

# RAILPASSENGERS



## WEEKLY HOTLINE

Issue #1,382—January 31, 2025

Starting in February, we are changing the distribution list that we send the Hotline to each and every week. If you want to remain in the know and continue to receive this newsletter - please click the link below and fill out the short form.

Thank you!

[Click Here to Sign Up!](#)

**Share your thoughts, feelings, and reactions to issues you may have had on a recent Amtrak trip.** Thanks to your support and participation in previous surveys, we have been able to take the passenger's voice straight to Congress and Amtrak Executives. Help us keep hammering the message home by sharing this survey with other passengers!



## Association News

### Trump Rescinds Infrastructure Spending Freeze

President Donald Trump's budget office rescinded a memo freezing spending on federal loans and grants earlier this week, signaling it is willing to advance key transportation projects funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Rail Passengers Association [issued a letter to President Trump last week](#) urging the immediate resumption of funding for projects that are upgrading passenger and freight rail corridors across the U.S.

"These grants are located in almost every state in the nation, from Florida to Alaska," we wrote. "They will benefit millions of Americans, in big cities and small towns, urban neighborhoods and rural communities, Red States and Blue. The vast majority of the rail projects in question required state and local governments to provide local funding matches to secure these grants. Delaying disbursements will not only endanger tens of thousands of construction jobs, it will introduce costly delays, which will likely be borne by local governments."

**We also asked our supporters to reach out to the White House and to their elected officials in Congress. Thousands of you responded, flooding DC with thousands of messages!**

"I want to thank all the advocates who stepped up to support these critical rail programs," said *Rail Passengers* President Jim Mathews. "This is a win for America's passengers and for common sense. We look forward to working with Congress, the White House, and local governments to keep building a better passenger rail network."

### Rep. Webster Is Misinformed

Let's read together, again, what the new House rail subcommittee chair Rep. Daniel Webster (R-FL) believes about passenger rail:

"Passenger rail works best where demand is high, competition and private sector involvement are ample, and a dependence on government support is low," Webster, chairing his first meeting of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee's rail panel, said last week.

"For Amtrak, we must look at improving and maintaining its existing network, weaning it off government support, and providing competitive, reliable, and safe service to attract riders," he said. "Amtrak should serve as an appealing option for travel, not as a replacement for vehicles and airplanes, which remain the overwhelming preference for Americans."

So very much to pick apart here. But I guess I'll start with the idea that driving and flying "remain the overwhelming preference for Americans." Well, in many instances it's true that people are more likely to drive or to fly – but that's because the Federal government has generously subsidized driving and flying options at many multiples of the funding made available to passenger rail, and those subsidies have in some cases made those experiences better, and easier, and less expensive.

Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA) pushed back last week, and I agree wholeheartedly with him. He pointed out that just since 2008 highways have received more than a quarter of a trillion dollars in Federal support. That's around seven- or eight-times what passenger rail has received in the same period.

As for withdrawing Amtrak support, I was able to confirm personally this week in follow-ups talking with committee members and staff that Rep. Webster's concept was not just a throwaway. They truly believe – or at least they say they do – that Amtrak could somehow make a profit where dozens of mighty private railroads could not in the 1960s and 1970s.

Amtrak can do better financially, and has already done well in rebounding from the pandemic crush. Amtrak already wrings out more income from its fares and amenities and extra services -- too much, in my view, but that's a topic for another blog. Amtrak can find new efficiencies, like any organization can if it looks hard enough. But Amtrak will never, ever, ever be profitable. Not ever. Particularly as it transitions into being a large rail-oriented general construction contractor along with being the nation's nationalized rail operator.

And that's OK. The yardstick we use to measure success for government programs and agencies is different than the one we use to measure the success of private companies. As a for-profit company, Amtrak fails...spectacularly. As a government agency, created half a century ago to carry out a public purpose recognized in law and in Supreme Court rulings, it is a spectacular success worth celebrating, supporting, and building up.

[Click here to read more of Jim's thoughts on Amtrak's history & profitability](#)

## Continue To Make Your Voice Heard



# ACTION ALERT



RAIL PASSENGERS  
ASSOCIATION

With the news that the White House has rescinded the OMB memo to halt payments of federal grants and loans but still plans on following the Executive Orders signed by President Trump, **it is more important now**

than ever to keep the pressure on and continue to make our voices heard.

