

**Draft Remarks on the Report of the
National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission
Frank Busalacchi, Commissioner**

- Good morning Madam Chairman, Ranking member Inhofe. My name is Frank Busalacchi. I am secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation and chair of the States for Passenger Rail Coalition.

- As a commissioner, I have had a unique opportunity to share my perspective and goal for a new direction in national transportation policy – one that includes a federal/state funding partnership for intercity passenger rail similar to the partnerships that exist for highways, transit and aviation.

- The Commission heard testimony from state and local officials and others asking for additional public investment in intercity passenger rail.

- The Commission agrees that passenger rail must be part of a multi-modal solution. It can help alleviate highway and airway congestion, high gas prices and the impacts of global warming.

- We don't envision rail replacing other transportation modes. We see rail providing greater mobility to help meet the needs of our growing and aging population.

- To assist the Commission in advising Congress, I engaged a Passenger Rail Working Group to provide analysis.
- This group created a 2050 map and cost estimates for passenger rail improvements. The map's focus is city-to-city connections in corridors of 500 miles or less.
- The map provides one perspective on the future of passenger rail. It is entirely illustrative. Individual states will be responsible for their own rail plans. And with congressional support, they will be empowered to implement them.
- Of the 10 new transportation programs recommended by the Commission, Intercity Passenger Rail is the only modally focused program. The federal government will fund 80% of the program, similar to other modes.
- Fifty years ago, a bold vision and strong commitment to funding the Interstate highway system made it possible. Today, both our highway and aviation systems are congested. It is time to invest in another mode and to provide our citizens a modal choice.
- I commend my colleagues on the Commission for agreeing to this bold new vision for passenger rail. We are united in our view that this nation needs passenger rail if it is to achieve its vision of being the pre-eminent transportation system in the world.

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