



# AASHTO Council on Rail Transportation States for Passenger Rail

September 22, 2022

“Rail Route Restoration”

**Karen Hedlund**  
*Board Member*

*Surface Transportation Board*



# STB Role in Passenger Rail: On-Time Performance

- PRIAA Section 213
  - STB has authority to investigate when an Amtrak train's customer on-time performance (OTP) attains less than 80% over any two consecutive calendar quarters.
  - Investigation is mandatory upon receipt of a complaint from Amtrak, a State sponsor of intercity passenger rail, a host rail carrier, or another intercity passenger rail operator. Board may also investigate on its own initiative.
  - Amtrak expected to file soon.
- STB Passenger Rail Office
  - STB is continuing to develop its passenger rail program under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which authorized up to 10 employees for that purpose.

# OTP Statistics – State-Supported Trains

- **Eligibility for potential investigation.**
  - 61 State-supported trains failed to meet the 80 percent Customer OTP minimum standard for two consecutive quarters.
- **State-supported routes suffering from poorest OTP:**
  - *Blue Water* (46 percent Customer OTP),
  - *Illini/Saluki* (51 percent), and
  - *Wolverine* (52 percent).
- **Responsibility for delays on all State-supported routes:**
  - 64 % to non-Amtrak host carriers (both freight and commuter railroads)
  - 27 % to Amtrak itself, both as train operator and as host
  - 8% to third parties—i.e., weather and other delays not traceable to Amtrak or its host carriers.

# STB and Access Rights

## 49 USC 24308(e)

*"(1) When a rail carrier does not agree to provide, or allow Amtrak to provide, for the operation of additional trains over a rail line of the carrier, Amtrak may apply to the Board for an order requiring the carrier to provide or allow for the operation of the requested trains. After a hearing on the record, the Board may order the carrier, within 60 days, to provide or allow for the operation of the requested trains on a schedule based on legally permissible operating times. \* \* \*"*

*(2)The Board shall consider—(A) when conducting a hearing, whether an order would impair unreasonably freight transportation of the rail carrier\* \* \**

# Gulf Coast Passenger Service



# Katrina and Efforts to Restore Service

2005 **Hurricane Katrina** – Amtrak service suspended

2009 Efforts begin by mayors, businesses and civic organizations

2012 **Southern Rail Commission** assumes leadership

2015 **Gulf Coast Working Group (GCWG)** created by FAST Act

2017 **GCWG** recommends twice-daily service and infrastructure

# STB Docket No. FD 36496

March 2021 - Amtrak Application filed under 49 USC 24308(e)

Mar 2021 - Feb 2022 - Comments, motions, evidence, replies

February 15 – Hearing on the record begins

May 12 – Hearings (9 days) concluded

July 27 – Parties file supplemental evidence

August 31 – Parties file replies to supplemental evidence