NARP Today...And Tomorrow

Jim Mathews
President & CEO
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Who We Are & What We Do

• The National Association of Railroad Passengers is the oldest member organization advocating for rail passengers. We turn 50 in 2017!
• We work every day for a modern, customer-focused national passenger train network that provides a travel choice Americans want.
• Our 28,000 members nationwide work diligently to counter misperceptions about rail and to educate the public and lawmakers on the economic importance of mobility.
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- We also help to support the administration of the Amtrak Customer Advisory Committee as a partnership with Amtrak.
What We’re Working For

• Improve and expand **conventional intercity** passenger train service.

• Support construction and start up operation of **at least one true high speed rail line segment** within the next five years.

• Promote seamless intermodal connections **using rail to tie modes together**.

• Champion safety, particularly full implementation of Positive Train Control “done right” and grade crossing protection/elimination.
Passenger Rail Reauthorization

- H.R. 5449, the Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2014

- Things We Like:
  - Addressing Gulf Coast service east of NOL
  - Streamlined environmental review and project delivery
  - Public/Private partnerships

- What We Don’t Like:
  - Deeply inadequate funding
Predictable, Dedicated Funding

- PRRIA or Surface Transportation bill (3/2015)
- Put rail on equal plane with highways and air
- Enables complex, multi-year project commitments
  - Gateway in NY, e.g.
- Don’t wait for catastrophic failure
FixIt! OTP Online Campaign
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• Online form + Facebook app
• Stranded passengers’ message goes *directly* to their congressional delegation
• In the first 48 hours, more than 1,300 messages sent (the Builder, the Capitol and the Lake Shore)
• FRA Administrator praised the effort
• STB Chairman Dan Elliott sent demand letter to Norfolk Southern within a week of his team getting our data
To Be Effective, NARP Must:

• Grow and broaden its base to **reflect a wider cross-section of passengers**

• Become dramatically more active **outside the Beltway**, while remaining relevant on Capitol Hill

• Embrace the talents of all our members, **encouraging volunteer efforts** across our entire range of activities

• Restore the association’s **long-term financial soundness**
Quick Wins

- Reinvigorated relationships with DOT, FRA, STB and Amtrak
- Major public commitment to restoring service east of NOL, partnerships with MPOs and T4A
- STB issued demand letter to NS following NARP meeting with Dan Elliott
- Interviewed by CNN on role of trains for Millennials, others

- Online Late Trains “FixIt!” campaign generated 1,300+ messages to Congress within its first two days
  - STB and FRA noticed!
- Friend of the Court brief filed in AAR v DOT case
- New meeting programs being developed for Fall 2015 (Indianapolis)
My Next Steps

• **Revenue Enhancement**
  – 10 non-member revenue projects
  – 20 foundation grant targets
  – Revamped new-member campaign among non-rail groups

• **Financial & Management Enhancement**
  – Stricter financial controls
  – More robust budgeting

• **Staff & HR Enhancement**
  – Develop nationwide volunteer “staff” from among membership
  – Staff training
  – Distance learning

• **Program Enhancement**
  – New conferences and meetings strategy
  – Alignments with non-rail groups
  – Continuous visits with MPOs, localities and NARP members nationwide
  – New social media and public engagement strategy
It started as a boy...

1972 – Syracuse/Chicago/Flagstaff
And never really stopped...

**Trains Traveled:**
- Acela
- Adirondack
- British Rail
- California Zephyr
- Capitol Limited
- Cardinal
- City of New Orleans
- Coast Starlight
- Crescent
- Deutsche Bahn
- Empire Builder
- Lake Shore Limited
- MARC
- Netherlands Intercity Direct
- Silver Meteor
- SNCF
- Southwest Chief
- Sunset Limited
- Surfliner
- TGV
- VIA
- VRE
- VRE
- Wolverine
Let’s Work Together!

• Starting In 2015
  – Monthly “Ask Jim” Town Hall conference calls, open to all members
  – The Listening Tour – hope to visit with members across the country
  – An “Ask The President” email box, where questions can be posted for all members to see and answers will be posted for all members to see as well

• How To Reach Me
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