



## RBC & Associates- LCC

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To: RAILCET  
From: Ray Chambers  
Date: February 3, 2023

Subject: Intelligence Report – APTA Intercity Passenger Rail Subcommittee Meeting

### HIGHLIGHTS

I participated today in the monthly APTA Steering Committee meeting on Intercity Passenger rail.

**NEC Capital Funding.** David Valenstein the FRA Senior Policy Advisor meets with us monthly to discuss major policy developments and seek our input. His focus today was on the roll out of the various FRA federal-state partnership funding programs authorized in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). His emphasis was the new Northeast Corridor Inventory List and funding. The BIL includes \$102 billion in total funding over five years. Within this amount there is \$66 billion in advanced appropriations for intercity passenger rail. A total of \$24 billion is to be invested in a major upgrade of the NEC through the BIL Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail. Of that amount \$9 billion can be committed over the next two years. All BIL funds for the Northeast Corridor must go to projects on the Inventory List. The Inventory List was published on November 15. On December 27 FRA issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for the next two years. This is a completely new structure for the intercity capital program and I will be following it closely.

**National Network – State Supported Intercity Corridors.** All intercity corridors under 750 miles must be subsidized by the states. The BIL permits the states to take the lead in management of these corridors. It appropriates some \$14 billion in grants the states can compete for over five years and authorizes competition for operations. There are currently 30 state supported routes of which 29 are operated now under contract by Amtrak. The Hartford intercity Corridor is operated by Herzog. There are multiple new routes in planning. BIL allows the

states to take the lead on the development of these corridors, The new FRA Corridor Identification and Development Program is accepting applications for projects to be funded. APTA will be holding a day long passenger rail seminar on March 15. The a primary issue for discussion will the CID program and how it should be rolled out over the next five years.

**Pipeline Webinar Series.** The FRA will largely design the intercity passenger rail network through the Corridor ID Program. It will begin with Step #1 acceptance of projects by the FRA (Submissions due March 27) and end with a Pipeline of projects that will receive committed funding. These will compose the FRA designated intercity passenger rail network. In creating a process to make this happen the devil will be in the details. There was consensus by the steering committee that we should work with FRA and create a webinar series that will be the forum to discuss and advise on the details of the Pipeline creation.

**Intercity Passenger Rail Seminar** A day long intercity passenger rail seminar will take place in Washington DC on March 15. The agenda will concentrate on the new programs. I intend to participate. Jolene Molitoris, former FRA Administrator during the Clinton years, will receive a lifetime achievement award. Jolene is a close friend and now Chair of the Global Ukraine Rail Task Force which I co-chair. I would like to propose a congratulatory letter from RAILCET.

## **Agenda –APTA INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL STEERING COMMITTEE**

1. Remarks
2. FRA Update
  - [Federal-State Partnerships Non-NEC NOFO \(FY-22 / FY-23\)](#)
  - [Federal-State Partnerships NEC NOFO](#)
  - Recent grant announcements
  - [Final Guidance on Railroad Capital Projects](#)
  - Other
3. Legislative Update
  - Congressional Committee organization
  - [APTA Advocacy Tools](#)
  - [APTA Smart Guide to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)
4. 2023 HS&IPR Workshop
  - Program Review (attached)
  - [Please Schedule your March 14 Meetings on Capitol Hill](#)
  - Promotion / [Registration](#)
  - [Sponsorship Opportunities](#)
  - March 15 Steering Committee Dinner (RSVP by March 1)
5. [UIC World Congress on High-Speed Rail](#) (March 7-10, Marrakesh, Morocco)

6. [SPEEDLINES](#) Update
7. Pipeline-focused Webinar Series
8. Open Mic / News, Updates, and Information Sharing
9. Upcoming Steering Committee Meetings
  - Friday, February 3, 12:00 pm ET
  - Friday, March 3, 12:00 pm ET
  - Friday, April 7, 12:00 pm ET
  - Friday, May 5, 12:00 pm ET
  - Friday, June 2, 12:00 noon ET
  - Sunday, June 11 (in-person meeting in conjunction with APTA Rail Conference)
  - Friday, July 7, 12:00 noon ET
  - Friday, August 4, 12:00 noon ET
  - Friday, September 8, 12:00 noon ET
  - Sunday, October 8 (in-person meeting in conjunction with APTA TRANSform Conference)
  - Friday, November 3, 12:00 noon ET
  - Friday, December 1, 12:00 noon ET