

Amtrak Service Cuts Will Cost Arizona \$16 Million Per Year

Washington, DC—The Rail Passengers Association released new research showing that Amtrak's plan to reduce service on its long-distance routes—a vital transportation link to the 40 percent of the nation's small and rural communities that it serves—will cost Arizonians \$16 million annually, driven by a loss of roughly 65 thousand passengers.

Earlier this month, Rail Passenger testified before congress that Amtrak's impending cuts in service to America's Heartland will be devastating across at least 30 states, [dropping "a \\$2 billion bomb on "Flyover Country."](#)

Rail Passengers has done additional work to model the economic damage that could result in Arizona. Further analysis is needed, but our first pass suggests that Amtrak's 3x service plan would cost Arizona's economy \$16.4 million annually, driven by a loss of roughly 65,451 passengers. That includes \$6.6 million in direct losses (visitor spending, highway maintenance issues, car crashes and so forth) plus another \$9.7 million in indirect losses, which accounts for job losses and economic disruption in those sectors supported by this travel (lodging, travel, shopping, the effect of job losses on the tax base, etc.).

Rail Passengers is asking Americans to [contact their elected officials](#) and demand that Congress provide financial relief for passenger rail and transit in the next round of coronavirus stimulus.

"We've already seen airports and air service receive \$14 billion in this week's one-year extension of transportation law and airline CEOs are asking for another \$28 billion in stimulus, but nothing for rail," said Jim Mathews, Rail Passengers President & CEO. "Congress *must* provide Amtrak relief funds and include protections for passengers, Amtrak-served communities and Amtrak workers."

For more details, see [the full list of states](#) Rail Passengers has analyzed and [Mathews' full testimony](#).

About Rail Passengers Association

The Rail Passengers Association is the oldest and largest national organization serving as a voice for the more than 40 million rail passengers in the U.S. Our mission is to improve and expand conventional intercity and regional passenger train services, support higher speed rail initiatives, increase connectivity among all forms of transportation and ensure safety for our country's trains and passengers. All of this makes communities safer, more accessible and more productive, improving the lives of everyone who lives, works and plays in towns all across America.

#####

ESTIMATED ECONOMIC LOSSES BY STATE

ARIZONA

Direct Losses \$6,660,220

Indirect Effects* \$9,790,524

TOTAL STATE IMPACT

\$16,450,744

Source: Rail Passengers Association modeling estimate

*Indirect effects include community-level effects such as sales taxes, real-estate, local employment and other similar factors

ESTIMATED RIDERSHIP DECLINES (annualized)

ARIZONA

FY2019 Ridership 99,600

RPA-Modeled 3x Ridership 34,149

ANNUALIZED RIDERSHIP LOSS

65,451

Source: Rail Passengers Association modeling estimate