



RAIL PASSENGERS
ASSOCIATION

The Pacific Northwest

Webinar Series
June 2021



Agenda

PART 1	Introduction Joe Aiello National Field Coordinator
PART 2	Legislative Update VP Sean Jeans Gail
PART 3	Bob Krebs President Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA)
PART 4	Charlie Hamilton Co-Executive Director All Aboard Washington
PART 5	Barry Green Council Montana + NW Division Leader Rail Passengers
PART 6	Q+A Madison Butler Communications Manager Rail Passengers
PART 7	Fall Meeting Preview Jim Mathews President + CEO Rail Passengers

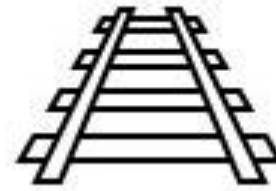
Legislative Update

Sean Jeans Gail, Vice President Government Affairs and Policy

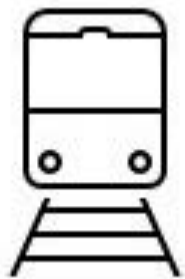




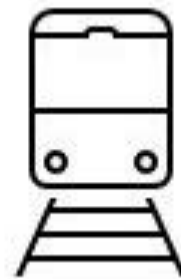
Three-Track Infrastructure Program



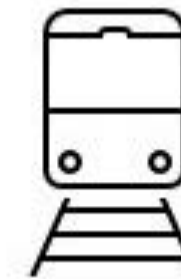
Fiscal Year 2022
THUD Budget



American Jobs Plan
[Infrastructure Bill]



Surface Trans.
Reauthorization

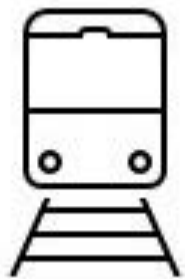




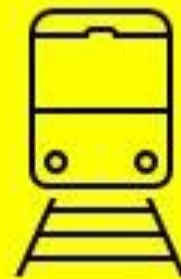
Three-Track Infrastructure Program



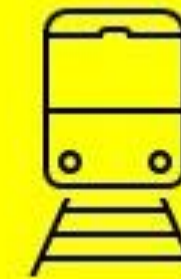
Fiscal Year 2022
THUD Budget



Bipartisan
Infrastructure Bill



Surface Trans.
Reauthorization

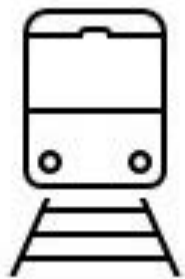




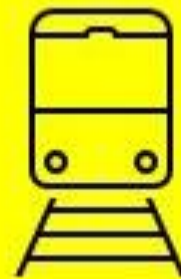
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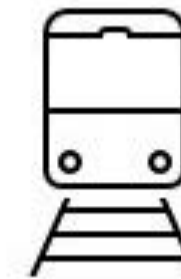
Fiscal Year 2022
THUD Budget



Bipartisan
Infrastructure Bill



Surface Trans.
Reauthorization



State of bipartisan infrastructure negotiations

- White House, Senate agree to bipartisan framework for \$547 billion, 5-year infrastructure bill
- Disagreement remains on whether to link to broader Budget Reconciliation
- Diverse set of pay-fors; not user fee-based

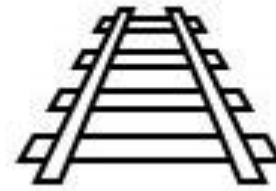
	Amount (billions)
Total	\$579
Transportation	\$312
Roads, bridges, major projects	\$109
Safety	\$11
Public transit	\$49
Passenger and Freight Rail	\$66
EV infrastructure	\$7.5
Electric buses / transit	\$7.5
Reconnecting communities	\$1
Airports	\$25
Ports & Waterways	\$16
Infrastructure Financing	\$20
Other Infrastructure	\$266
Water infrastructure	\$55
Broadband infrastructure	\$65
Environmental remediation	\$21
Power infrastructure incl. grid authority	\$73
Western Water Storage	\$5
Resilience	\$47

**New spending + baseline (over 5 years) = \$973B*

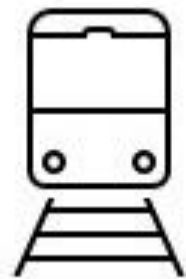
**New spending + baseline (over 8 years) = \$1,209B*



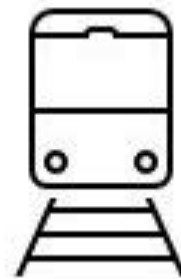
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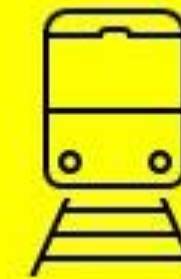
Fiscal Year 2022
THUD Budget



