Webinar Series: A Tale of Two Rail Systems:
Exploring the Near-Term Crisis in Operations and the Long-Term Potential of Capital Expansion

November 17
2PM Eastern/11AM Pacific

Jim Mathews
President + CEO

Devon Barnhart
Director

Sean Jeans-Gail
VP Policy + Gov't Affairs
Agenda

2:00pm - Introduction
Sean Jeans-Gail, VP of Government Affairs + Policy – Rail Passengers

2:05pm - On the Passage of the Infrastructure Bill
Devon Barnhart, Director - OneRail

2:15pm - Q&A

2:25pm - Amtrak Operations Update
Jim Mathews, President & CEO - Rail Passengers

2:35pm - Q&A

2:40pm - Closing Remarks
Joe Aiello, National Field Coordinator - Rail Passengers
Introduction

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

*Rail Passengers Association*
On the Passage of the Infrastructure Bill

Devon Barnhart | Director
OneRail
OneRail
America’s future is riding on it.
Improve rail safety, particularly at grade crossings

Bolster rail workforce issues and support Buy America

Support funding for rail and multimodal programs

Ensure rail is part of the climate solution

Ensure consistent treatment of rail and transit

Improve rail safety, particularly at grade crossings

Modal Equity

Safety

Jobs

Funding

Climate
Infrastructure

- Broadband, Water/Sewer, Ports, Highways, Electricity, Resilience

- Bipartisan

- Law

Reconciliation

- Schools, Climate, Housing, Immigration, Pre-K, Transit, HSR

- Democrats-only

- Needs to pass the House and Senate

$1T Hard Infra

$2T Social Infra
Infrastructure

Reconciliation

$1T

Hard Infra

Policy and Funding
Bill - Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Plus Up Funding - Targeted at certain priorities
What's in the bill?

$550B in new infrastructure spending, including $274B for transportation

-- AND --

$293B 5-yr Surface Transportation Reauthorization
How does the Infrastructure bill compare?
Projects - Competitive Grants

- $16B over 5 years
- 5-yr reauthorization and plus up funding
- More funding may become available during annual approps

1. Megaprojects

2. TIGER/BUILD/RAISE

3. INFRA
Rail

- $66B over 5 years
- 5-yr reauthorization and plus up funding
- Biggest increase since the creation of Amtrak (equivalent of 18 years worth of funding)
What does it mean for you?
Buttigieg joins Northam to seal $3.7 billion deal to expand passenger rail between D.C., Richmond

Michael Martz  Mar 30, 2021  53
Buttigieg joins Northam to seal $3.7 billion deal to expand passenger rail between D.C., Richmond
83% of Americans believe we should shift more trips to public transit, passenger rail and freight rail to reduce GHG emissions.
82% of Americans support Congress providing more funding to address highway-rail crossing safety.
7 OUT OF 10

Americans view public transit and passenger rail favorably after the pandemic.
1 OUT OF 2

Americans believe we should be investing more in public transit and passenger rail.
86% of Americans consider freight railroads important to the U.S. economy.
Americans favor moving freight over land by rail as opposed to truck.

6 OUT OF 10
Devon Barnhart
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Q&A

Rail Passengers Association
OneRail
Understanding Amtrak’s Near-Term Operational Challenges

Jim Mathews | President & CEO
Rail Passengers Association
Operational Challenges: a tight labor market and vaccination hesitancy

• Following last year's rounds of furloughs and layoffs enacted at the height of the pandemic, Amtrak has been struggling to fill many positions as they look to return service to pre-pandemic levels.

• On September 9th, the White House issued an executive order requiring all federal contractor employees to be vaccinated by Dec. 8 (absent a religious or medical exemption).

• Amtrak is warning that, given the uneven distribution of personnel and vaccination rates, some services may see temporary service reductions.
The ‘Great Resignation’

- A NATIONWIDE phenomenon
- September was the sixth month in a row setting records for people quitting the workforce
- As in August, in September nearly 7% of the Accommodation and Hospitality workforce threw in the towel
The ‘Great Resignation’
Questions *Rail Passengers* is working with Amtrak to understand

- When will Amtrak make an announcement on schedule cuts? Which routes will be affected?

- When will customers be notified, and when will Amtrak stop taking reservations?

- When will a timeline for full service restoration be announced?

- Are there any specific steps you can share with us regarding improvements to labor retention and/or new hiring?
Thank you!

Questions?

Jim Mathews | President + CEO
jmathews@narprail.org
Closing Remarks

Joe Aiello | National Field Coordinator
Rail Passengers Association
Open Office Hours

Join Association staff for Virtual 1:1 time on Tuesday, December 7th. Registration opening soon!
Thank you!

Questions?

Joe Aiello | National Field Coordinator

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