

# **OneRail**

*America's future is riding on it.*

---

## **Integrating Rail into the Nation's Transportation System**

Freight Rail Day 2011  
Madison, WI  
October, 2011

Anne Canby, Director

The OneRail Coalition  
a project of the  
Surface Transportation Policy Partnership

# **OneRail**

*America's future is riding on it.*

---

### ■ Why a Rail coalition?



- Elevate the visibility of rail as a key part of the nation's transportation system
- Bring all rail interests together to speak with one voice
- Integrate rail into national, state, and regional transportation policies, programs, and plans

# **OneRail**

*America's future is riding on it.*

---

## **Need for a New National Transportation Vision**

- **Timing: Convergence of issues**
  - Extraordinary growth projected in freight volumes
  - Strong support for passenger rail (Intercity, high speed, commuter)
  - Need for good U.S. jobs
  - Fossil fuel use/cost and climate emission concerns
- **Opportunity: Renewal of the federal surface transportation legislation**
  - Air and highway congestion
  - Deficit in the Highway Trust Fund; leveraging private resources
  - Questions regarding the federal role
- **Leadership for a balanced national transportation system, including rail**

# **OneRail**

*America's future is riding on it.*

---

## **OneRail Focus**

- **Visibility**
  - Expand visibility of rail as a key component of nation's transportation system
  - Build a central hub for rail information ([www.onerail.org](http://www.onerail.org))
  - Develop short research/message pieces to tell the 'rail' story
- **Policy**
  - Develop consensus on key policy issues
  - Assist OneRail members in advocacy efforts re: policy positions on national legislation – surface, appropriations, energy, jobs
- **Provide a forum**
  - Address issues internal to the coalition
- **Outreach**
  - Reach out to target audiences to build public support for rail

# OneRail

America's future is riding on it.

## Members

|   |  |
|---|--|
| • American Public Transportation Assn               | • Amtrak   |
| • Association of American Railroads                 | • Railway Supply Institute                                   |
| • Am. Short Line & Regional RR Association          | • States for Passenger Rail Coalition                        |
| • National Association of Railroad Passengers       | • National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association |
| • United Transportation Union                       | • Brotherhood of Railway Signalmen                           |
| • Transportation Communications International Union |  |
| • Natural Resources Defense Council                 | • Surface Transportation Policy Partnership                  |

## Associate Supporters (to date)

|                         |                       |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| •Alstom                 | •GE Transportation    |
| •AECOM                  | •HNTB                 |
| •Parsons Transportation | •Parsons Brinckerhoff |
| •SYSTRA                 |                       |

# OneRail

America's future is riding on it.

## Success Stories in Rail Investment

➤ Heartland Corridor

➤ CREATE

➤ Hiawatha

➤ Capitol Corridor



# OneRail

America's future is riding on it.

## Heartland Corridor

### Improvements:

- Increased vertical clearances in 28 tunnels and removed 24 overhead obstructions to allow for double-stacks
- Reduced over 200 route miles

### Results

- Cut transit time from Norfolk to Chicago from 4 to 3 days
- Volume up 164% YTD thru May 2011
- 13% new growth in intermodal traffic since opening in September 2010



Lowering track at Eggleston Tunnel in Virginia



# OneRail

America's future is riding on it.

## Capitol Corridor

### Improvements

- Since 1999, service frequency has quadrupled from 8 daily trains to currently 32 weekday trains
- On-time performance was 93% in 2009 & 2010

### Results

- Ridership has more than tripled from 463,000 riders in 1999 to 1.7 million in FY 2010-11 – an increase of 267%
- Took more than 1.4 million cars off the roads last year
- Revenue-to-cost ratio improved 56%



Amtrak train on Capitol Corridor at Crockett, CA

# OneRail

America's future is riding on it.



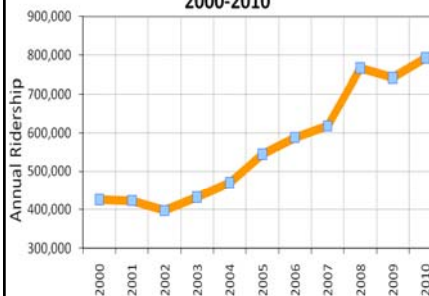
## CREATE

- 70 rail improvement projects will provide an annual economic benefit of \$3.6B nationally
- Will sustain 17,000 jobs through 2020 in Northeastern Illinois
- Freight & passenger railroads employ 18,601 people in Illinois
- 25 grade separations are estimated to save 15 lives and prevent many more injuries during the 25 years once construction is complete

# OneRail

America's future is riding on it.

