



2008 Annual Report

1. Mission and Membership

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition (S4PRC) is a coalition of 31 state departments of transportation and 3 passenger rail authorities and commissions to advocate for federal funding and support for intercity passenger rail initiatives.

In 2008, the Coalition members were Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, Wisconsin, California Capitol Corridor, Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, and Southern Rapid Rail Transit Commission.

Maryland joined the coalition during the year.

2. Key Activities and Achievements in 2008: Input

Goal: Give all members prompt, timely and accurate information regarding intercity passenger developments and federal funding.

S4PRC held three well-attended membership meetings during the year:

January Membership Meeting in Washington, DC

March Membership Meeting in Washington, DC

August Membership Meeting in Milwaukee, WI

Coalition wide conference calls were held during the year. The calls help both to bring the membership up to date on developments but also to assign roles to individual states in the efforts to achieve our mutually agreed upon goals.

The Executive Committee in conjunction with additional members held bi-weekly conference calls to carefully manage activities.

S4PRC retained David Ewing to represent the group in Washington. David distributed material electronically and by other means to the collective membership and in response to individual requests. Fifty-Six updates were transmitted. David Ewing represented S4PRC at several meetings and conferences including:

- April with Ken DeCrescenzo, Federal Liaison, California DOT
- April with William D. Bronte, Chief, Division of Rail, California DOT
- April with Gene Skoropowski, Capitol Corridor
- June with Susan Johnson, SC DOT

Alabama
Arizona
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin
California
Capitol
Corridor
Northern
New England
Passenger Rail
Authority
Southern Rapid
Rail Transit
Commission



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- June 17-18 Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission Spring Meeting in Washington, DC
- October 17-20 AASHTO Annual Meeting in Hartford, CT
- May and December with Caitlin Rayman, MD DOT

Alabama
 Arizona
 California
 Connecticut
 Delaware
 Florida
 Georgia
 Illinois
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Louisiana
 Maine
 Maryland
 Massachusetts
 Michigan
 Minnesota
 Mississippi
 Missouri
 New Jersey
 New York
 Nevada
 North Carolina
 Ohio
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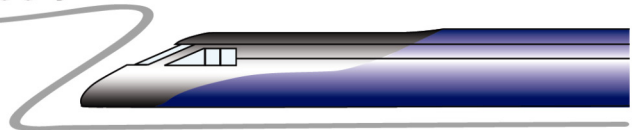
3. Key Activities in 2008: Messages & Venues

Goal: Raise our collective voice in support of a strong federal partnership to create a dedicated source of funding for capitol investment in intercity passenger rail equipment, infrastructure, and facilities.

On behalf of S4PRC David Ewing visited:

- January with Randy Wade visited Allison Dane, Representative DeFazio (Oregon)
- January with Randy Wade visited Janine Benner and David Skillman, Representative Blumenauer (Oregon)
- January with Randy Wade visited majority staff of the House T & I Rail Subcommittee
- January with Randy Wade visited minority staff of the House T & I Rail Subcommittee
- January with Susan Howard visited Jason G. Everett and Hilary West, Congressman Watt (North Carolina)
- March with Ken Uznanski visited David Skillman, Congressman Blumenauer (Oregon)
- March with Ken Uznanski visited Stephen Gardner and other members of the majority staff of the Rail Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science and Technology Committee
- April with Suzanne Gillen, Legislative Assistant to Senator David Vitter (Louisiana)
- April with Stephanie Leger, Deputy Projects Director to Senator Mary Landrieu (Louisiana)
- April with Robert W. Bailey, Projects Coordinator to Senator Mary Landrieu (Louisiana)

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Working with members David Ewing and John Boffa produced three “*Cooler Corridors with Intercity Passenger Rail*” pamphlets: one on building intercity transportation capacity and a second on environmental quality, energy efficiency, and green jobs. A third pamphlet was produced, “*Train Stations as Economic Growth Engines.*” The three pamphlets were distributed to Congress, sister organizations and others.

February 5, 2008 – Press Release “Coalition Seeks Full Funding From Congress - 2009 White House Budget Derails Progress Amtrak Has Made”

February – S4PRC provided comments on S 294 to House Rail Subcommittee staff.

July 8, 2008 – Article in the *Kansas City Star* by Frank Busalacchi, “AS I SEE IT: Passenger train ridership soars along with gas prices.”

July – S4PRC encouraged its members to ask their members of Congress to sign on to the Tauscher-Blumenauer letter to Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi regarding climate change and transportation. The letter had 41 signatories, including theirs. Kate Rube, Smart Growth America gave thanks to everyone’s work to help get members.

August – Submitted recommendations to the conference committee on S 294 and HR 6003.

September - S4PRC ran a full page ad in “The Hill Newspaper” in support of Amtrak Reauthorization and 80/20 capital funding for states.

November 17, 2008 – Press Release “Passenger Rail Coalition Lists \$1.4 Billion In Projects Ready for Stimulus II Funding”

December – At the request of House staff S4PRC put together a list of State Intercity Passenger Projects proposed for “Stimulus II” funding. This list was used by Chairman Oberstar for his intercity rail proposal.

In addition to the outreach activity list above, S4PRC met with Operating Officer of Amtrak Alexander K. Kummant and his replacement Joseph Boardman. Numerous meetings were held with Amtrak staff.

Efforts were made to carefully co-ordinate with AAR and APTA.

Ken Uznanski and Karen Rae continued their on-going efforts to coordinate S4PRC efforts with SCORT. SCORT has taken the leadership in critical conversations with Amtrak regarding pricing of services.

