



Federal Passenger Rail Priorities (2026 Update)

Overview

Federal leadership is essential to sustaining North Carolina’s momentum in passenger rail. Strategic investment and strong federal-state partnerships are delivering real results—supporting economic growth, improving mobility, and strengthening supply chains across the Southeast.

Top Federal Priorities

Strengthen the Federal-State Partnership Program

- Maintain and expand funding for the Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program.
- Enable transformative projects like the S-Line and future corridor expansions.
- Support projects that connect rural and urban communities while reducing congestion.

Continue Investment in Safety & Freight-Rail Integration (CRISI)

- Sustain strong funding for the CRISI program.
- Improve safety through grade crossing upgrades and modernized infrastructure.
- Strengthen freight corridors that support local industries and national supply chains.

Expand the Corridor Identification & Development Program

- Build on the success of the Corridor ID program, which is advancing multiple corridors across North Carolina.
- Support service-first planning that accelerates project delivery from concept to construction.

- Prioritize new connections linking communities to jobs, education, and tourism opportunities.

Support Passenger Rail Service Nationwide

- Ensure continued federal support for Amtrak and state-supported routes.
- Strengthen service reliability and expand frequency on existing corridors.
- Maintain connections for small towns and rural communities to major economic centers.

Provide Stable, Long-Term Rail Funding

- Establish predictable, long-term federal funding for rail infrastructure and operations.
- Invest in track, stations, equipment, and technology to improve reliability and safety.
- Provide certainty that enables private-sector investment and job creation.

Why It Matters

- Rail investment is driving economic growth, attracting businesses, and supporting workforce mobility across North Carolina.
- Improved passenger and freight rail strengthens supply chains and reduces pressure on highways.
- Federal partnership multiplies state and private investment, delivering long-term national benefits.

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