



Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Rail Passengers believes the coming surface transportation reauthorization must do more than establish higher funding levels for passenger trains and transit. Congress must create bold new programs that will shape the next generation of U.S. transportation infrastructure.

Physical Infrastructure

- Create a federal grant program allowing states and municipalities to purchase abandoned and underutilized corridors from freight railroads.
- Enact a tax credit covering private sector donation of ROWs to states for passenger rail networks.

On-Time Performance

- Grant Amtrak a Private Right of Action to enforce dispatching priority.
- Shift creation of Metrics and Standards to the Federal Railroad Administration.

Funding and Finance

- Introduce a predictable, dedicated, and robust Passenger Rail Trust Fund.

Operations

- Create regional advisory committees to initiate integrated Regional Rail Operating Models.
- Establish a charter for a Shared-Use Corridor Advisory Committee.
- Direct the FRA to study the benefits of Central Dispatching Authorities.
- Formally establish the importance of the National Network to rural Americans.
- Grant local officials discretion to direct funds to the highest impact projects.

Regulation and Oversight

- Give the federal government a larger role in insurance provision for rail operators. One such role would be mandated contributions to a captive insurance pool overseen by the federal government.
- Study PTC Technology's effect on liability requirements.

Equipment

- Allow the FRA increased flexibility in granting waivers to Buy America Act requirements for passenger rail equipment to allow for lower the cost of procurement.

You can find out more about our plan at RailPassengers.org/2020

1967



1990



2011



2017



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