



RAIL PASSENGERS
ASSOCIATION

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Rail Passengers Virtual Advocacy Presentation

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Rail Passengers Association | Washington, DC

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This Presentation Will...

- Give you an overview of the Association's legislative asks
- Give you the tools to make you a stronger advocate
- Show you how to contact your elected official

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RAIL PASSENGERS LEGISLATIVE ASK

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Tier 1 - Responding to Coronavirus

AMTRAK

Amtrak Grants - \$1.018 billion

- Northeast Corridor - \$492 million
- National Network - \$526 million
- State Supported Corridors: \$239 million

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Mass Transit Grants - \$25 billion

- Urban Area - \$13.9 billion
- Rural Area - \$1.8 billion
- State of Good Repair - \$7.6 billion
- Fast-Growth & High-Density State - \$1.7 billion

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Our message to elected officials:

- **Thank You:** We need to tell Representatives and Senators "On behalf of the 28,000 Rail Passengers members, thank you for delivering for Amtrak, railroad workers, and transit agencies. The \$1 billion for Amtrak and \$25 billion for transit was essential to the services I depend on to get to work and to stay connected to other parts of the country."
- **Transportation Keeps the U.S. Economy Moving:** In addition to employing over 13 million people, the transportation sector is a foundational part of our economy. If we want to get America back to work, we need Congress to ensure that these transit agencies and commuter railroads are still able to move U.S. workers.
- **Passenger Rail Investment Will Put Americans Back to Work:** As Congress turns to additional phases for relief, passenger rail and transit should be a critical component of any economic recovery package. There are tens of billions of dollars worth of rail projects that could be quickly funded to create construction and manufacturing jobs for Americans -- and they will produce long-term benefits for America's transportation infrastructure.

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Tier 2 - Ask your Representative to Support Strong Funding in FY2021

Program	Federal rail funding (in millions)	
	FY2020 Appropriated Levels	<i>Rail Passengers</i> FY2021 Proposal
Amtrak - National Network	\$1,300.0	\$1,326.0
Amtrak - Corridor Dev. Program	N/A	\$300
Amtrak – NEC	\$700.0	\$714.0
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Grants	\$325.0	\$375.0
Federal State Partnership for State of Good Repair	\$200.0	\$500.0
Restoration & Enhancement Grants	\$2.0	\$50.0
Total	\$2,527.0	\$3,265.0

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In addition to those funding items, we would also ask you to highlight our policy recommendations - which include:

- Ensuring continued service on existing long-distance routes
- Solutions for improving On-Time Performance
- Improving on-board food & beverage service
- Making it easier launch new services and add frequencies on shared-use corridors

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Tier 3 - Surface Transportation Reauthorization (FAST Act)

Finally, we are asking advocates to share our surface transportation reauthorization blueprint. Between the current pandemic crisis and the upcoming election it is unlikely that Congress will be able to pass reauthorization this calendar year. But it is still **very** important to remind offices that we have drafted a larger vision for passenger rail in the U.S.

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For Example:

**Don't forget to
advocate for
your local
projects!**

- Daily Sunset (LA/TX/NM/AZ/CA)
- North-South Rail Link (MA)
- Gulf Coast Rail (LA/AL/MS)
- CA High-Speed Rail (CA)
- Front Range Passenger Rail (CO)
- Cascades High-Speed Rail (OR/WA/BC)

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RAIL PASSENGERS ONLINE ADVOCACY TOOLS

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Legislative Resources

When talking to staffers, please send them to:
railpassengers.org/Leg.Resources

This site includes our literature on

1. **Coronavirus Relief Bill**
2. **Fiscal Year 2021 Legislative Grant Request**
3. **Surface Transportation Reauthorization**
4. **Informational One-Pagers**

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One-Pagers



The National Network: A Foundation for American Mobility

Amtrak's National Network forms the foundation of passenger rail service in the U.S., connecting congested urban areas and bringing economically viable mobility to rural areas and small towns. It is important to note that many of these areas are becoming more isolated from major cities as regional airline and intercity bus service disappears.

