



Texas Joins States For Passenger Rail Coalition; National Membership Leaps To 32 States

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WASHINGTON, DC — Texas has joined the States for Passenger Rail Coalition (www.s4prc.org), bringing the coalition membership to a record 32 states.

With Texas joining, a significant portion of the southern half of the country is added to the coalition. Established in early 2000, the States for Passenger Rail Coalition is an alliance of state departments of transportation that supports intercity passenger rail initiatives and advocates for federal funding.

Since its inception, the coalition has successfully advocated for greater and more stable federal funding for intercity passenger rail service. The coalition was instrumental in obtaining the \$8 billion in new funding for passenger rail projects in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, and helped advance the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008, which authorized \$13 billion in spending for intercity passenger rail service over five years.

"With a more efficient, reliable and well-planned passenger rail system, communities across the county can realize reduced congestion, improved air quality and enhanced economic opportunity," said Ted Houghton, member of the Texas Transportation Commission. "Texas is pleased to join the States Passenger Rail Coalition in working to raise the profile of passenger rail in our nation's transportation portfolio."

Coalition Chair Frank Busalacchi, who is also Wisconsin Secretary of Transportation, said the addition of Texas demonstrates the growing commitment of states in all parts of the country to expand intercity passenger rail service.

“We are thrilled to have Texas as part of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition,” Chairman Busalacchi said. “The addition of Texas gives us a very important new presence in the South. I am pleased that Texas has such a strong commitment to intercity passenger rail growth, at a time the nation needs it more than ever before.”

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