

Midwest “Charger” Fleet Update for 2020

By John Oimoen of IDOT



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Chargers in Use Throughout Midwest

- 32 locomotives in daily service, 33rd unit currently being used for testing cars in Pueblo.
- Operating on all eight Midwest “Hub” routes
- Work is nearing completion on communication and signal upgrades on the route to accommodate PTC that will support speeds of up to 90 mph on Chicago/St Louis route.



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IDOT, Amtrak and Siemens Work on Operating Issues

- Traction Converter Unit (TCU) FMI is a top priority for the fleet
- Initial issues with snow ingestion in Dynamic brake are being addressed by Dynamic Brake Grid FMI's. To date, more than two thirds the fleet has had full FMIs completed.



Parts Issues Require Attention

- Windshield supplier had issues with quality and continued supply
- Siemens Mechanical along with customer service working to improve delivery dates and available quantities.



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Short-Term Actions

- States will execute Locomotive Lease Extension
- New railcars will be added to the consists.
- TSSSA maintenance plan



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Midwest/Amtrak Experience has Informed Amtrak Loco Procurement

- Design/equipment changes implemented
- Midwest has loaned Amtrak two locomotives for in process long-distance testing



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Any questions?

**Thanks for your time and
attention!**



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