



**BIG SKY
PASSENGER
RAIL AUTHORITY**

hello@bigskyrailmt.gov

www.bigskyrailmt.gov

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

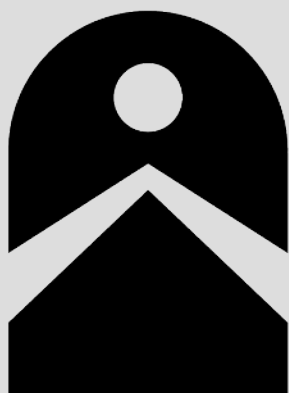
Revitalizing Communities, Building Sustainable Economies

VISION

To lead the expansion and enhancement of passenger rail service throughout Montana and the greater northwest region for the development of economic, environmental, social, and comprehensive benefits, now and into the future.

MISSION

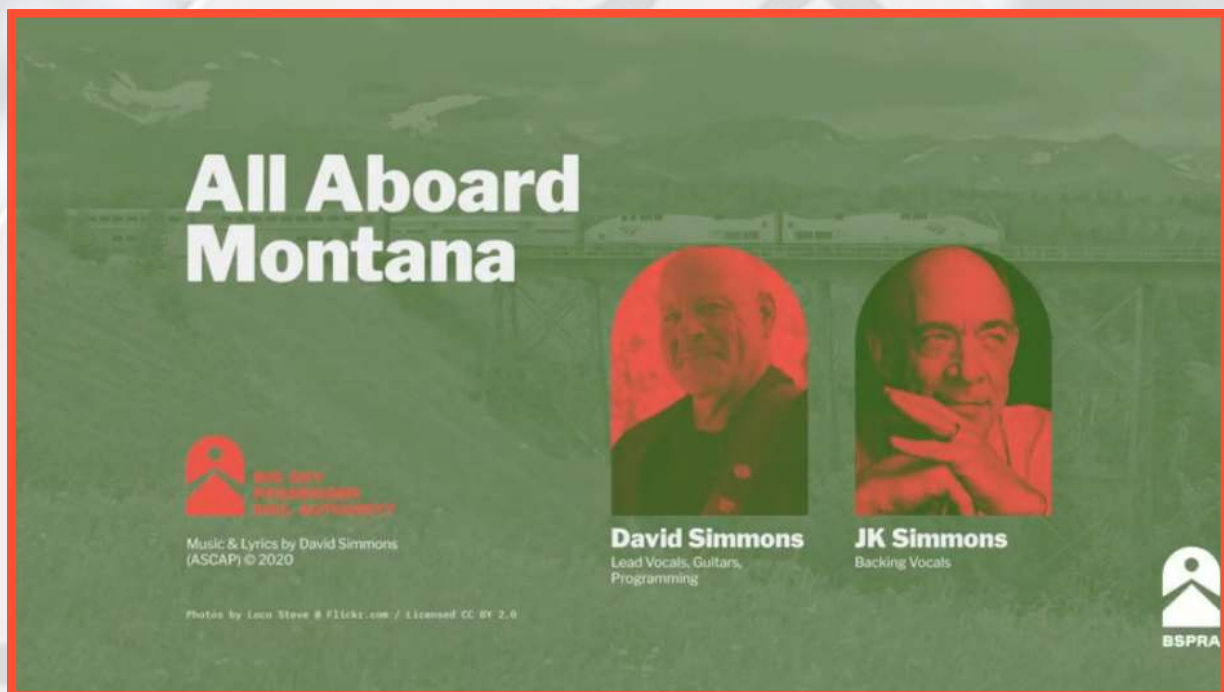
To provide for the reestablishment of safe, reliable, and sustainable passenger rail service across southern Montana that increases opportunity and contributes to the health and well-being of people across the state and beyond.



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ABOUT THIS REPORT

Support BSPRA's mission to restore passenger rail service across southern Montana by taking direct action. There are many ways you can contribute to our efforts. Visit www.bigskyrailmt.gov and explore the 'Get Involved' menu at the top of the homepage to discover how you can make an impact. Whether you choose to join our mailing list for the latest updates, volunteer your time, shop our collection of unique merchandise (with all proceeds supporting our work), or make a direct donation, your involvement helps us move closer to our goals. Visit today and find the option that's right for you.



David Simmons of UBU Music and JK Simmons composed and sang this original composition, "All Aboard Montana" for BSPRA !

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Greetings to our supporters and partners,

This past year has been a pivotal one for the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority. Together, we've made remarkable strides in advancing our vision of revitalizing passenger rail service across southern Montana and the greater Northwest region. As we reflect on these accomplishments, I am deeply grateful for the support of our communities, partners, and dedicated volunteers.



In June, we held our annual meeting in Missoula, preceded by the FRA's Long-Distance Service Study meeting. This sequence of events underscored the importance of regional connectivity and reaffirmed our commitment to revitalizing rail service across our corridor. Our participation in the Governor's Tourism Conference and other key national and regional engagements, including the Greater Northwest Rail Summit, highlighted our dedication to sustainable transportation solutions. Additionally, a visit to Pueblo to examine hydrogen-powered locomotives demonstrated our forward-looking approach to advanced rail technology.