Alabama
Arizona
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
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Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin
California
Capitol
Corridor
Northern
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Commission



4. Congressional Testimonies:

April 22, 2008 – Chairman Frank Busalacchi testified before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee on key aspects of the section 1909 Commission report. Secretary Busalacchi represented both the Commission and the S4PRC. The dramatic need for increased intercity passenger service was the core of his testimony. He was joined by four other commissioners at the witness table.

May 14, 2008 – Chairman Frank Busalacchi testified before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials. Secretary Busalacchi provided testimony on HR 6003, the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 and HR 6004, the Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act for the 21st Century. He testified on the need to reauthorize Amtrak and to provide funding for new passenger rail initiatives.

November 10, 2008 – Testimony on “Investing in Infrastructure: The Road to Recovery” before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by Frank Busalacchi.

5. Congressional Correspondence:

February 15, 2008 – Letter to Representative Blumenauer from Frank Busalacchi regarding consideration of legislation and resolutions linking transportation, energy, climate change, and economic development.

February 20, 2008 – Letter to the Senate from Frank Busalacchi and others urging support for amendments and other efforts that strengthen and balance America’s Climate Security Act (S 2191, Lieberman-Warner).

March 27, 2008 – Letters to Representatives John W. Olver, Joe Knollenberg, Patty Murray, and Kit Bond members of the Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies from Frank Busalacchi regarding transportation funding in the FY 2009 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

April 22, 2008 – Letters to Senators Frank R. Lautenberg and Richard J. Durbin from Frank Busalacchi regarding transportation funding in the FY 2009 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

May 21, 2008 – Letters to Representatives James Oberstar, John Mica, Corrine Brown, and Bill Shuster members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from Frank Busalacchi commenting on the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (HR 6003).

Alabama
 Arizona
 California
 Connecticut
 Delaware
 Florida
 Georgia
 Illinois
 Indiana
 Iowa
 Louisiana
 Maine
 Maryland
 Massachusetts
 Michigan
 Minnesota
 Mississippi
 Missouri
 New Jersey
 New York
 Nevada
 North Carolina
 Ohio
 Oklahoma
 Pennsylvania
 South Carolina
 Tennessee
 Vermont
 Virginia
 Washington
 Wisconsin
 California
 Capitol
 Corridor
 Northern
 New England
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June 5, 2008 – Letters to Representatives James Oberstar, John Mica, Corrine Brown, and Bill Shuster members of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from Frank Busalacchi commending them for their work on the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (HR 6003).

October 3, 2008 – Letter to Representative Oberstar, Chair, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure from Frank Busalacchi commending him and the committee for their success in getting bipartisan support for passage of the rail safety and Amtrak reauthorization bill.

October 3, 2008 – Letter to Senator Frank Lautenberg, Chair, Surface Transportation Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee from Frank Busalacchi commending him and the subcommittee for their success in getting bipartisan support for passage of the rail safety and Amtrak reauthorization bill.

October 3, 2008 – Letter to Representative Corrine Brown, Chair, House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials from Frank Busalacchi commending her and the subcommittee for their success in getting bipartisan support for passage of the rail safety and Amtrak reauthorization bill.

October 6, 2008 – Letters to Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison, Daniel K. Inouye, and Ted Stevens, Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee from Frank Busalacchi commending them for their success in getting bipartisan support for passage of the rail safety and Amtrak reauthorization bill.

October 6, 2008 – Letters to Senators Thomas Carper and Gordon Smith, Surface Transportation Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee from Frank Busalacchi commending them and the subcommittee for their success in getting bipartisan support for passage of the rail safety and Amtrak reauthorization bill.

October 6, 2008 – Letter to Representative Bill Shuster, House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials from Frank Busalacchi commending him and the subcommittee for their success in getting bipartisan support for passage of the rail safety and Amtrak reauthorization bill.

October 29, 2008 – Letters to Representatives James Oberstar and John Mica, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Corrine Brown and Bill Shuster, House Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials from Frank Busalacchi regarding funding for state rail projects in the House economic stimulus bill.

December 19, 2008 – Letters to Representatives David R. Obey and Jerry Lewis from Frank Busalacchi requesting consideration of authorized rail-related programs in need of FY 2009 appropriations.

Alabama
Arizona
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin
California
Capitol
Corridor
Northern
New England
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Rail Transit
Commission



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December 19, 2008 – Letters to Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Thad Cochran from Frank Busalacchi requesting consideration of authorized rail-related programs in need of FY 2009 appropriations.

6. PRIIA-2008

On October 16 President Bush signed legislation to improve the nation's intercity passenger rail system and safety. The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 and the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 will increase funding for Amtrak over the next five years, require new safety controls on trains that help reduce crashes, allow states to regulate solid waste processing facilities along rail lines and allocate funding for improvements to Washington, D.C.'s Metro transit system.

The legislation:

- Authorizes \$13.06 billion over five years for passenger rail— more than \$2.6 billion annually for Amtrak, intercity passenger rail, and high speed rail programs, which is almost double what the U.S. is currently spending; Requires reforms at Amtrak, including a new Board of Directors, improved accounting and financial planning, and new standards for service reliability and on-time performance;
- Requires a collaborative plan for bringing the Northeast Corridor to a state-of-good-repair by 2018;
- Authorizes the Surface Transportation Board to fine freight railroads for delaying Amtrak trains;
- Requires Amtrak stations to comply with disability accessibility standards and authorize funding for such improvements.

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition received wide spread praise for its contributions to strengthening the legislation and educating members to the needs and concerns of states.

Alabama
Arizona
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Louisiana
Maine
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
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