Bipartisan
Infrastructure Bill



Surface Trans.
Reauthorization



H.R.3684 vs. S.2016



(Billions of dollars – 5-year authorization)		
	H.R. 3064	S. 2016
Amtrak - Northeast Corridor	\$13.5	\$6.6
Amtrak - National Network	\$18.5	\$10.7
Amtrak Inspector General	\$0.1	\$0.1
CRISI Grants	\$7.0	\$5.0
Fed-State SOGR Partnership Grants	\$0.0	\$7.5
Restoration/Enhancement Grants	\$0.1	\$0.3
PRIME Grants	\$25.0	\$0.0
Bridges-Tunnel-Stations (BeST) Grants	\$25.0	\$0.0
RRIF Credit Premiums	\$1.0	\$0.0
Grade Crossing Elimination Grants	\$2.5	\$2.5
FRA Safety & Operations	\$1.6	\$1.3
FRA Research & Development	\$0.4	\$0.2
Five Year Total	\$94.7	\$34.2



TRAIN Act Policies + Reforms

	HR 3684	S 2016
Rail Trust Fund	Yes	No
PRIME Grants	\$4.8bn/yr (+\$100ml/yr)	No
Federal State Partnership Grants	No	\$1.5bn/yr (Improved eligibilities and project analysis)
CRISI Grants	\$1.2 bn/yr (+100ml/yr)	\$1bn/yr (adds eligibility for hyperloop R&D)
RRIFF	Funds CRPs at \$160ml/yr (+\$100ml/yr); adds TOD eligibility	Funds CRPs at \$50ml/yr; adds TOD eligibility
BeST Grants	\$4.8bn/yr (+\$100ml/yr)	No
Amtrak findings, mission, and goals	Yes	Yes



TRAIN Act Policies + Reforms

	HR 3684	S 2016
Amtrak Board of Director Reform	Yes (focus on elected officials, labor representatives, passengers)	Yes (focuses on geographic balance)
Amtrak on-time enforcement	Yes	No
Amtrak track access reform	Yes	No
Amtrak oversight reform	No	Yes
State-supported routes committee	Yes	Yes
Food & Beverage Reform	Yes	Yes
Amtrak Office of Community Outreach	Yes	No



TRAIN Act Policies + Reforms

	HR 3684	S 2016
Long-Distance customer enhancement program	Yes	No
Prohibition on eliminating long-distance	Yes	Yes
LDR restoration study	No	Yes
NEC Planning Commission	Yes	Yes
Updated HSR requirements	Yes	No
State rail planning formula funds	1.5% of competitive grant funding	No
Corridor Identification and Development Program	No	Yes



TRAIN Act Policies + Reforms

	HR 3684	S 2016
Enhancing Border Crossings	No	Yes
Highway-Rail Grade Crossing Separation	\$450ml/yr (+\$125ml/yr)	\$500ml/yr

INVEST Act – Next steps

- House taking up H.R. 3684 today, with several amendments *Rail Passengers* is tracking

SUPPORT

- 67. Moulton (MA) #15 Increases the PRIME program funding by \$1 billion in each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026, for a total increase of \$5 billion.
- 99. Titus (NV) #55 Amends RRIF program to add HSR activities under the eligible entities for credit risk premium subsidy payments.

OPPOSE

- 6. Brady (TX) #251 Revises RRIF program to add new conditions for loans.
- 70. Nehls (TX) #30 Strikes Division D of the bill (rail title)
- 80. Perry (PA) #144 Prohibits the use of funds for Amtrak Network Expansion.
- 97. Suozzi (NY) #188 (REVISED) Establishes a North Atlantic Rail Interstate Compact

INVEST Act – Next steps

- Senate will (hopefully) take up S.2016 in late July
- The two different versions will need to be reconciled as part of a larger bill before September 30
- Questions remain about how the surface transportation authorization will fit with the infrastructure bill and Budget Reconciliation



RAIL PASSENGERS
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Thank you!

Questions?