Amtrak Hiawatha Service Annual Ridership  
2000-2010



## Amtrak Hiawatha Service

### Improvements

- Added one daily round trip in 2003, resulting in 7 daily round trips
- Added 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> car to train sets to increase capacity (2007 & 2009)
- 90% on-time performance in 2010

### Results

- Ridership increased 78% over the last 10 years and continues to grow
- From 417K riders in 1999 to 793K in 2010.

# OneRail

*America's future is riding on it.*

## Federal Funding for Rail

(\$ in billions)

|                                 | FY 2011      | House<br>FY 2012 | Senate<br>FY 2012 | FY 2012<br>?? |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Competitive Discretionary grant | 0.527        | 0.000            | 0.550             | ?             |
| High-speed & intercity rail     | 0.000        | 0.000            | 0.100             | ?             |
| AMTRAK                          | 1.484        | 1.126            | 1.481             | ?             |
| Capital                         | 0.922        | 0.899            | 0.937             | ?             |
| Operating                       | 0.562        | 0.227            | 0.544             | ?             |
| PTC                             | 0.035        | 0.000            | 0.000             | ?             |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>2.046</b> | <b>1.126</b>     | <b>2.131</b>      | <b>?</b>      |

# OneRail

*America's future is riding on it.*

August 2011

### ■ OneRail Statement on Infrastructure Investment Issues

- **Safety** (dedicated Section 130 program and PTC issues)
- Passenger Rail Support (dedicated funding source and passenger/freight integration issues)
- **Balanced Regulation** (freights must be able to fund private investments)
- Competitive, Merit-Based Project Selection and Funding (support **TIGER program**)
- **Infrastructure Banks** and Funds (would be a useful new tool)
- **Short Line** Freight Railroad Rehabilitation **Tax Credit** (must be extended)
- Federal Loan and Loan Guarantee Programs (expand **TIFIA**, improve and expand **RRIF**)
- Faster **Delivery of Projects** (NEPA fixes, NEPA/planning integration, parallel permitting, expanded CEs)



# OneRail

*America's future is riding on it.*

October 2011

## ■ Letter to the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction

- Spur economic growth by continuing to invest in our nation's infrastructure.
- U.S. is falling behind America's global economic competitors such as China, India, and Europe in infrastructure investment, which could have serious repercussions on future economic growth.



*"Investment in rail transportation infrastructure will increase economic growth and create jobs in America. Rail is safe, productive, efficient, environmentally sustainable, and promotes energy independence. This investment will spur both near-term and long-term economic recovery and is crucial to ensuring America's economic prosperity."*

# OneRail

*America's future is riding on it.*



## Surface Authorization Issues that Could Benefit Rail:

- Establish **national objectives & outcomes**
  - Enhance economic growth/competitiveness
  - Reduce energy dependence & climate emissions
- Strengthen integration of freight and passenger rail in **state and regional plans**
- Enable **multi-state planning/partnerships** for national corridors
- Retain a discretionary, **competitive funding program**
- Expand and improve TIFIA & RRIF

# OneRail

*America's future is riding on it.*

- **Additional Elements of a Surface bill that could benefit rail**

- Establish an **infrastructure bank**
- Strengthen **Amtrak capital funding**
- **Expand eligibility** for federal formula funds to include rail, if general revenue sources are used to support formula programs
- **Integrated funding structure** for all surface transportation



# OneRail

*America's future is riding on it.*

- **Value of OneRail**

- OneRail brings passenger and freight rail stakeholders together for the first time.
- The coalition supports freight and passenger rail policies to:
  - boost economic growth,
  - create jobs,
  - enhance mobility,
  - improve energy efficiency,
  - reduce climate related emissions, and
  - improve people's quality of life
- **Organized & managed as a project of the Surface Transportation Policy Partnership (STPP)**

# OneRail

*America's future is riding on it.*

---

## ■ Rail Community Participation

- Support OneRail policies in surface and other federal legislation
- Help educate a range of audiences about rail's advantages and benefits
- Outreach to state constituencies to build support for rail
- Help communicate the OneRail message
- Add your ideas to our internal coalition discussions

## ■ Thoughts & Questions?

- [www.onerail.org](http://www.onerail.org) for more information
- Thank you