One of the year's most significant achievements was the Corridor ID Award, a cornerstone in our mission to develop the Big Sky North Coast Corridor. Through collaboration with David Evans & Associates and team, we are making steady progress toward restoring a historic route that will link communities from Montana to the broader Northwest.

Our network of partnerships has also expanded, with new government partners joining us, including Helena and Billings in Montana, as well as Dickinson, Jamestown, and Bismarck in North Dakota. The AFL-CIO also now serves as an ex officio member of our board. Furthermore, through a recent grant awarded in collaboration with the Western Transportation Institute, we are actively preparing future rail workers for employment opportunities in this revived industry. And as this report goes to press, we just learned that the Big Sky North Coast Corridor was one of the 15 preferred routes recommended to Congress in the Amtrak Long-Distance Service Study. This is a really big deal for us.

As we look ahead, I am confident that the steps we have taken this year will lay a strong foundation for future achievements. I invite you to stay engaged with BSPRA, advocate for our cause, and join us in our journey to transform rail connectivity across our region. Together, we are building a legacy of accessible, reliable, and resilient passenger rail service.

All aboard!

Sincerely,
Dave Strohmaier
BSPRA Board Chair





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

It is truly an honor to reflect on our journey, celebrate our achievements, and look forward to the exciting path ahead. As the Executive Director of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority, I am proud to share our progress and vision as we continue building on our collective success.

From our early meetings in Lewistown in 2021 to where we stand today, we have turned aspirational visions into concrete accomplishments. Our mission is no longer a distant goal but a reality we deliver upon every day. The engagement and commitment we have seen across the board and committees have allowed us to tackle complex challenges while ensuring steady progress.

Based in the heart of the rail district in Billings, Montana, our operations reflect the strength and versatility required to advance our mission. Participation from counties, cities, and towns across Montana has been truly inspiring. Local governments and communities are engaged, and the impact of this collaboration will be felt for generations.

Organizational sustainability is at the heart of our operations. Member contributions, partnerships, and fundraising efforts have strengthened our financial position. Looking ahead, we are poised for significant progress. With major grants and initiatives, we will advance infrastructure, station planning, and rail development. The Corridor ID process will allow us to identify priorities and engage communities. To those wondering, "Is our town getting a station?" "What does the future hold?" —your voices will guide these decisions.

Let's not lose sight of how far we've come and how much more we can achieve together. The road ahead is ambitious, but with continued engagement and support, we will keep this momentum on track. Together, we are rebuilding connections, strengthening communities, and shaping the future of rail transportation in Montana.

Let's keep moving forward!