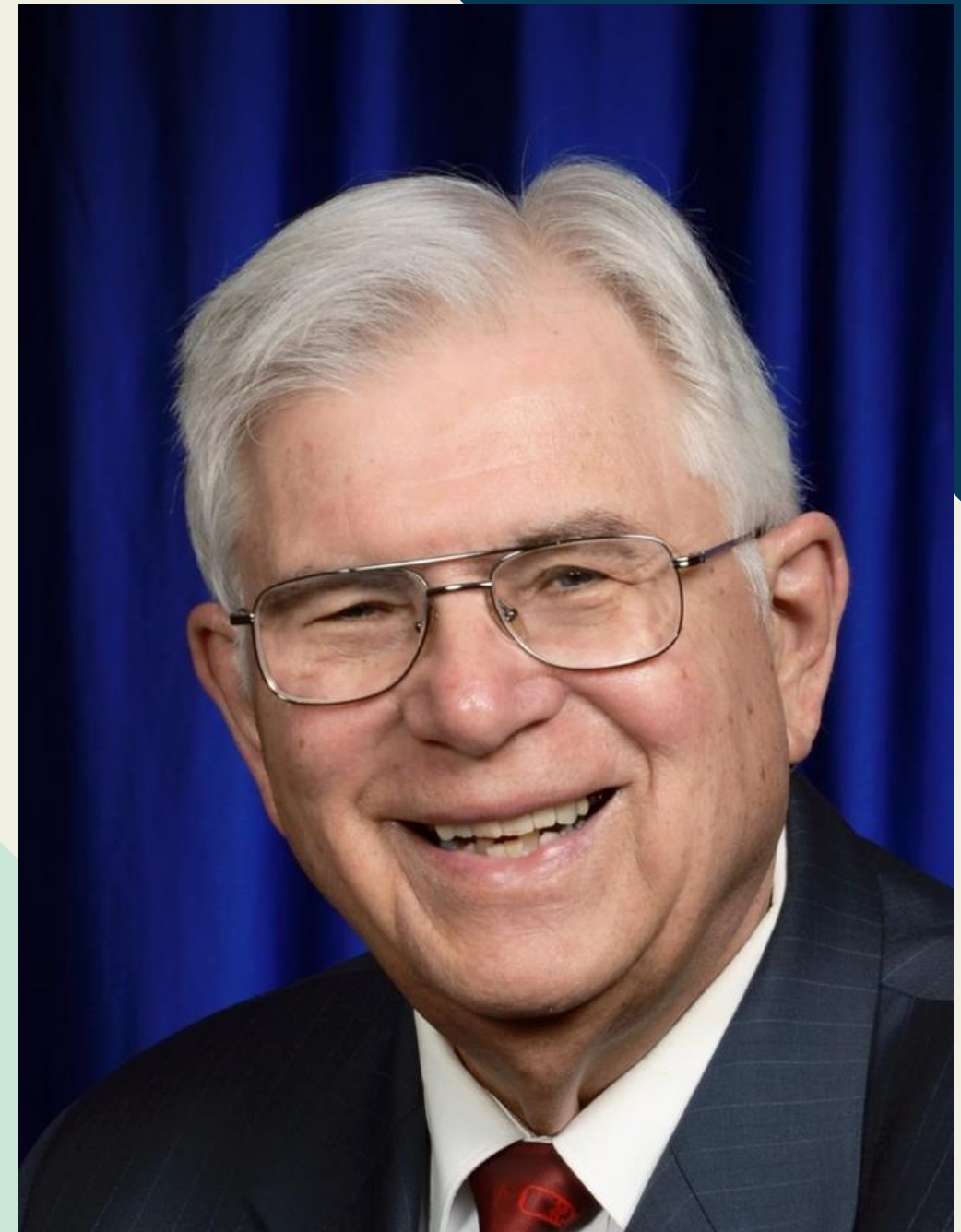
Sean Jeans-Gail | VP of Gov't Affairs + Policy

sjeansgail@narprail.org

Today's Presenters

Bob Krebs, President

Association of Oregon Rail and Transit Advocates (AORTA)





Contact Info

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[@oregonrail](https://twitter.com/oregonrail)

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P.O. Box 2772
Portland, OR 97208-2772

Today's Presenters

Charlie Hamilton Co-Executive Director All Aboard
Washington





Who is All Aboard Washington?

- AAWA has promoted better passenger and freight rail service in the Pacific Northwest for over forty years.
- We are a nonprofit advocacy organization of citizens, businesses, and other goal-oriented groups.





AAWA's Advocacy

We educate elected officials, community leaders, and the public about the many **benefits** of well-connected public transportation, with an especially strong focus on regional intercity passenger rail.

- **Economic:** Intercity passenger trains help strengthen local economies across the Northwest.
- **Environmental:** Intercity passenger trains provide low-emissions regional transportation.
- **Equity:** Intercity passenger trains connect communities small and large, many of which are underserved by other transportation options.

