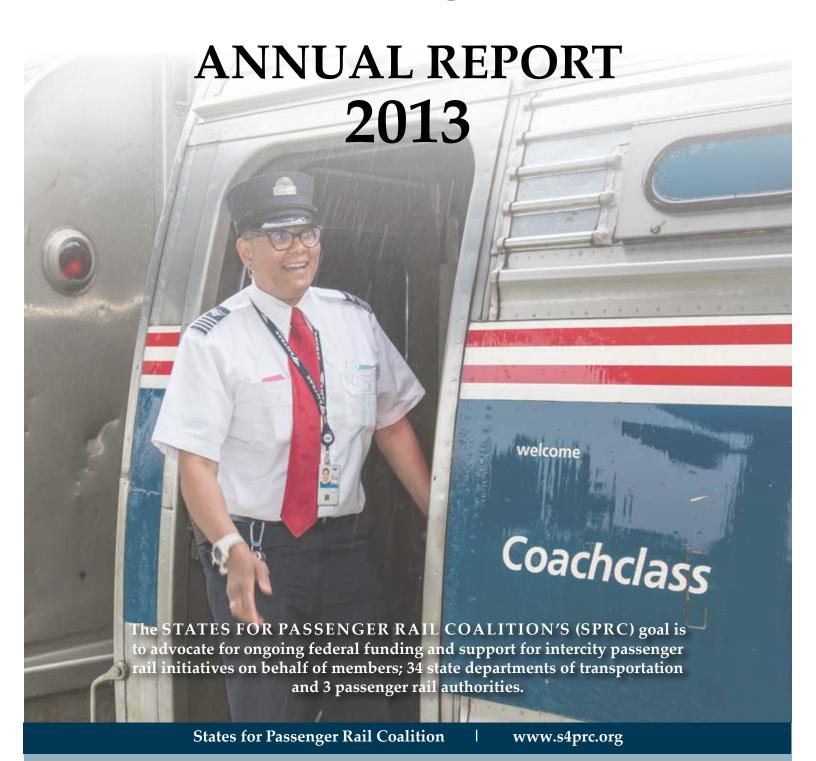


States for Passenger Rail Coalition





#### **SPRC Mission**

- Promote the research, development, implementation, operation, sustainability and expansion of publicly-supported intercity passenger rail services.
- Provide members with prompt, timely and accurate information regarding intercity passenger rail developments and federal funding.
- Raise our collective voice in support of a strong federal partnership to create a dedicated source of funding for capital investment in intercity passenger rail equipment, infrastructure, and facilities.



#### 2013 Coalition Executive Committee

Chair: Patricia Quinn, Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

Vice-Chair: Jennifer Moczygemba, Texas Department of Transportation

Secretary: Johnson Bridgewater, Oklahoma Department of Transportation

Treasurer: Paul Worley, North Carolina Department of Transportation

## 2013 Coalition Members:

Alabama

Arizona

California

Connecticut

Delaware

Florida

Georgia

Illinois

Indiana

Iowa

Kansas

Louisiana

Maine

Maryland

Massachusetts

Michigan

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Nevada

New Hampshire

New York

North Carolina

Oklahoma

Oregon

Pennsylvania

Rhode Island

South Carolina

Tennessee

Texas

Vermont

Virginia

Washington

Wisconsin

Capitol Corridor Joint Powers Authority

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

Southern High Speed Rail Commission



#### **SPRC** Activities

- SPRC held two well-attended membership meetings during the year:
  - Membership Meeting in Washington, DC, February
  - Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, September
- The SPRC Executive Committee held a retreat August 28-29 in Washington, DC, to continue development of a new business model; enhance various communication strategies-especially social media and the SPRC website; and drill into budget and finance strategies. The group unanimously committed to the fundamental concept that SPRC is a peer network that focuses on self-help, mutual support, educational materials centered on best practices and, where appropriate, outreach. As such, the membership should be composed of state and authority representatives whose work is directly related to providing intercity passenger rail services. Equally important, these efforts are to continue to be carried out in an open and transparent manner.



Workstations for business travelers are a popular amenity on North Carolina's passenger trains

- The Executive Committee in conjunction with additional members held biweekly conference calls to share timely information and carefully manage activities. The calls help to bring the membership up-to-date on developments and to assign roles to individual states in the efforts to achieve our mutually agreed upon goals. SPRC retained David Ewing through October to represent the group in Washington, DC. David distributed material electronically and by other means to the collective membership and in response to individual requests. Over fifty updates were transmitted to the members. David Ewing represented SPRC at several meetings and conferences.
- The Intercity Passenger Rail Guide was produced for the 113th Congress.
- Met with Fred Miller of the House T & I Committee's Rail Subcommittee and also met with Senator King's (ME-I) staff in January.
- Washington State Secretary Paula Hammond testified before the Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials Subcommittee about the ways states partner with freight railroads and Amtrak on March 5.