Sincerely,
Jess Peterson
BSPRA Executive Director



OFFICERS



Dave Strohmaier
CHAIR
Missoula County



Jason Stuart
VICE-CHAIR
Dawson County



Mary Hensleigh
SECRETARY
Jefferson County



Rich Wallace
TREASURER
Sanders County

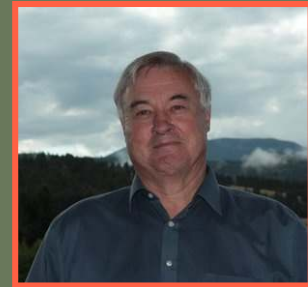
COUNTIES & DIRECTORS



George Real Bird III
Big Horn County



Darrel Folkvord
Broadwater County



Dan Olsen
Butte-Silver Bow County



Scott Miller
Carbon County



Kevin Krausz
Custer County



Scott MacFarlane
Gallatin County



Steve Stanley
Lake County



Diane Magone
Mineral County



Grant Gager
Park County



Terry Jennings
Powell County



Samantha Beyl
Rosebud County



Roger Webb
Stillwater County



Ruth Baker
Treasure County



Edward Anderson
Wibaux County

EX-OFFICIO DIRECTORS



Martin Charlo
CSKT



Norma Gourneau
Northern Cheyenne Tribe



Luella Brien
Crow Tribe



Jim Tylick
BNSF Railway



Rob Stapley
Montana
Department of
Transportation



Chase Kitchen
Amtrak



John Denny
International Association of
Machinists

EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM



Jess Peterson
Executive Director



Maggie Tupper
Office Services Manager



Allison Corbyn
Senior Project Manager



Mary Jo Foley
Communications &
Membership



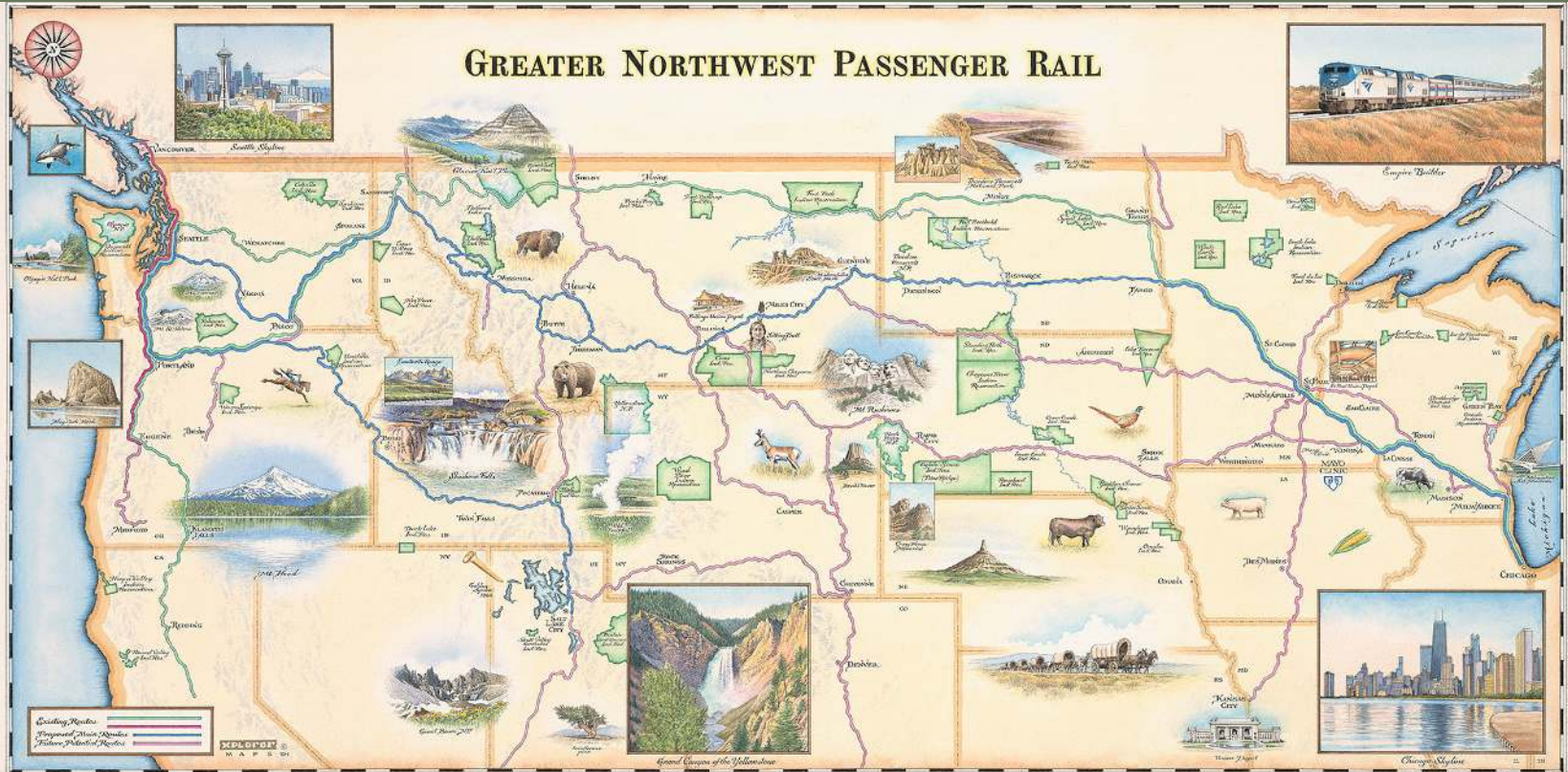
Kelly Fogarty
Events & Operations



Vivian Winston
Chief Financial Officer



Kalina Reini
Gov't Relations



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The BSPRA Annual Meeting in Missoula, "Revitalizing Communities and Building Sustainable Economies", marked over three years of progress. The meeting was preceded by the Federal Railroad Administration's Amtrak Long-Distance Service Study meeting in Missoula, highlighting passenger rail's role in community revitalization and economic growth.



BSPRA's mission was reinforced by industry and community leaders who shared innovative ideas including hydrogen fuel cell technology, advancing sustainable rail systems. Passenger rail isn't JUST about transportation - it drives economic growth, connects communities and improves quality of life.



PINT NIGHTS

These were great opportunities to meet and discuss the efforts of the Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority and the Big Sky North Coast Corridor (formerly known as the North Coast Hiawatha) with BSPRA Vice Chairman, Jason Stuart in Dawson County and Wibaux County, respectively.



JOIN US FOR PINT NIGHT
benefiting bigskyrail.org
Thursday, September 26th
4-8 pm
Cross Country Brewing
320 E Allard
Glendive, MT 59330



**BIG SKY
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JOIN US FOR PINT NIGHT
benefiting bigskyrail.org
August 22, 2024
5-8 pm
Beaver Creek Brewing
104 Orgain Ave.
Wibaux, MT 59353



**BIG SKY
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CORRIDOR IDENTIFICATION & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM



The Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) was awarded a \$500,000 planning grant through the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor Identification and Development (Corridor ID) Program, positioning the Big Sky North Coast Corridor as a leading candidate in the nationwide effort to expand passenger rail. Since securing this grant, BSPRA has been actively engaging with state and local governments, transportation agencies, and community stakeholders to ensure that the corridor's development reflects regional needs. Public meetings and outreach efforts have been instrumental in shaping a Service Development Plan, with community feedback playing a central role in defining the project's future.

Beyond the technical planning, this initiative is deeply rooted in the communities it will serve. Many towns along the proposed route share a rich history with passenger rail—places where train service was once a lifeline. For them, the return of the Big Sky North Coast Corridor represents more than just improved mobility; it's about reconnecting communities, restoring economic opportunities, and rekindling the stories that define their past and future.