There has been a bit of chaos this week, but one thing is for certain: we **MUST** protect the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding for ongoing job-creating and economy-boosting transportation and infrastructure projects.

Click the action alert button below and join us in sending this message to both the White House and Congress

Take Action

**NOTICE: We are aware of issues with the alert form showing up blank on with certain browsers/settings. Please make sure whatever browser you use is up-to-date with the latest version.**

**We have been talking to our CRM vendor for a resolution to this issue.**

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## Field Notes

### Roundup of Passenger Train Improvements From Around North America

By Philip Mayer, Rail Passengers Volunteer

Pennsylvania has federal approval and funding to explore a plan to build a direct rail line between Scranton and New York City.

The trip would take about 2 hours and 50 minutes to complete. The last direct train service between Scranton and Hoboken, New Jersey, right across the Hudson River from New York City, ended on January 5, 1970. The federal government will cover 90% of the estimated \$5.46 million planning cost with PennDOT covering the other 10%, officials said.

PennDOT anticipates completing the comprehensive service plan by 2028, which will include:

- Stakeholder engagement with railroads, agencies, and the public;
- Service options analysis and transportation planning;
- Capital project identification, conceptualization, and cost estimating;
- Environmental analysis; and
- Financial and implementation planning.

This rail line will bring opportunities for employment, tourism, and mobility to a region dominated by cars and unpredictable travel times.

AMTRAK anticipates running three trains daily in both directions. A 2023 AMTRAK study foresees this rail line generating \$84 million in economic development in the region.

Former Congressman Matt Cartwright, who represented Pennsylvania's 8th district for 12 years before losing reelection in 2024, will help lobby for the rail line. On January 22, the Lackawanna County commissioners appointed Cartwright to the Pennsylvania Northeast Regional Railroad Authority board. The position comes with no pay or benefits. This rail line seems certain to be built, but Cartwright and the rest of the board will strive to keep it on the forefront of US rail expansion.

#### **AMTRAK Adds Three New Departures Between Los Angeles and San Diego**

The Biden administration awarded \$27 million in federal funds to add three roundtrips between Los Angeles and San Diego, CA. Two trains will enter service in March, and the third will begin service in November. This will bring passenger service frequency on that portion of the Pacific Surfliner back to its pre-pandemic level.

This is the first federal grant for LOSSAN, the Los Angeles-San Diego-San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency. "Every year, the Amtrak Pacific Surfliner train connects millions of people across our region," said Rep. Mike Levin (D-San Juan Capistrano). "The train is a critical part of our communities."

Increasing train frequency is crucial for getting more Southern Californians off of the overcrowded roads and highways. In 2024, more than 2 million people rode the Pacific Surfliner—a 20% increase in ridership from the previous year—even though service frequency is down 16% from 2019. The LOSSAN rail corridor has 29 stations on its line and is the nation's second-busiest rail corridor after the Northeast Corridor.

## **AMTRAK's Frederick Douglass Tunnel Will Improve Baltimore Rail Bottleneck**

The Baltimore and Potomac Tunnel (B&P) in Baltimore was completed in 1873 and has long been one of the worst rail bottlenecks along the Northeast Corridor. The B&P tunnel slows trains to 30 mph and compromises Baltimore's ability to be a regional transportation hub. Work has begun to replace it with the Frederick Douglass Tunnel, which honors the Maryland born abolitionist.

The project features two two-mile electrified tunnels for both AMTRAK and MARC passenger trains. The project will also include a fully accessible West Baltimore MARC station, improved local streets, and enhanced bridge infrastructure.

These rail improvements will make transportation more efficient, and contribute to the region's long-term economic growth.

## **Montreal receives longer, more fuel-efficient, more reliable Charger locomotives**

The first of 10 Charger locomotives by Siemens have been received by Exo, Montreal's regional rail service. After a testing period, the locomotives will enter service this spring. These locos will replace the 35-year-old F59PH locomotives which Exo acquired from Toronto's GO Transit in 2011.

The Charger locos will increase the capacity of the commuter trains from 8 cars to 10. They will also comply with Tier 4 emissions standards and are expected to be quieter, more fuel-efficient and more reliable.