- 39 states are served by long-distance trains
- 23 states where long-distance trains are the only Amtrak service
- \$523 million in ticket revenue from long-distance trains

Of Amtrak's 15 long-distance trains, most have just one daily round-trip and two have just three a week. Nonetheless, these routes are heavily used. They would carry even more passengers if Amtrak had more equipment, greater frequencies and more routes. Lack of service rather than lack of demand limits usage.

Long-distance passenger train routes are ideal for connecting major urban areas with each other and with smaller cities and communities—many in rural areas—which are becoming more isolated as regional airline and intercity bus services disappear.

Long-distance trains generate high volumes and load factors by:
1. Providing a single seat ride in many overlapping city pair markets;
2. Combining many small markets to generate economic volumes.

These routes function as connected and overlapping corridors. Many passengers transfer between or among other Amtrak short-distance and long-distance routes. The utility and effectiveness of individual routes grow significantly when they become part of an integrated system.

Case Study: Amtrak's Empire Builder

- Runs 2,200 miles from Chicago to Seattle/Portland with 45 intermediary stops, but only 9% travel from end-point to end-point.
- Is a lifeline to Native Americans, veterans, and the elderly living in the rural Northern Tier that

- Economic Benefits
- Environmental Benefits
- High-Speed Rail
- National Network & Rural Mobility
- Northeast Corridor & Gateway
- On-Time Performance

railpassengers.org/blueprint



Passenger Trains: Economic Engines for Growth

A Connected America is not only good for passengers but good for America's cities and towns, an economic engine in the communities it serves. The U.S. transportation status quo is broken—the nationwide cost of highway gridlock has grown to \$179 billion a year, or \$1,080 per commuter. And the cost isn't just in dollars; the average commuter spends 54 hours per year stuck in traffic.

Every Amtrak long-distance route creates a return on equity for the communities that have invested in it over the past few decades. And thanks to rigorous economic modeling *Rail Passengers* has developed over the past two years, we have been able to quantify that return in a way that hasn't been done previously.

Southwest Chief

- A Rail Passengers study found that the Southwest Chief brings \$180 million in direct and indirect activity to Kansas, Colorado, and New Mexico.
- Installing Positive Train Control along the three-state segment of the Chief will bring an additional \$135 million in temporary economic activity through construction, benefitting rural towns in KS, CO, and NM.
- If the plan to break up the Chief with a bus-bridge had gone through, 32 universities would have lost train service, 47 hospitals would have lost train service, and 130,000 auto trips would've been added onto roads four times more dangerous than the national average—for a stretch of rural and small communities with the lowest median income across the entire corridor.

Virginia: A Decade of Growth

By investing in a 31 percent boost to Amtrak service, Virginia has produced a 101% increase in since 2003 and removed 600 million vehicle-travel miles from the commonwealth's highways. The results speak for themselves:

- \$1.4 billion in economic returns to Virginia
- Created or sustained 1,400+ jobs each year
- \$390 million in new tourist spending
- Profitable "above the rail" - \$17.58 per passenger in 2018

Gulf Coast Rail

- A study done by Transportation for America and the Southern Rail commission found that restoring passenger rail between Mobile and New Orleans would produce \$216 million in annual economic benefits for Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama, despite costing the three states only about \$7 million each year.