Current Projects: Statewide Meetings

2021 Train Trek August 12-22

Get feedback from local leaders and discuss how their communities can benefit from passenger rail.

- Everett-Snohomish County
- Leavenworth
- Wenatchee
- Yakima-Union Gap
- Toppenish-Zillah
- Prosser-Sunnyside
- Pasco-Richland-Kennewick
- Walla Walla-College Place
- Dayton
- Clarkston-Lewiston
- Missoula, MT
- Sandpoint, ID
- Spokane Area
- Pullman-Colfax
- Ritzville
- Moses Lake-Ephrata
- Ellensburg
- Cle Elum: AAWA Annual Picnic



Current Projects: Regional Rail Forum



Pacific Northwest
Economic Region
Summit, August 18

“Pacific Northwest
Rail Forum:
Passenger Rail’s
Economic,
Environmental, and
Equity Benefits for
Northwest
Communities”

- Passenger Rail’s Economic, Environmental, and Equity Benefits for Northwest Communities
- US Federal Rail Infrastructure Initiatives
- National Legislative Opportunities
- Regional Service Restoration Efforts
- Washington and Oregon Legislative Rail Caucuses



Current Projects: Expand Service

We are advocating for East-West service via Stampede Pass, connecting with southern Montana initiative and beyond.

- Greater Northwest Passenger Rail Working Group
- Regional Rail Commissions/ Compacts





AAWA
ALL ABOARD WASHINGTON

Questions?

Contact us at
(360) 529-5552

or visit our
website at

www.aawa.us



Today's Presenters

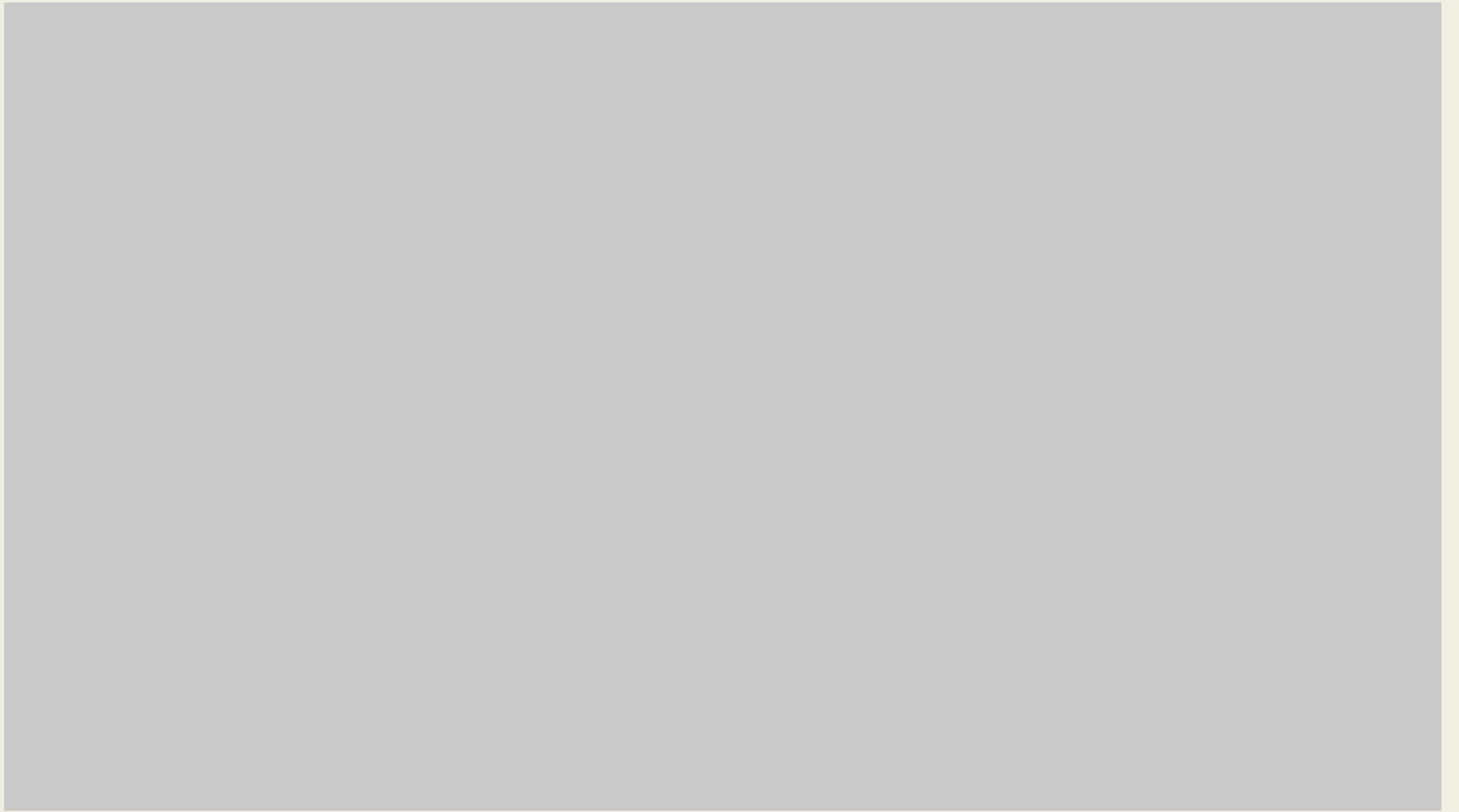
Barry Green Council Montana + NW Division Leader Rail
Passengers