"The arrival of this first new-generation locomotive represents a great step forward for commuter train users in the northern and southern suburbs", said Québec's Deputy Premier and Minister of Transport & Sustainable Mobility Geneviève Guilbault on January 15.

## **Passenger Rail Startup Dreamstar Releases Renderings of their Luxury Sleeper Trains Which Will Deliver Overnight Service Between Los Angeles and San Francisco**

**By Philip Mayer, Rail Passengers Volunteer**

Dreamstar Lines, a Newport Beach headquartered startup, has partnered with Designworks, a BMW Group Company, for its plans to retrofit passenger train cars with art-Deco inspired sleeper cabins. On January 25th, Dreamstar [released artistic renderings](#) of what their cabins and trains would look like.

The private rail company plans on starting overnight service between Los Angeles and San Francisco by late summer. The trains will leave each city at 10pm and arrive in its destination by 8:30am. Driving between those two cities at night typically takes six hours.

The luxury trains will feature cabins which will allow passengers to lie flat while they sleep, complete with bathrooms with showers. There are plans to someday allow passengers to add their cars to the train. The trains will also make stops in Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and San Jose. Passengers riding short distances between those cities and San Francisco and Los Angeles will have the option of sitting on couches without cabins.

Accommodations on Dreamstar Lines will include:

- Lounge - Designed with elements ideal for socializing, having a drink, or a light bite
- Standard class - Equivalent to first-class international airline flight
- Bedroom - Sleeps two with private bathroom and shower
- Suite - Sleeps two in queen bed with extra space plus private bathroom and shower
- Family - Sleeps six (including two children) with private bathroom and shower

Fares will cost between \$300 and \$1000. Dreamstar CEO Joshua Dominic says that, "fares have not yet been decided but "will be on the low end of overnight rail travel in North America," adding that walk-up fares "would be competitive" with plane tickets bought "within the typical business travel window, less than three weeks before departure, or the cost of a flight with advance purchase plus a hotel." Indeed, while this is definitely luxury train travel, when one considers that passengers will be saving on a hotel and will be able to comfortably sleep while travelling, this could easily be seen as a budget and time friendly travel option. The private rail line will also offer high speed internet and last mile transportation services.

Currently, train travel between the two cities involves a bus trip departing from San Luis Obispo, is only offered during the day and takes between 10

and 11 hours. Amtrak does offer service between Los Angeles and Oakland, California, on its 11-hour daytime *Coast Starlight* service, which terminates in Seattle. Travelers in California will surely be intrigued by this new rail startup.

The last overnight train between the two cities was a luxury service offered by Southern Pacific Company, which ended the service in 1968. Amtrak offered *The Spirit of California*, which travelled between Los Angeles and Sacramento each night with a stop in Oakland. But that service only lasted from 1981 to 1983.

The majority of the proposed 470-mile rail line will travel on tracks owned by freight train operator Union Pacific. Dreamstar and UP have a memorandum of understanding that the startup will be able to travel on their tracks. Dreamstar will also have to work out agreements with Caltrains in the north and Metrolink in Southern California. Dominic seems optimistic that agreements can be made, telling reporters, "We're in talks with both and working towards acceptable terms for track access." "Both have been wonderful to work with and communicated interest toward getting our trains rolling."

