



RAIL PASSENGERS
ASSOCIATION

President's Report: 2022

Last year your Association solidified its influence in transportation policy at all levels of government, thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. And despite a severe revenue challenge from the U.S. Postal Service in 2022, the Association recovered strongly and posted a third straight year of solid financial results.

Jim Mathews

President & CEO

March 29, 2023



RAIL PASSENGERS
ASSOCIATION

**Our Mission:
Expand and improve passenger
rail service to more places for
more people.**

- Rail Passengers Association's Committee on the Future, 2022

BOTTOM-LINE UP FRONT

In The Room, At The Table:

Shaping the New Rail Map, Shoring Up Our Finances



RAIL PASSENGERS
ASSOCIATION

- *Rail Passengers Association*, having helped to draft the Jobs Act, which became the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, has been leveraging its provisions to exercise greater influence in state and regional passenger rail initiatives.
- We are helping to draw the new long-distance map, advising Congress on what should come next for Amtrak on-board service, working with state and local agencies to help bring more and better trains to where you live.
- We are no longer reacting to policy decisions; we're helping to shape them. ***After many years outside, we are now in the room and at the table.***

Financially Sound and Ready To Grow: 2022 Finished With a Surplus



- Three years of stable financial performance in the Covid and post-Covid era
 - 2022 produced a modest surplus; 2021 produced a significant surplus; 2020 was very roughly break-even
 - Objective is to finish 2023 between break-even and \$74K surplus
- Some expense categories that were drastically cut in recent years are being ***selectively*** restored with the help of both existing and new resources
- Two income-producing research agreements using the economic-modeling tools we co-developed with the University of Southern Mississippi have already been closed in 2023, and more are on the way
- Additional income-generating opportunities that align with our mission are under consideration
- Significant efforts in 2023 around major gifts, corporate support, and broadening paid memberships



Adapting To a Changed Environment:

Shift to States Elevates Grassroots Importance

- Staff will have between 24 and 30 Federal Railroad Administration-led workshops to support in 2023 around the country
- Staff will be working with – and in some cases performing economic research for – states, cities, regional authorities
- Identifying key Council members and their local constituents to spearhead local efforts to engage in Corridor ID and long-distance programs
- After eight years, the Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law means we can win “at home,” now it’s time to win “on the road”

Adapting To a Changed Environment: Asking Council To Do More



- **More** volunteer roles
- Our members and supporters need to be the “experts-of-choice,” to whom local decisionmakers turn
- Physically reconfiguring the DC headquarters
 - No longer just the DC staff’s offices
 - Now it will be your Association’s DC offices
 - Training and gathering space available for members and supporters who need to travel to DC
 - Production space for the DC team to create webinars, podcasts, printed materials, and other outreach tools
 - Coming in September

Committee On The Future: Executing The New Strategic Plan



- The Committee, led by Members, conducted dozens of interviews and consulted with current and former members, donors, supporters, and stakeholders
- Five key priorities identified for the next three years:
 1. Expand and improve passenger rail service to more places for more people
 2. Grow our coalition
 3. Diversify our revenue to secure our financial position and create stability
 4. Invest in staff success
 5. Strengthen our Governance structure

Committee On The Future: Executing The New Strategic Plan



- Dozens of tasks and objectives to be carried out, mostly by the Association professional staff
 - New membership database
 - New website
 - Research materials
 - Grant-writing
 - Identifying and cultivating foundations, corporate entities, and other potential large donors
 - Creating more advocacy materials suitable for local rather than national use
 - More “field” work in coalition-building



After several difficult years, we need to celebrate our wins, capitalize on our growth, and take the fight for more and better trains to the states...are you up for the challenge?



RAIL PASSENGERS
ASSOCIATION

QUESTIONS?

- More questions? Reach out to jmathews@narprail.org or jstone@narprail.org
- www.railpassengers.org

Scan QR Code
to Donate Online:



IF YOU'D LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR
WORK OR HELP US ADVOCATE FOR
MORE TRAINS:

SUBSCRIBE, CONTRIBUTE, AND JOIN
RAIL PASSENGERS ASSOCIATION
TODAY!

@railpassengers / railpassengers.org