- A one-pager entitled: Intercity Passenger Rail...Moving America Forward was produced by SPRC and the following congressional correspondence was distributed:
  - April 25: Letter to Representatives Shuster, Denham, Rahall, and Brown regarding the implementation of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) Section 209 pricing policy.
  - April 26: Letter to Representatives Latham and Pastor providing input into the FY 2014 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) appropriation process.
  - July 3: Letter to Secretary Foxx, U.S. DOT congratulating him on his appointment.
  - July 26: Letter to the President from SPRC supporting the nomination of Patricia Quinn to serve as a member of the Amtrak Board of Directors.
  - July 31: Letter to Representative Pingree supporting the Amendment to H.R. 2610.



There are vending machines and complimentary coffee and water in the Piedmont Train lounge car.



#### Other Activities

SPRC members were critically involved in at least three major policy provisions of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) (PL 109-432).

**Section 209**: Cost allocation methodology for Amtrak-provided service.

Member States played a lead role in working with Amtrak, the Surface Transportation Board and the Federal Railroad Administration in developing policies and procedures for implementing Section 209 of the Passenger Rail Improvement and Investment Act of 2008.

Patricia Quinn (ME) chaired the working group on operating costs, Ron Pate (WA) chaired the working group on capital, and David Kutrosky (CA) chaired the working group on performing standards.

**Section 212**: Goals and future cost allocation for the Northeast Corridor.

SPRC member states who also are members of the Northeast Corridor Commission led development of the Northeast Corridor Commuter and Intercity Rail Cost Allocation

Policy, and implementation schedule. These include the states of CT, DE, ME, MD, MA, NY, PA, RI and VT.

The policy will provide for cost-sharing of operating, capital and maintenance costs among Amtrak, other corridor owners, states and commuter authorities with an interest in the Northeast Corridor. The Section 212 policy will abut with the Section 209 cost allocation policy, helping to ensure no overlapping costs are allocated.



**Section 305**: Development of specifications and procurement of the next generation of intercity passenger rail equipment.

In 2013 the Section 305 Next Generation Corridor Equipment Pool Committee (NGEC) began transforming from developing specifications to document control management, and the advancement

of its first two multi-state procurements. The shift in emphasis has gone from developing paper products to moving towards putting steel on wheels.

In 2013 the bi-level car procurement progressed towards Final Design approval, and the diesel-electric locomotive procurement advanced through the RFP process.

The Document Management Control process was utilized throughout the year with revisions to many of the specifications working its way through a well-defined NGEC process.

Reflecting on the continued growth of the committee's activities, and looking ahead to its future the NGEC Executive Board adopted the NGEC Vision Statement:

"The NGEC will provide national leadership in standardization, acquisition, financing, and management of passenger rail equipment."





The Duke Curve realignment project allows passenger trains to travel 65mph rather than 45 mph though this area on the NCRR.

Throughout 2013, the Executive Board also underwent a transformation in terms of changes in its composition with a number of key members retiring from state service. Most key among those was original NGEC Executive Board Chair Bill Bronte, Caltrans. Bill was the NGEC's "founding father" in so many ways, and with his strong leadership and guidance, a strong foundation was established and the committee accomplished a great deal in a short time.

In early 2014, at the NGEC Annual Meeting, Eric Curtit, Missouri DOT, was unanimously elected as



the new Executive Board Chair and began serving a two year term.

The membership and Executive Committee of the SPRC determined to contract for ongoing consultant services from an independent contractor for the organization and developed a request for proposals.



### Incorporation

To help define and sustain the SPRC and provide for its future, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition, Inc., was incorporated as a private, non-profit organization on October 22, 2013.

SPRC, Inc. will operate exclusively for educational purposes within the meaning defined by Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and Section 55A of the North Carolina General Statutes.

The corporation will promote the development, implementation and expansion of intercity passenger rail services. To accomplish this purpose, the corporation shall:

- Promote current and long-range plans for intercity passenger rail service throughout the United States;
- Facilitate coordination and cooperation among state officials and between the public and private sectors to promote and develop intercity passenger rail service;
- Advocate and assist in the pursuit of state and federal funding to support development of America's passenger rail system; and
- Support current efforts and projects managed by state transportation departments.





# SPRC wishes the following member representatives well on their retirement and/or new endeavors.

Paula Hammond, Washington State

Ron Adams, Wisconsin

Susan Howard, North Carolina

John Sibold, Washington State

Dan Gentry, Georgia

Bill Bronte, Caltrans