INAUGURAL FOUNDERS AWARD

The BSPRA introduced its inaugural Founders Award on June 7, 2024, to honor the three legislators who pioneered House Bill 541 during Montana's 1993 legislative session. This bill authorized the creation of regional rail authorities, forming the foundation for BSPRA's mission today. Representative Linda Nelson, who introduced HB 541, was honored alongside co-sponsors Senators Mike Halligan and Dennis Nathe (posthumously).



Senator Mike Halligan, pictured with Chairman Strohmaier at the June 7th BSPRA Annual Meeting, served in the Montana State Senate from 1980 to 2001, where he chaired various committees and was minority leader in 1995 and 1997. He has since continued his public service as Executive Director of the Dennis and Phyllis Washington Foundation, a roll from which he recently retired.

"What an honor it is to be the recipient of commendation for legislation I carried roughly 30 years ago! I was relieved to get a copy of the testimony to refresh my memory, and I must say it was well done. I can only assume that I (and Senator Nathe), were asked to carry HB 541 as evidence that Northern Montana was supporting Southern Montana in getting rail service. Of course, Sen. Halligan was on board to represent his area. It's truly exciting to see that is finally moving forward. God speed as you go forward." Linda J Nelson (MT House 1989-94, MT Senate 1995-2005)



Montana State Representative Denise Baum (House District 47) expressed her appreciation, noting, "I am absolutely thrilled that Big Sky Passenger Rail took the initiative to honor the foundation of their journey and the individuals who enabled this progress. Good bipartisan legislation has impacts that resonate for generations."

"Thank you for honoring me, Senator Nathe and Representative Nelson with the inaugural Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority Founders Award for the passage of HB 541! It's a great example of bi-partisan legislation to benefit all of Montana by allowing the creation of regional rail authorities. I was honored to partner with them to pass such visionary legislation to address the critical transportation needs of Montanans across the state."

Mike Halligan



Thanks to the vision of these legislative leaders, BSPRA is poised to revitalize rail infrastructure across Montana, especially in the Southeast, transforming dormant tracks and stations into vital community assets. The Founders Award is a tribute to their lasting impact on Montana's rail future. Senator Nathe, who passed away in 1993, was recognized posthumously through his family.

HIGHLIGHTS

\$6.5M GRANT FUELS RAIL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



Building the Rail Workforce of Tomorrow - Montana State University's Western Transportation Institute (WTI) received a \$6.5 million grant from the Federal Railroad Administration's (FRA) CRISI Program to fuel workforce development in the rail industry. Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (BSPRA) joins WTI, The University of Memphis and Cal State Long Beach, to identify regional workforce needs and develop training strategies. As BSPRA Chairman Dave Strohmeier put it, "This CRISI grant will help us as a region and nation build the rail workforce of the future."

FRA OFFICIAL PRAISES MONTANA'S RAIL VISION

FRA Deputy Administrator Jennifer Mitchell expressed excitement about Montana's enthusiasm for passenger rail during her keynote at BSPRA's Annual Meeting in June. Highlighting the potential of the North Coast Hiawatha Line (now known as the Big Sky North Coast Corridor) she noted it could create jobs, generate significant economic impact, and provide year-round, safe, and sustainable transportation while supporting healthcare, tourism, education, and commerce.



NORTH DAKOTA GOVERNOR BACKS BSPRA'S RAIL REVIVAL EFFORT



North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum has voiced strong support for BSPRA's \$500,000 in seed funding to revitalize the Big Sky North Coast Corridor. This project aims to restore passenger rail service in southern North Dakota, benefiting cities like Bismarck and Fargo, while enhancing access to Medora, Theodore Roosevelt National Park, and the future Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. Governor Burgum emphasized the project's significant impact on regional connectivity and economic growth. He is now U.S. Secretary of the Interior.

BIG SKY 55+ ENDORSES BSPRA RAIL EFFORTS



Big Sky 55+ has formally endorsed the BSPRA's initiatives, including reintroducing the North Coast Hiawatha and expanding rail service across Montana. Citing the benefits of sustainable, accessible transportation, the resolution highlights rail's potential to revitalize rural communities, connect residents to vital services, and align with goals to transition away from fossil fuels.

BSPRA LEADERS INSPECT HYDROGEN-POWERED TRAIN

Chairman Strohmeier and Vice Chair Jason Stuart visited Pueblo, CO to check out a Stadler Rail hydrogen-powered train at Ensco's Transportation Technology Center. The visit underscores BSPRA's commitment to exploring innovative, sustainable transportation technologies for future rail development.



BSPRA SPONSORS & PARTICIPATES IN GREATER NORTHWEST RAIL SUMMIT

The BSPRA served as a sponsor and participated in several panels at the Greater Northwest Rail Summit. Notably, BSPRA's Dan Bucks contributed to the "Knitting Communities Together" panel, engaging in discussions about strengthening regional rail connections and building sustainable transportation networks.



The Montana AFL-CIO, through District 19 IAMAW, has joined the BSPRA as an ex officio member, with John Denny serving as its representative. A Montana native and experienced labor leader, Denny brings extensive expertise in railway labor relations, coalition building, and contract negotiations, bolstering BSPRA's efforts to advance regional rail initiatives.