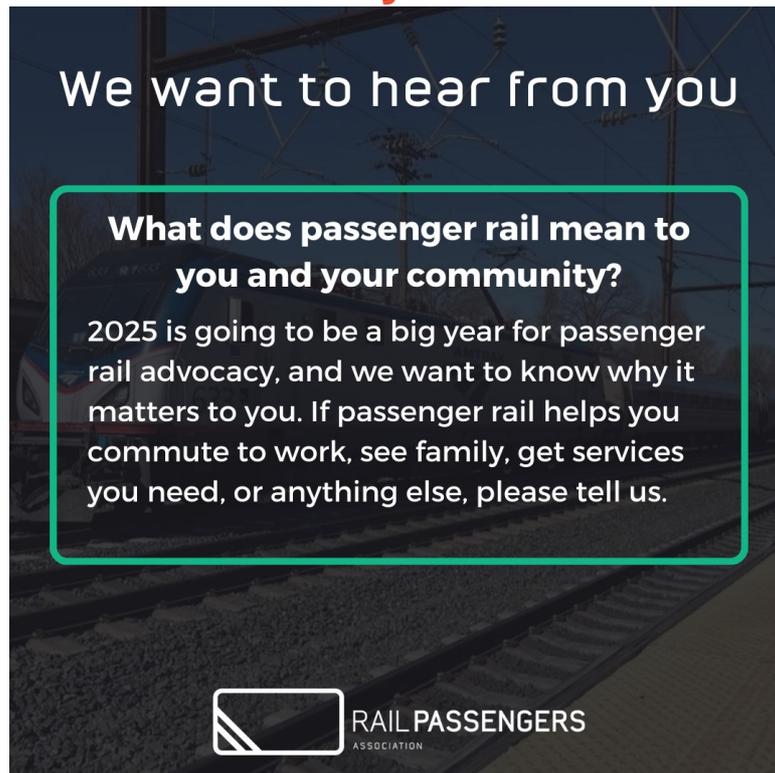
Overnight train service is having a resurgence around the world. In Europe, passengers can ride overnight trains between Scotland and London, Vienna to Venice, Munich to Budapest, and Berlin to Brussels, among other city pairs. China has a high-speed overnight train between Beijing and Guangzhou which makes the 1000-mile journey in as little as 10 hours. Guangzhou is only a short distance from the border with Hong Kong.

Passenger rail travellers in California should be quite pleased to have more options when traveling between the state's two largest metropolitan areas.

**Please email [Joe Aiello](mailto:Joe.Aiello@amtrak.com) if you have any local, state or regional stories/projects that you would like to see get highlighted in the Hotline.**

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## What's Your Story?



**We want to hear from you**

**What does passenger rail mean to you and your community?**

2025 is going to be a big year for passenger rail advocacy, and we want to know why it matters to you. If passenger rail helps you commute to work, see family, get services you need, or anything else, please tell us.

 **RAIL PASSENGERS**  
ASSOCIATION

We're gearing up for a big year of advocacy in 2025, and we want your stories to help us connect to elected officials, government agencies, and local advocates on why passenger rail matters.

We want you to tell us what passenger rail means to you and your community. Whether it helps you commute to work, see family and friends, get services you need, or anything else, please tell us.

[Tell Us Your Story!](#)

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## RAILNATION:DC 2025

# RAILNATION: DC 2025

# Regional Summits & Day on the Hill

March 24th - April 3rd, 2025

Rail Passengers Office & Conference Room



Come to DC to tell members of Congress **YOUR** passenger-rail story! This year, our Spring RailNation:DC events will expand to include two full weeks of visits to Capitol Hill, and we need you to stand up and be counted! Visits, along with workshops to help you prepare, will take place over a two-week period from March 24th to April 3rd and will be broken into sessions for nine regions around the country.



**March 24th & 25th** - Northeast and Mid-Atlantic  
**March 26th & 27th** - Southeast, Southern and South Central  
**March 31st & April 1st** - Midwest  
**April 2nd & April 3rd** - Northwest, Southwest and Mountains/Plains

**NOTICE!** We have received a number of emails from registrants who have been confused by the date listed on the confirmation email. The system we use is defaulting to the first day of the regional sessions, which is March 24th. We are working with the CRM team to correct this, but for now - if you have registered for any of the other dates, those are the dates you attend in DC. Please email our Director of Community Engagement & Organizing, Joe Aiello at [jaiello@narprrail.org](mailto:jaiello@narprrail.org) if you have any further questions.

**REGISTER HERE!**

Registration ends at midnight eastern on March 14th, 2025

## Council Business Meeting

Saturday, March 29th, 10:30am-5pm.

**Price: \$75 for in-person**

\* Lunch is included

\* Free for those who will be streaming online

**Location:** [Open Gov Hub](#)

1100 13th St NW, Suite 800, Washington, DC 20005

[Additional Info](#)

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

**Deadline to register is Friday, March 14th at Midnight eastern. Due to building security, we are not allowed to have "walk-ups" for this event - so you MUST register by 3/14.**

## Hotline Links

A curated selection of passenger rail and transportation stories from this week. Check out our social media feeds on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#) to read breaking news and join the conversation!

- [The Rail Travel Experience in 2025: The Passenger's Perspective](#), Icomera

Our President & CEO Jim Mathews pens this article along with Icomera's Gabriel Lopez-Bernal to discuss the "evolving transportation landscape" for passengers in the coming year and beyond.