Montana - Idaho - Alaska Washington - Oregon



Regional Updates:

- RPA NW Div. Council Reps. – Council Rep. Vacancy in Washington State
- Return of Daily Operations of Amtrak’s “Empire Builder” – May 24, 2021
- Short Train Crew Members, Station Agents, and Equipment
- BNSF Railway’s Monster Trains Create Problems For The Empire Builder
- Big Sky Passenger Rail Authority (www.bigskyrail.org)
- Meet BSPRA (BSPRA Video on next slide)



To review this presentation and supporting materials visit our website:

railpassengers.org/webinars

Q&A

Madison Butler Communications Manager
Rail Passengers



Q&A - Washington

WE HAVE GOTTEN A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS ON THIS TOPIC:

WHAT IF/ANY TIMELINE EXISTS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POINT DEFIANCE BYPASS? HOW FIRM IS THAT?

Q&A - Washington

IS SERVICE TO WALLA WALLA, ETC., EVEN A POSSIBILITY?

Q&A - Oregon

WHAT ARE THE PROSPECTS FOR BETTER ALIGNMENTS IN AND OUT OF PORTLAND'S CITY CENTER?

ARE PROPOSALS TO MAKE THE MEMORIAL COLISEUM A HIGH SPEED RAIL STATION TOO "PIE IN THE SKY?"

Q&A - Oregon

**WHAT IS THE STATUS OF PORTLAND'S UNION STATION REMODEL THAT HAS BEEN TALKED ABOUT FOR YEARS, INCLUDING ANY FURTHER REFRESH OF ITS METROPOLITAN LOUNGE?
(THE FIRST ONE ON THE WEST COAST).**

Q&A - Regional / Montana

WHAT IF ANY DISCUSSIONS ARE GOING ON BETWEEN THOSE STATE ADVOCATES FOR MORE SEATTLE/TACOMA AREA TO SPOKANE SERVICE AND SOUTHERN TIER MONTANA SERVICE?

COULD ONE COMBINED TRAIN FOR BOTH HELP MEET THE DESIRES OF BOTH CONSTITUENTS AND WHAT WOULD THAT LOOK LIKE? (I.E DAYTIME SERVICE WHERE?)

Q&A - Regional / Montana

BOZEMAN MT IS GROWING LIKE CRAZY AS CHICAGO, NYC, ETC. SHRINK. LONG AGO, THERE WAS CHICAGO TO THE WEST COAST RAIL PASSENGER SERVICE THROUGH BOZEMAN. ANY CHANCE OF RESTARTING IT?

LOOKING AT THE AMTRAK MAP, BIG EAST-WEST GAP THROUGH THIS US AREA.

Q&A - General

DOES SEC. 2214 OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT ACT OF 2021 (STIA) (MENTIONED IN RAIL PASSENGERS HOTLINE #1,220), WHICH REQUIRES US DOT TO EVALUATE RESTORING DISCONTINUED LONG DISTANCE ROUTES, LIKE THE PIONEER AND THE NORTH COAST HIAWATHA, STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO PASS INTO LAW?

WE NEED EXPANSION OF THE LONG DISTANCE NETWORK AS WELL AS OF THE CORRIDORS!

Fall Meeting Preview

Jim Mathews President + CEO
Rail Passengers



Fall Meeting Preview

Date:

Sunday, September 19, 2021 to

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Location:

Embassy Suites by Hilton 1900 Diagonal Rd

Alexandria VA 22314

Register:

<http://www.railpassengers.org/RailNationDC2021>



Conclusion

@NARPRAIL



JOIN THE DIGITAL CONVERSATION



@RAILPASSENGERS



STAY ACTIVE



JOIN CAMPAIGNS



SPREAD THE WORD