MONTANA AFL-CIO JOINS BSPRA

GOVERNORS TOURISM CONFERENCE

Chairman Dave Strohmaier and Vice Chairman Jason Stuart attended the Montana Governors Conference on Tourism in Missoula. Local municipalities, Tourism and Economic Development Councils across the Treasure State discussed plans to grow Montana's economy.



BSPRA SPONSORS, PARTICIPATES IN GREATER NORTHWEST RAIL SUMMIT

Our panels: Renaissance for Passenger Rail Across America, Knitting Together a Multi-State Rail Corridor and Passenger Rail as a Healthcare Lifeline. BSPRA's Dan Bucks, Martin Charlo (CSKT Tribe) Luella Brien (Crow Tribe) contributed to discussions about strengthening regional rail connections and building sustainable transportation networks.



JAMESTOWN & DICKINSON JOIN BSPRA as GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Jamestown, North Dakota and Dickinson, North Dakota have joined the BSPRA Government Partners Program, advancing regional rail efforts in North Dakota and the Northern Plains.

FRA LONG-DISTANCE STUDY RECOMMENDS TWO NEW ROUTES FOR MONTANA

The FRA's Long-Distance Study identifies two preferred routes that benefit Montana: the former North Coast Hiawatha connecting Chicago to the Pacific Northwest through southern Montana, and an El Paso-Billings route.

OVER THE MORE THAN FOUR YEARS SINCE IT WAS FORMED...

November 2020

BSPRA officially founded by initial 12 member counties

January 2021

First BSPRA board meeting

May 2021

BSPRA recognized with the National Association of Counties 2021 National Achievement Award in Transportation

August 2021

First BSPRA Annual Conference held in Lewistown

November 2021

Congress enacts the historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, including BSPRA's recommended language for a federal study of expanding Amtrak long-distance passenger rail service across the nation—with an emphasis on serving rural America

August 2022

BSPRA, with regional partners, creates, organizes and hosts the first-ever Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Summit in Billings, bringing together federal, state, local, Tribal and host railroad officials to discuss the restoration and improvement of passenger rail services across the Greater Northwest region

December 2023

The FRA awarded BSPRA acceptance into the Corridor ID Program for the planning and development of the former North Coast Hiawatha Route (now called the Big Sky North Coast Corridor). Notably, this was the only former long-distance passenger rail route included in the CID program, making it the sole former Amtrak route funded for redevelopment.

December 2023

Federal-State Partnership Program grant., Malta Project: BSPRA, as a grant co-applicant, assisted Amtrak and BNSF Railway in securing \$15 million in federal grant funds for a track improvement project in Malta, MT. This project will improve performance and safety for both the Amtrak Empire Builder passenger service and BNSF freight rail operations.

February 2024

The FRA released its initial Long Distance Study findings, which included recommendations to restore or create 15 new Amtrak long-distance routes. Two of these recommended routes traverse Montana: the former North Coast Hiawatha route and a proposed new north-south route from El Paso, TX, to Billings, MT.

December 2024

BSPRA successfully partnered with the Western Transportation Institute of Montana State University to secure a \$6.5 million federal CRISI grant award for the development of rail workforce development programs.

GOVERNMENT PARTNERS ROLLOUT

BSPRA has launched its Government Partners Program, a platform designed to empower partner communities with the knowledge and resources needed to unlock the full benefits of passenger rail for their residents. This initiative enhances BSPRA's mission to advocate for and develop new rail routes, ensuring the highest quality service that significantly improves the region's quality of life, health, and economic prosperity. Communities such as Bismarck, Billings, Missoula, Bozeman, Helena, Jamestown, and Dickinson have already joined the program.

BSPRA continues to make notable progress in revitalizing passenger rail service across the Northern Plains and Rockies, with the Government Partners Program serving as a key pillar of this effort. The program actively involves local governments in shaping the future of rail services and ensuring alignment with community needs.

This effort coincides with a groundbreaking opportunity: the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has selected the former North Coast Hiawatha route as the first new long-distance passenger route in the U.S. to receive planning and design funding for service renewal. This marks a pivotal step toward regional revitalization.

BSPRA invites local leaders and stakeholders to join the Government Partners Program to collaboratively shape the future of passenger rail in their communities. Participation ensures that rail services align with local development goals, contributing to regional growth, connectivity, and prosperity.

OBJECTIVES

Community Engagement: Facilitate local involvement in planning passenger rail services to address community-specific priorities.

Knowledge Sharing: Create a “Community of Practice” for exchanging ideas and best practices to maximize the public benefits of rail services.

Local Development: Support municipalities in leveraging rail services by renovating or establishing train stations, fostering transit-oriented development, developing connecting transportation systems, and implementing transportation safety initiatives.