- [North Texas funding helps Amtrak's Heartland Flyer keep rolling despite shortfall](#), Fort Worth Report

The 45-member North Texas independent policy group, the Regional Transportation Council, has put up \$100,000 from regional toll revenue to support the Heartland Flyer through a budget shortfall, so service can continue uninterrupted.

- [Letter to Montana citizens and businesses that rely on Amtrak, Whitefish Pilot](#)

Longtime advocate and member of the Rail Passengers Council, Barry Green, pens this op-ed in the Whitefish Pilot on the importance of passenger rail in Montana and fights back against the "wasteful spending" talking points.

- [RTD sets higher ridership, reliability goals for CEO Debra Johnson, The Colorado Sun](#)

With troublesome on-time stats, falling revenue, and even worse public trust - the Regional Transportation District in Denver is setting the stage for improvements across the board with a number of goals for the CEO.

- [President Trump names Steven Bradbury as deputy secretary for USDOT, Mass Transit](#)

ICYMI: The Trump Administration has made their choice for 2nd in command at the USDOT

- [Norfolk Southern seeks to dismiss a lawsuit that alleged it delays Amtrak trains, Marketplace](#)

Norfolk Southern is hoping for a more favorable Dept. of Justice under the new Administration in a request to have their on-time performance case thrown out.

- [Austin Light Rail: Austin Transit Partnership holds open house on UT campus, Fox 7 Austin](#)

The 10-mile, 15 station Austin Light Rail project, passed by voters in 2020, held an open house on the University of Texas campus on a number of updated details - and residents have until March 11 to be included in the final environmental report.

- [Amtrak Announces Valentine's Day Companion Flash Sale, Railway-News](#)

Planning a trip with or to see loved ones?

- [Local Advocate Russ Davis Honored for Public Transportation Improvements in Jacksonville, Hoodline](#)

While this is not a passenger rail story, it does show the passion that citizens have to help each other. One line in the story caught our eye - "it's a job that's only as visible as the people who tirelessly put these pieces of civic machinery into motion make it."

- [Want to attend Super Bowl LIX? What to know about traveling to see Eagles in New Orleans, App](#)

A-M-T-R-A-K  
AMTRAK!  
[#FlyAmtrakFly](#)

- [Amtrak Debuts New Art at Lancaster Station, Amtrak Media](#)

Amtrak's "Art at Amtrak" campaign continues, this time with a beautiful quilt project display at the Lancaster Station in Pennsylvania.



[WE ARE NOW ON BLUE SKY!](#)

If you aren't following Rail Passengers on social media, you should be! We are covering all the breaking news America's passengers need to stay informed on local, regional, and national issues.

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## Upcoming Events

- [RailNation: DC 2025](#)  
March 24–April 3
- [21st Annual Southwestern Rail Conference](#)  
April 7–8





Rail Passengers Association members get a special discounted registration rate for the [21st Annual Southwestern Rail Conference](#), April 7-8, in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Presentations are already scheduled from Rail Passengers Association President/CEO Jim Mathews, the Texas Department of Transportation, Transportation for America, a Texas Transit Panel, with more to follow. This conference is a unique blend of both important passenger and freight rail issues of the day.

The normal EARLY BIRD registration fee for the two-day all-rail event is \$349, but we have made a limited number of reduced registrations for Rail Passengers Association members at \$199. This includes meals and access to all presentations.

To obtain the reduced \$199.00 registration which includes meals, you must enter "RPA" in the Registration Code field and press enter. The reduced price will not show once the block of registrations is reached.

The conference hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn, which is attached to the Hurst Conference Center. A special rate of \$124 a night is available until the room block is filled.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE - INCLUDING SPEAKERS & HOTEL INFO](#)

Please contact Joe Aiello ([jaiello@narprail.org](mailto:jaiello@narprail.org)) to have a local, state or regional meeting added to the Rail Passengers calendar (print and on-line) of upcoming events!

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## Staff Updates

Your staff is at the table, in the field, having the conversations that make a difference for passengers across the country. Learn what they're up to each week and how you can support your Association's key missions!

