



ALL ABOARD ARIZONA
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To the Members of All Aboard Arizona:

Amtrak President Richard Anderson has stated that his future priorities will concentrate on the Northeast Corridor and state-supported corridors of 750 miles or less. The Amtrak National Network is to be liquidated as a relic of the past. This would have a disastrous effect on towns served by the trains in the American West. Current train riders will be forced to drive the entire distance to their destinations or drive to the nearest airport, which may be 300 miles away. The best that Anderson can offer is "government-subsidized bus service." Here in the West, that means that Amtrak is about to become Ambus.

Alarmed by this development, we held a council of war with our colleagues at RailPAC (California), ColoRail (Colorado) and Rail Passengers Association (RPA) of Washington, DC, forming the Western National Network Trains Coalition. We came up with a battle plan to mobilize a grassroots effort to convince Congress that it's time for an Amtrak business plan that not only preserves the National Network but expands it. Population growth in the West has far outstripped growth in the Northeast Corridor, yet they have a 150-mph rail speedway with frequent service while we cope with a single daily train or one that only runs three days a week. What's wrong with this picture? Along with this, our plan pushes for the purchase of new equipment and the remanufacture of Superliners lest Amtrak discover that equipment shortages form the perfect excuse to eliminate our trains one by one.

The future of the Amtrak National Network is presently on the proposed legislative agenda of the congressional committees, tasked to renew FAST ACT II and the Amtrak operating budget for the next five years, commencing with the new fiscal year, October 1, 2019. While Amtrak has presented a five-year new rolling stock equipment planning budget, with the refurbishment of existing equipment, including Superliners and circa \$1.5 billion for new Amtrak National Network passenger train equipment, there is no guarantee these equipment needs will be funded. Further, without specific directives from Congress to fund and operate these trains, Amtrak management will continue to downgrade and ultimately, permanently end all Amtrak National Network passenger train route services in America. We are determined not to let this happen.

Our full-time paid Executive Director, Tony Trifiletti, has been assigned by Rail Passenger Association of California & Nevada (RailPAC) and All Aboard Arizona (AAAz), to coordinate the efforts of the Western National Network Trains Coalition. In this new role, he will be working with the Rail Passenger Association (RPA) and other state rail advocacy organizations, to communicate with all local political governments, civic organizations, and economic development and tourist agencies, served by western Amtrak National Network Trains. He will ask them to write letters, make phone calls and send electronic messages to their respective Members of Congress and their two U.S. Senators, urging them to save the Amtrak National Network passenger trains.

However, if we are to be successful, this crucial effort needs your support. So, please contact your local government officials, urging them to save our Amtrak National Network passenger trains. But, also just as importantly, we need your financial help and we need it now!"

With our sincere appreciation,



Chuck Mott

P.S. On the communications front, we have the website up and is now actively managed and updated. For now, volunteers are working, and they have really good content and regular updates. We do plan to have a pro help us put a little more pop to it and help to make it even friendlier – but that must wait until we fund our main priority – the battle with Amtrak.

We are also working on an email communication system so we can get all the news out to you while it is still news and you have time to react. Again, volunteers in our core group are working on this. We had a system ready to go but testing showed some serious deliverability flaws and we are now working on an alternate system. More on that as we get that ready. We hope to have this project done in the next 30 days.

Donation Form

Platinum Rail(\$100)____ Diamond Rail(\$75)____ Golden Rail(\$50)____ Silver Rail(\$25)____ Other ____

Three ways to donate:

1. www.allboardarizona.org/donate.html Select Donate On Line by Credit Card (note: this site will also accept transfer from your checking or savings account)
2. Web Bill Pay. Direct payment to AAAZ, Alan Mott Treasurer, PO Box 11978, Prescott AZ 86304
3. Clip this form, include check and form in enclosed envelope.



All Aboard Arizona

The Voice for Rail Passengers in Arizona