CURRENT MEMBERS

Bismarck/Mandan Metropolitan Planning Organization

Three Forks

Thompson Falls

Whitehall

Helena

Glendive

Terry

Lavina

Bozeman

Drummond

Yakima Valey Conference of Governments

Missoula Urban Transportation District

Dickinson, ND

Jamestown, ND

Billings

Missoula

DONORS

FY 2023/2024 BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION PARTNERS

**TRANSCONTINENTAL
BUILDER**

\$25,000



RAIL DIRECTOR

\$10,000



ENGINEER

\$5,000



**STATION
MASTER**

\$1000



**EVENT
SPONSOR**

\$500



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

FY 2023/2024 DONORS

COUNTY MEMBERS

Big Horn County
Broadwater County
Butte-Silver Bow County
Custer County
Dawson County
Gallatin County
Granite County
Jefferson County
Missoula County
Powell County
Sanders County

OTHER LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

Community GATE
Dawson County EDC
Dawson Tourism BID
Forsyth Chamber of Commerce &
Agriculture
Mineral County EDC
St. Regis Resort Area District

GENERAL CONTRIBUTIONS

\$2,500+

Heather Jernberg

\$1,000

Michelle Brackett

LESS THAN \$500

David Abrams

Clara Bentler

Robin Biffle

Richard Bruss

Ricky Clevenger

Jill Deppel

Jon Ellingson

Jayme Fairfield

Elena Gagliano

Stepen Goss

Leo & Sarah Graham

Kelli Hall

Allen Hart

Parker Jones

Myrna Kintz

David Klatt

Duncan Lutes

Donald McCammon

Kathleen McCart

Jacob Minert

Gary Moline

Brady Olson

Jason Parry

Jake Patla

Arthur Pettit

Matt Preston

Lynn Redding

Jacob Simonich

Martha Sturm

Monte Turner

James Wade

Christopher Ward

Kent Watson

Kim Whittemore

John Wolverton

Charlene Woodcock

Richard Zak

Ralph Zimmer

Janet Zimmerman

Beaver Creek

Brewery

Philipsburg Brewing
Company

Cross Country
Brewing

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority
Statement of Activity
July 2023 - June 2024

	Total
Revenue	
365000 Contributions & Donations	
365000.000.39000 Member County Contributions	78,474.00
365000.000.39001 Individual and Other Donations	11,934.00
365000.000.39002 Business and Organizational Partnerships	18,520.00
365000.000.39003 Non-Member Government Partnerships	19,500.00
Total 365000 Contributions & Donations	\$ 128,428.00
375000.000.00000 Grants	
375000.000.00015 Foundation Grants	
375000.000.00016 Montana Healthcare Foundation Grant	12,500.00
Total 375000.000.00015 Foundation Grants	\$ 12,500.00
Total 375000.000.00000 Grants	\$ 12,500.00
380000.000.00000 Printful Sales	4,978.55
395000 Other Financing Sources	
395000.000.00001 Interest Earned	123.74
Total 395000 Other Financing Sources	\$ 123.74 \$ 146,030.29 \$ 146,030.29
Total Revenue	
Gross Profit	
Expenditures	
430400.000.00000 General and Administrative Expenses	
430400.000.00001 AD/Legal Publications 430400.000.00003	533.85
Bank Service Charges 430400.000.00006 Dues & Memberships	589.22
430400.000.00008 Liability Insurance 430400.000.00009 Office	2,144.20
Supplies 430400.000.00010 Phone Basic/Microsoft Teams Phone	5,538.00
System 430400.000.00011 Postage 430400.000.00012 Printing	506.18
and Copy Costs 430400.000.00013 Public Relations	692.00
430400.000.00015 Software Maintenance/Support	400.15
430400.000.00016 Travel Expenses 430400.000.00017 Website	1,211.82
Maintenance	1,223.05
	9,809.64
	9,407.08
	1,066.26
Total 430400.000.00000 General and Administrative Expenses	\$ 33,121.45
430500.000.00000 Grant Expenses	