- **Jim Mathews, President & CEO**, spoke at the annual Washington winter meeting of the AASHTO Council on Rail Transportation, where he made a forceful case to the state DOT officials attending that they will play a big role in making sure that the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is more than just a one-and-done shot for passenger rail.
  - **Sean Jeans-Gail, Vice President of Policy**, attended the AASHTO Council on Rail Transportation this week. He also met with key Hill offices to discuss 2025 priorities, and spoke with several reporters about recent developments in the rail industry.
  - **Jonsie Stone, Chief of Staff**, rinse and repeat is what comes to mind for my update. As with previous January updates, I spent the majority of the week entering membership dues and donations sent to the DC Office in December and January. When taking data entry breaks, I tended to the Association's operational and administrative needs and worked on fundraising messages.
  - **Joe Aiello, Director of Community Engagement & Organizing**, spent most of the week working with our supporters on our Action Alert and reaction to the various directives coming from the White House.
  - **Kimberly Notarianni, Membership Consultant**, 2024 Tax Statements for our donors and members are the topic for this week. Constituents who either renewed or donated through their Neon accounts in 2024 should have received an automated tax receipt email in their inbox Friday morning. If you initiated a new membership or are a new donor to our organization from September 4, 2024 thru December 31, 2024 please see how to download your 2024 Tax Statement below\*. Keep in mind that we are currently working in two systems as we transfer over to Charity Engine's software from Neon, and we are asking for your patience. *If you have any questions or are having difficulty with downloading your statement, please do not hesitate to reach out to Kimberly at [Knotarianni@narprail.org](mailto:Knotarianni@narprail.org)*
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## **\*How to DOWNLOAD your 2024 Tax Statement via your Charity Engine Constituent Portal**

As previously communicated on our website, we undertook a CRM upgrade in 2024. As a result membership, donor and event transactions have been housed in two different CRMs. Because of that, tax receipts are being made available to you through both Neon and CharityEngine. If your membership or donation was set to **AUTOPAY** in Neon, you should have received a tax receipt in your inbox as of 1/31/2025. All Neon users can access a downloadable Tax Statement via CharityEngine.

Donations, Event Registrations, New Memberships and Renewals of Lapsed Memberships on or **after September 5, 2024**, are housed in CharityEngine. However, December Neon AUTO-PAY transactions have not yet migrated to CharityEngine. Your Neon Username and Account ID information is already in CharityEngine. Your password was unique to Neon, so you will have to reset that when you first log into CharityEngine.

### **Charity Engine DOWNLOADABLE Tax Statement Instructions**

Your 2024 Tax Statement is available to download in CharityEngine. You can access CharityEngine to review your information by using this link:  
[membership.railpassengers.org/usercenter/](https://membership.railpassengers.org/usercenter/)

Log into your Charity Engine Portal:  
[membership.railpassengers.org/usercenter/](https://membership.railpassengers.org/usercenter/) Be sure to check your information and make any updates as needed. There are two ways to access your 2024 Tax Statements in the CE Platform: At the top of the screen, click on **REPORTS AND STATEMENTS**. This will take you directly to the Statement Dashboard. Click on Summary for 2024 and your downloadable 2024 Tax Statement will then be available for you to view **OR** you can scroll down to the bottom of your Constituent Portal and you will see the link Summary for 2024 that you can click on to have it downloaded.

**Keep in mind, we are still working in both systems and there are bound to be some hiccups.** If you have any questions or need assistance, please email Kimberly Notarianni at [Knotarianni@narprail.org](mailto:Knotarianni@narprail.org) or call direct 202-408-8362 ext: 3202



## **Rail Passengers Webinar Series**

Miss out on our past events? You can watch them on our [YouTube channel](#) or through our website at [railpassengers.org/webinars](https://railpassengers.org/webinars)





## Holiday Merch Drop!

### OUR ICONIC STATEMENT

For years, the "I'd Rather Be On The Train" bumper sticker was a favorite among our members, with many requesting extras, so they could share with their family & friends. Over time, one of the most asked questions whenever we are in the field has been if we are ever going to bring that sticker back (one day!).

We are, **ONCE AGAIN**, dusting off this classic statement for our holiday merch drop - and this year, with a well known historic twist,

*Just as with past holiday designs, this offering is limited, so get your orders in now!*

**\*\*Do you own Association gear? Show us your selfies and let us know what products you want to see next! Contact [Joe Aiello](#) for merch information and questions about our products.\*\***



## Rail Passengers Timetables

Updated 1/9/2025

Thanks to a collaborative effort between Rail Passengers NYS Council Member Nathanael Nerode & [juckins.net](#)'s Chris Juckins, we have been able to completely update our timetables resource page.

