](#) in Billings, MT. We conducted several presentations, including “Returning Passenger Trains to a Station Near You: Why and How,” “Passenger Rail/Freight Rail Synchronicity,” and “Environmental Benefits.”

We were also members of the planning committee; created, managed and hosted the Summit website; and managed online registration.

### 2021 Summit

As the centerpiece of the 2021 Train Treks, Dan Bilka, Patrick Carnahan, and Charlie Hamilton participated in the 30th Pacific Northwest Economic Region (PNWER) Summit in Big Sky, Montana.

Charlie moderated PNWER’s first-ever Rail Forum; Patrick gave two presentations during the Forum alongside colleagues Dan Bilka, Elaine Clegg, David Strohmaier, Anna Zivarts, and Abe Zumwalt; and AAWA Government Affairs Director Luis Moscoso led a closing discussion with state representative Andrew Barkis of Washington and state senator Chris Gorsek of Oregon.

## Sponsorship Opportunities

Benefits	Supporter	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Your company logo and link on website	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Recognition of your company during events	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logo on slide show during breaks	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logo on event signs		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logo on event agenda/printed materials		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Company logo on pre-event emails		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Logo and link on website for 12 months			Yes	Yes	Yes
Your company brochure inserted into agenda packet			Yes	Yes	Yes
6' skirted display table			Yes	Yes	Yes
Number of full event registrations included	1	2	2	3	4
Train Trek Sponsorship	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000
Summit Sponsorship	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000	\$8,000
Sponsorship of Train Trek and Summit	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$8,000	\$12,000	\$16,000

## Publicity

We generate publicity locally, regionally, and nationally for our cause and our partners. We [publish a blog](#) and post frequently on social media.

Central to our social media strategy is the Mastodon server we operate called [Rail.chat](#). This has been very successful in bringing together a community of like-minded folks to share ideas and plans throughout the region and beyond.

A few of the press mentions we received in the past year:

Western Governors' Association: [Best of the West: Regional investments in trains](#)

La Grande Observer: [All Aboard Northwest stops in La Grande to advocate for passenger rail](#)

- Republished in [East Oregonian \(photo\)](#)
- Republished in [Yahoo News](#)
- Republished in [Eugene Daily News](#)
- Republished in [Mass Transit](#)

La Grande Observer: [All Aboard Northwest comes to La Grande to advocate for passenger rails](#)

- Republished in [Bend Bulletin](#)
- Republished in [Yahoo News](#)
- Republished in [AOL News](#)

East Oregonian: [All Aboard Northwest comes to Pendleton to advocate for passenger rails](#)

Elkhorn Media Group: [A Push for Passenger Rail in the Pacific Northwest](#)

KSL News: [Do Utah and the West need more passenger trains? These groups make the argument](#)

Salt Lake City Weekly: [All Aboard](#)

Wyoming News: [Transforming a community: Guest speakers share benefits of passenger rail service](#)

- Republished in [Wyo4News](#)

City of Rock Springs YouTube: [Returning Passenger Trains to a Station Near You](#)

Sweetwater Now: [RS City Council Hears Pitch on Return of Passenger Train Service](#)

## AANW's Leadership

### Daniel Bilka – AANW President, Design & Local Engagement

Dan is a board member with the Rail Passengers Association. He holds his master's in architecture from South Dakota State University and is working on architectural licensure. Dan was in the pilot class of the Department of Architecture, gaining first-hand experience in establishing new programs, what is required to succeed, and how to react as directives suddenly change. He has been involved with rail advocacy and public discourse since 2013. He has been involved in multi-million dollar projects from schematic design through construction administration and close-out.

### Patrick Carnahan – AANW Secretary, Writing & Policy Development

Patrick is co-Executive Director of AAWA and a Transportation Safety & Security Specialist with Sound Transit. He is an experienced nonprofit administrator and writer. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Saint Martin's University in

Lacey. Patrick has a strong background in advocacy for economically and environmentally sustainable transportation solutions with a focus on passenger rail. He has spent a significant amount of time abroad and is inspired to apply creative solutions to help solve America's transportation and land use problems. His writing has been published in the American Public Transportation Association's *Speedlines* newsletter.

## Charles Hamilton, Ph. D. – AANW Vice-President & Treasurer, Communications

Charlie is co-Executive Director of All Aboard Washington (AAWA), which promotes safe, reliable, frequent, competitive, and convenient passenger rail services that improve the equity, economy, and environment for all Washingtonians. Charlie is also the founder and co-owner of CHCS Consulting, which provides research, organizational development, publicity, marketing, and website services to a diverse national client base of businesses and nonprofit organizations. He holds a Ph. D. in communication from the University of Maryland, and has a certificate in organizational development and training from Georgetown University. He relies on public transportation because his disability precludes him from driving.

**With your help, we can continue our work toward making a better rail network in the Greater Northwest happen! All Aboard Northwest is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. Thank you for your support!**



# Attachment A: IRS Determination Letter



Department of the Treasury  
Internal Revenue Service  
Tax Exempt and Government Entities  
P.O. Box 2508  
Cincinnati, OH 45201

ALL ABOARD NORTHWEST  
PO BOX 22225  
SEATTLE, WA 98122-0225

Date: 07/25/2022  
Employer ID number: 87-4397946  
Person to contact: Name: Ali Omran  
ID number: 10062  
Telephone: 877-829-5500  
Accounting period ending: December 31  
Form 990/990-EZ/990-N required: Yes  
Effective date of exemption: January 12, 2022  
Contribution deductibility: No  
Addendum applies: No  
DLN: 26053414004702

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(4). This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Donors cannot deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170(c)(2).

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

For important information about your responsibilities as a tax-exempt organization, go to [www.irs.gov/charities](http://www.irs.gov/charities). Enter "4221-NC" in the search bar to view Publication 4221-NC, Compliance Guide for Tax-Exempt Organizations (Other than 501(c)(3) Public Charities and Private Foundations), which describes your recordkeeping, reporting, and disclosure requirements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen A. Martin".

Stephen A. Martin  
Director, Exempt Organizations  
Rulings and Agreements

Letter 948 (Rev. 3-2020)  
Catalog Number 35151E