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HOW TO CONTACT YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

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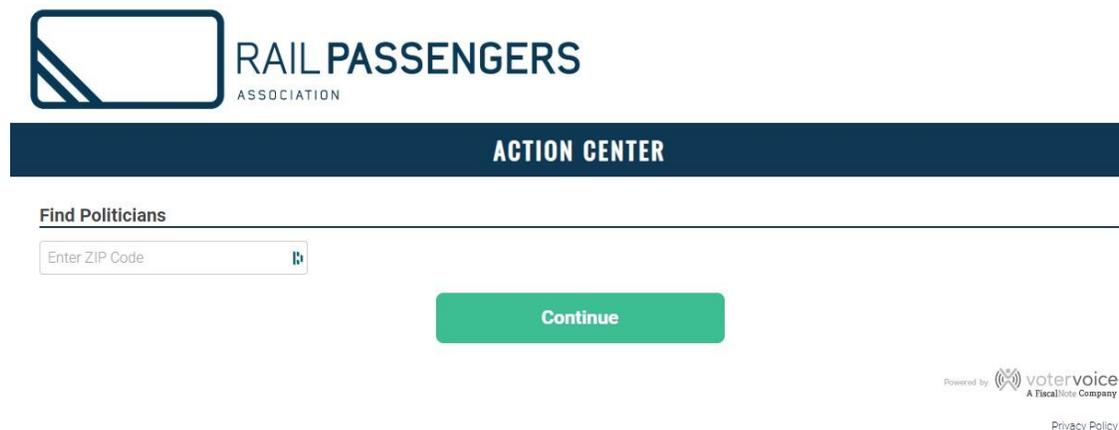


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How To Contact Your Officials

By going to votervoice.net/NARPRAIL/address you can find the contact information for every Federal and State Official tied to your address



The screenshot shows the 'RAIL PASSENGERS ASSOCIATION' logo at the top left. Below it is a dark blue header with the text 'ACTION CENTER'. Underneath the header is a section titled 'Find Politicians' which contains a text input field labeled 'Enter ZIP Code' and a green 'Continue' button. In the bottom right corner, there is a small logo for 'votervoice A FiscalNote Company' and a link for 'Privacy Policy'.

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For Example:

Your Federal Officials

-  [President Donald Trump](#)
-  [Vice President Mike Pence](#)
-  [Senator Elizabeth Warren \(D-MA\)](#)
-  [Senator Ed Markey \(D-MA\)](#)
-  [Representative Ayanna Pressley \(D-MA-007\)](#)

Your State Officials

-  [Governor Charlie Baker Jr. \(R-MA\)](#)
-  [Lt. Governor Karyn Polito \(R-MA\)](#)
-  [Secretary of State William Galvin \(D-MA\)](#)
-  [Attorney General Maura Healey \(D-MA\)](#)
-  [Treasurer Deb Goldberg \(D-MA\)](#)
-  [Auditor Suzanne Bump \(D-MA\)](#)
-  [Senator Sal DiDomenico \(D-MA-Middlesex and Suffolk\)](#)
-  [Representative Mike Connolly \(D-MA-26th Middlesex\)](#)

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Clicking on the link next to the photo will bring up their full contact information

Profile



Senator Ed Markey
Democrat-MA

Contact

Personal

Political

Staff

Capitol Address 255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Capitol Phone (202) 224-2742
District Address 975 JFK Federal Building
Boston, MA 02203
District Phone (617) 565-8519
Web Site <http://www.markey.senate.gov/>
Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/EdJMarkey>
Twitter <http://www.twitter.com/SenMarkey>
YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/user/RepMarkey>

Close

Compose Your Message

Subject

Message Body

Enter Your Info

Your Information

Prefix * First Name * Last Name *

Email *

Send me text alerts

Mobile Number *

Home Information

Street Address *

ZIP Code * Enter Zip for City and State

Send me email alerts

Remember me

Send Message

Checking the boxes next to each official's name will populate them into the compose screen

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Beginner's Guide:

railpassengers.org/beginnersguide

For more information:

railpassengers.org/RailNation2020

railpassengers.org/blueprint

Find your Legislators:

votervoices.net/NARPRAIL/address

Resources Toolkit:

railpassengers.org/Leg.Resources

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If you have any questions or comments, please reach out:

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Madi Butler, Grassroots Organizer, mbutler@narprail.org

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Stay Informed



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youtube.com/narprail

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THANK YOU!

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