[CLICK HERE](#)

LOOKING FOR SMARTER  
WAYS TO DONATE?



MAKING A CONTRIBUTION  
HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

Do more with your donations. If you have questions about employer match, gifting a membership, or other questions about how to make a bigger impact, let us know! Your staff is here to help with:

- Online Donations
- Donor Advised Funds

- Employer Match
- RPA Signature Visa Card
- Gift of Membership
- and More!

With multiple secure, protected methods of payment, you have more flexibility in the way dues are paid. Skip the hassle and [contact us](#) today for help setting up automatic or online payments.

- Setup ACH or E-Check with your bank of choice
- Use a Debit or Credit Card to pay online, or
- Send a check to 1200 G Street NW Suite 520 Washington, DC 20005

### Other Ways to Make an Impact this Holiday Season

Did you know that individual donors make up more than two-thirds (67%) of charitable giving in the U.S., and that many of those donations are made in the last two months of the year? As you make your year-end giving plans, please consider a contribution to Rail Passengers Association using the methods below – making a meaningful difference for passenger rail in the U.S. while maximizing your tax advantages and fulfilling minimum retirement withdrawal requirements.

#### Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Donor-advised funds are the fastest-growing charitable giving vehicle in the United States because they are one of the easiest and most tax-advantageous ways to give to charity. [Click here](#) to learn more and consult with your financial advisor to determine if establishing a Donor Advised Fund is right for you.

#### Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are minimum amounts that IRA and retirement plan account owners generally must withdraw annually starting with the year they reach age 73. [Click here](#) to learn more about RMDs and consult with your financial advisor to determine if an RMD is right for you.

#### Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of assets from an IRA to a qualified charity. QCDs are a popular way for Americans 70 ½ years or older to donate to charity while also satisfying their RMDs. [Click here](#) to learn more about QCDs and consult with your financial advisor to determine if a QCD is right for you.

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## Member & Donor Notices

- **The Rail Passengers Association is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our federal tax identification number is 36-2615221**
- **To help facilitate dissemination of electronic thank you receipts,** please make sure your contact information, **specifically your email address,** is up-to-date in your Neon profile.
- **If you need assistance with your membership,** please call the Office at 202-408-8362.
- **While our staff continues to work remotely, we are unable to provide permanent membership cards.** You can print a temporary membership card by creating an account at [www.railpassengers.org](http://www.railpassengers.org) (select "My Account" on the homepage).
- **Complete all information!** -- Before sealing your envelope, PLEASE double-check the credit card information on the buck slip!
  - Print credit card information clearly.
  - **Include an expiration date, month and year, as well as the CVV number.**
  - Without **COMPLETE** information, your membership renewal or donation can't be processed.
- **If you have your financial institution send a check on your behalf,** without a buckslip, PLEASE instruct them to add:
  - a notation in the memo field if the payment is for membership dues or a donation, AND,
  - your Rail Passengers Association member ID. If we have multiple members with the same name, i.e., John Smith, it can be hard to identify the correct member to attribute the payment, without the member ID.





Rail Passengers Association members have access to a full service, nationwide federal credit union with extensive product and service offerings. Signature FCU is the exclusive provider of the [Rail Passengers Association-branded Visa credit card](#) with our logo, which supports our work by giving back to our organization, and gives you 1 point for every \$1 you spend to redeem for travel and merchandise. The card has no annual fee, no balance transfer fees, no foreign transaction fees, and has a very low interest rate.

## Navigator

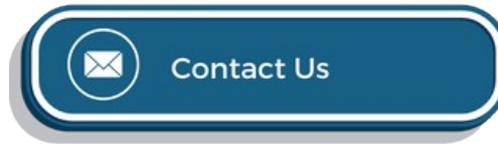


◆ FOUR-STAR ◆

Rail Passengers Association Earns Coveted 4-Star Rating from Charity Navigator

Rail Passengers Association's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. Our Charity Navigator profile can be found by clicking [here](#).

**If you have questions, feedback, or submissions for next week's hotline, send us your thoughts! Help us spread the word about your local, regional, and national passenger rail wins.**



THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS:



# RAIL PASSENGERS

EST. 1967

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