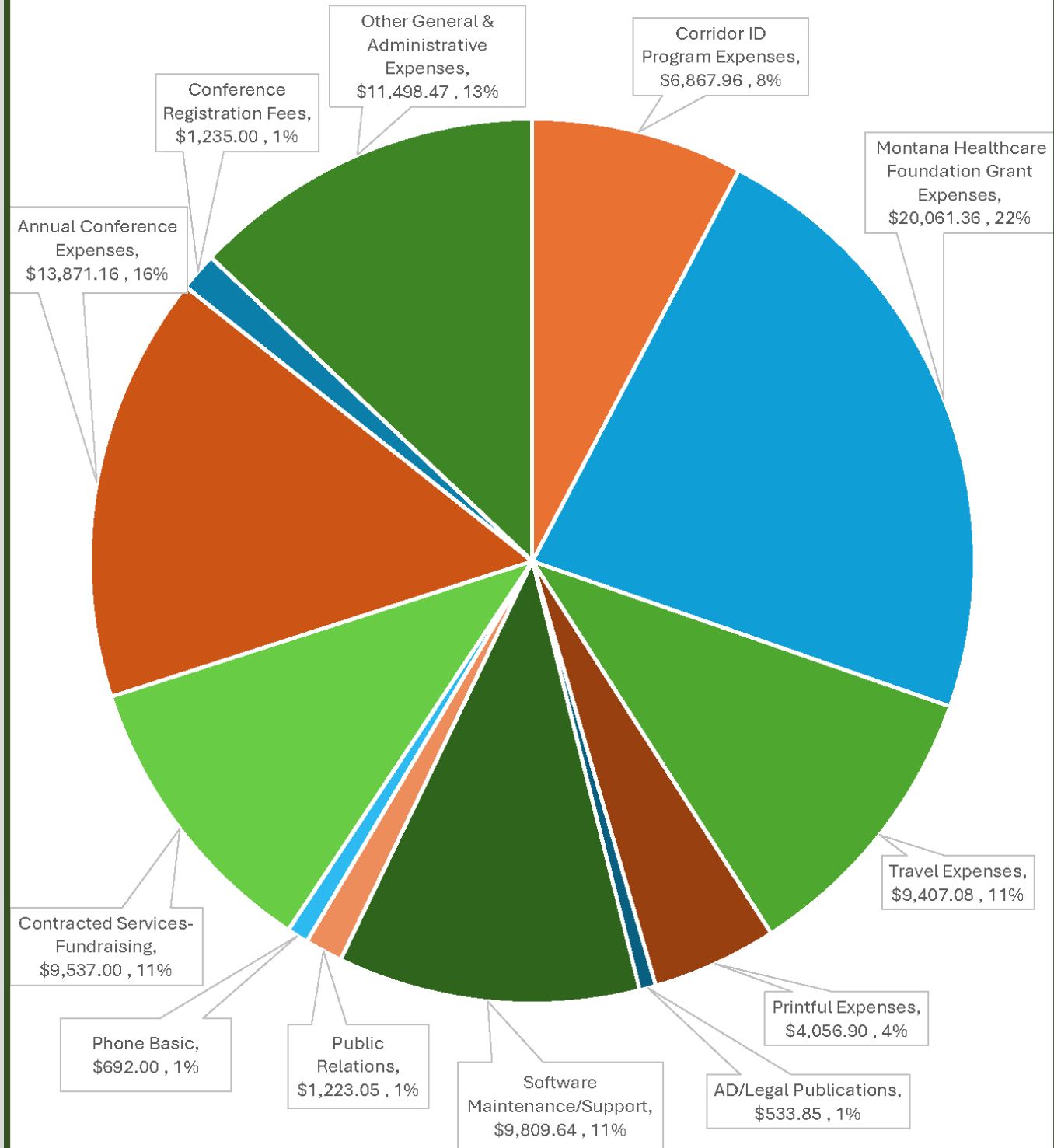
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

430500.701.00000 Montana Healthcare Foundation Grant Expenses		20,061.36
430500.801.00000 Corridor ID Grant Program - Phase 1 Expenses		
430500.801.00003 Consulting - WSS		5,950.00
430500.801.00007 Travel Expenses		
430500.801.00010 Airfare		917.96
Total 430500.801.00007 Travel Expenses		\$ 917.96 \$ 6,867.96 \$ 26,929.32
Total 430500.801.00000 Corridor ID Grant Program - Phase 1 Expenses		
Total 430500.000.00000 Grant Expenses		
430600.000.00000 Services Expenses		
430600.000.00001 Annual Conference Expenses		13,871.16
430600.000.00003 Contracted Services		9,537.00
430600.000.00004 Contracted Services - Executive Management		78,000.00
430600.000.00006 Tuition and Registration Fees		1,235.00
Total 430600.000.00000 Services Expenses		\$ 102,643.16
430800.505.00000 Printful Charges		4,056.90
430900.000.00000 Other Expenses		
430900.000.00001 Interest Expense		42.64
Total 430900.000.00000 Other Expenses		\$ 42.64 \$ 166,793.47 -\$ 20,763.18 -\$
Total Expenditures		20,763.18
Net Operating Revenue		
Net Revenue		

“These financial statements and financial information have not been subjected to an audit or review or compilation engagement, and no assurance is provided on them. Financial statements and financial information is prepared on a modified accrual basis. Management has elected to omit substantially all of the disclosures and the statements of stockholders’ equity and cash flows required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States.”

