



2007 Annual Report

1. Mission and Membership

The States for Passenger Rail Coalition (SPRC) is a coalition of 30 state departments of transportation to advocate for federal funding and support for intercity passenger rail initiatives.

In 2007, the Coalition members were Alabama, Arizona, California, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, 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.

Alabama, Massachusetts, Nevada, and the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority joined the coalition during the year.

2. Key Activities and Achievements in 2007: Input

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

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

January Membership Meeting in Washington DC
March Membership Meeting in Washington, DC
June Summit Meeting in Milwaukee, WI
October membership meeting in Biloxi, MS

Three 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

Alabama
Arizona
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin
California
Capital
Corridor
Northern
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Passenger Rail
Authority
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membership and in response to individual requests. Fifty-Five updates were transmitted. David Ewing represented S4PRC at several meetings and conferences including:

- April 2007 NCSL Spring Forum in Washington, DC
- NASTO 2007 Conference in June
- June MWRRI Phase 6 Steering Committee Meeting in Chicago, IL

John Boffa, the Coalition's media consultant, assisted in the drafting of Op-Ed pieces. Six Op-Ed articles have appeared throughout the country in the following newspapers: Portland Press Herald, Atlanta Journal-Constitution (2), Charlotte Observer, State Journal-Register (Springfield, IL) and the Harrisburg Patriot-News.

3. Key Activities in 2007: 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:

- Brent Golleher, Legislative Correspondent for Congressman Jim McCrery (LA)
- Erskine Wells, Legislative Assistant for Congressman Roger Wicker (MS)
- John Sherry, Legislative Aide for Representative Allyson Schwartz (PA)
- Eldon Boes, ASME Congressional Fellow for Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry
- Paul Nissenbaum, Amtrak

Alabama
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Florida
Georgia
Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
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Produced a one-pager on “Intercity Passenger Rail Provides Energy Efficient Transportation.”

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

Efforts were made to carefully co-ordinate with AAR and APTA. Ken Uznanski continued his on-going efforts to coordinate S4PRC efforts with SCORT. SCORT has taken the leadership in critical conversations with Amtrak regarding pricing of services.

Caitlin Hughes Rayman of the North Carolina DOT/Governor Easley’s Washington Office carefully coordinated with the National Governors Association.

Meetings and conversations with key congressional staff occurred on an on-going basis. More specifically:

- Majority and minority staff of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.
- Majority and Minority staff of the Rail Subcommittee of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.
- Congressman Keagan
- Congressman Shuster
- Congressman Becerra
- Congressman Cantor

4. Congressional Testimonies and Correspondence:

February 1, 2007 – State Senator Mark Miller with co-signers sent a letter of support for passenger rail funding to Senators Daniel K. Inouye and Ted Stevens and Congressmen James L. Oberstar and John Mica.

Alabama
Arizona
California
Connecticut
Delaware
Florida
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Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
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February 27, 2007 - Chairman Busalacchi testified before the Senate Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation. Chairman Busalacchi provided testimony on S. 294, The Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2007.

March 5, 2007 – Chairman Busalacchi submitted comments regarding the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (MPRM), Implementation of Program for Capital Grants for Rail Line Relocation and Improvement Projects.

April 15, 2007 – Chairman Busalacchi submitted comments on the FFY 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriation to Senators Robert C. Byrd, Thad Cochran, Patty Murray, and Christopher Bond.

June 26, 2007 -- Testimony by SPRC Chairman Frank J. Busalacchi on the “Benefits of Intercity Passenger Rail” before the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines and Hazardous Materials of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

October 3, 2007 – Chairman Busalacchi offered comments with regard to the conference on the FFY 2008 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

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Illinois
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Iowa
Louisiana
Maine
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Mississippi
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
Nevada
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania
South Carolina
Tennessee
Vermont
Virginia
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