

NARP Fall Meeting 2016 – A Connected America: The Future Has Begun

Panel Discussions, Denver

Moving Ahead With Shared Passenger/Freight Corridors

The reality of America's existing railroad networks demands that railroads, operators, regulators and states find workable answers to the thorny problems posed by running passenger and freight trains on the same routes. Some of the toughest questions revolve around how to share capital and operating costs, managing demand for limited rail capacity, and delivering net benefits to operators, railroads, states and the traveling public. Join us for a panel discussion spanning freight, passenger, shared and regulatory perspectives.

Is Transit-Oriented Development The Answer?

There's an old joke that passenger railroads are hugely profitable for everyone but the passenger railroad. Joke or not, the economic development we've seen in communities that embrace rail and transit has been impressive and that boost may be the key to spurring not only the investment we need to start building a world-class national network but to finding the money needed to pay for it. We'll convene a panel of experts to discuss how TOD and novel financing mechanisms can be brought to bear.

Sneak Peek At The Future: U.S. Passenger Rail In 2025 And Beyond

It's an exciting time in passenger rail! A consensus is forming across the political spectrum that transportation and mobility are the keys to our economic future as a nation. We'll ask innovators to join us on a panel with a crystal ball to look ahead at rail a decade from now; whether its manufacturers talking about what next-generation passenger coaches may be like or novel business models, new ways of buying tickets, new kinds of service and beyond, it's all fair game for this lively session. Among the participants will be All Aboard Florida, whose impressive new Brightline service is set to open next year with service between Miami, Fort Lauderdale and West Palm Beach.

Solving the Infrastructure Conundrum: The \$300+ Billion Elephant In The Room

By now it's no secret that the U.S. lags behind others around the world in transportation investment of all kinds, but noticeably so in intercity passenger rail. Somehow most of the world's nations, even those of modest means, have managed to find ways to invest in a rail and transportation infrastructure that supports economic growth. Has the U.S. dug a hole for itself that's too deep to escape? Where do the answers lie? We'll look at creative capital structures, public-private partnerships, value-capture initiatives and more.

Colorado Challenges And Opportunities

From the success of the Ski Train and Denver Union Station redevelopment to challenges around maintaining the Southwest Chief or bringing new service to the Front Range, it's an exciting and challenging time to contemplate the future of rail in Colorado. Our panel will bring that future into focus while mapping out a plan to reach rail advocates' goals.

Fulfilling High-Speed Rail's Promise

It's clear that high-speed rail has a place in any modern transportation network as part of a balanced menu of rail and transit options. And yet HSR continues to provoke controversy in the U.S., hampering progress. Whether it's California's public model or Texas' private-capital model, opponents seem against it regardless of the project or how it's paid for. What will it take to break the logjam and fulfill high-speed rail's promise?