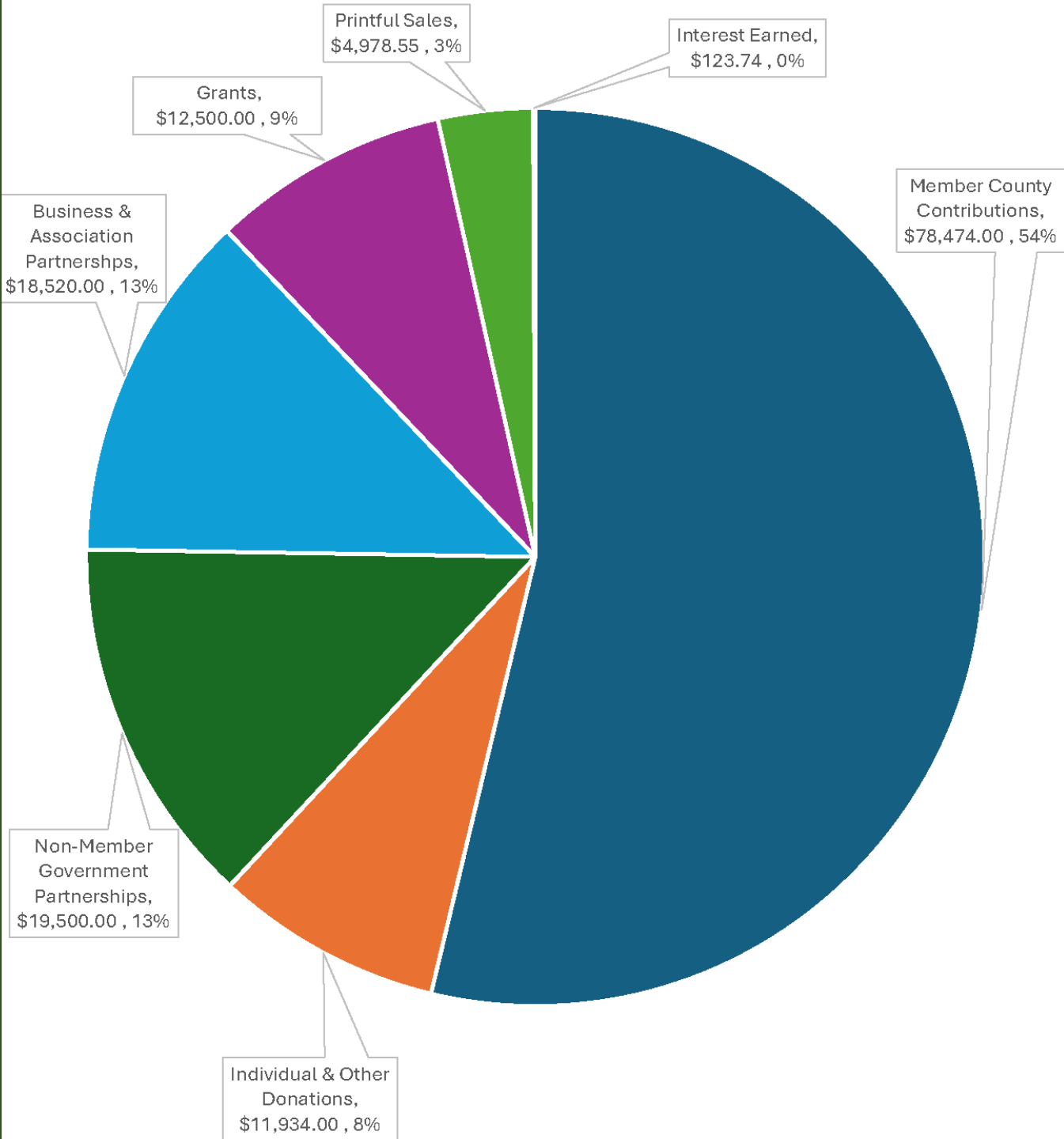
FINANCIAL SUMMARY

FY 2023/2024 Expenses



- Corridor ID Program Expenses
- Montana Healthcare Foundation Grant Expenses
- Travel Expenses
- Printful Expenses
- AD/Legal Publications
- Software Maintenance/Support
- Public Relations
- Phone Basic
- Contracted Services-Fundraising
- Annual Conference Expenses
- Conference Registration Fees
- Other General & Administrative Expenses

FY 2023/2024 Revenue



- Member County Contributions
- Individual & Other Donations
- Non-Member Government Partnerships
- Business & Association Partnerships
- Grants
- Printful Sales
- Interest Earned

BSPRA COMMITTEES

A great way to support BSPRA is by joining one of our committees as a citizen volunteer. With the exception of the Executive Committee, all of our committees include several citizen volunteers. Below is a brief overview of each committee, its chairman, and the work it focuses on:

GOVERNANCE

Chairman - Grant Gager

Function: drafts internal policies and procedures

DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT

Chairman - Dan Bucks

Function: creates and directs fundraising efforts and campaigns

COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman - Jason Stuart

Function: leads communications and public outreach and event participation

SIGN UP

Interested in joining a BSPRA committee? Visit www.bigskyrailmt.org/volunteer-signup to fill out a volunteer form. You don't have to live in Montana—our volunteers come from across the country to support long-distance passenger rail service. Whether it's helping your county join, assisting with fundraisers eg Pint Nights, or raising public awareness, there are many ways to get involved. Consider lending your time and talents to our mission of restoring passenger rail service to southern Montana.

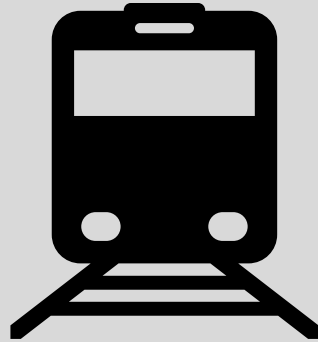
CLOSING THOUGHTS

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy stood before a crowd at Rice University and declared: "We choose to go to the moon in this decade... not because they are easy, but because they are hard." That challenge defined a generation, uniting the country behind a bold vision for the future.

Today, we face another challenge—rebuilding the Big Sky North Coast Corridor and restoring passenger rail to the communities that need it most. With conviction and political will, there is no reason we can't achieve this within the next decade.


I invite you to be part of this movement—attend our board meetings, urge elected officials to embrace a bold transportation future, and help revitalize our communities through rail. It's time to roll up our sleeves and make this vision a reality. Stay connected at BigSkyRailmt.gov.

ALL ABOARD!



CONTACT INFORMATION

 hello@bigskyrailmt.gov

 (406) 624-5522

www.bigskyrailmt.gov