

Transportation Legislative Agenda of the Toledo Region

2017-2018

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Passenger Rail Policy Brief

FEDERAL Priorities

- Appropriate full funding for the rail programs at the amounts authorized by the FAST Act. These include programs for State of Good Repair (\$140 million), Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (\$190 million), and passenger rail Restoration and Enhancements grants (\$20 million).
- Support a viable national passenger rail system through multi-year funding for Amtrak.
- Support expansion of passenger rail service to five daily round trips in the Chicago-Toledo-New York corridor.

- ✓ *The Federal Rail Administration predicts dramatic growth in freight and passenger rail traffic over the next two decades.*
- ✓ *Toledo is home to the busiest Amtrak station in Ohio.*
- ✓ *Every day, the station hosts 4 Amtrak trains, 2 Amtrak busses, 24 Greyhound busses, and frequent Toledo Area Regional Transit Authority (TARTA) service.*

STATE Priorities

- Invest in station upgrades (expansions and intermodal connections) in order to improve service reliability and comply with ADA regulations.
- Invest in track improvements (new passing sidings, crossover tracks, etc.) in order to improve efficiency for both passenger and freight rail users.
- Invest in a second train bridge (to include pedestrian facilities) across the Maumee River near Toledo's Middlegrounds to address the current choke point created by the existing swing bridge.
- Support the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative that includes the Lake Shore Corridor from Chicago to Pennsylvania.
- Advance high-speed initiatives in the Ohio Hub plan, including the Cleveland-Toledo-Detroit corridor.
- Support funding to preserve the right of way of abandoned rail lines for future uses.

LOCAL Priorities

- Support economic development of the Toledo's Amtrak train station area that includes easier on/off access to I-75 as well as improved multi-modal (motor vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian) connections to the downtown area.
- Support rail/highway grade separation solutions to alleviate blocked rail crossings.



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