

## Passenger Trains: An Energy and Climate Solution

### Amtrak is:

- 46% more energy efficient per passenger-mile than light trucks;
- 36% more than automobiles;
- 11% more than commercial aviation.

**Transit rail** is 33% more energy efficient per passenger-mile than cars and 48% more energy efficient than light trucks.

(Source: Oak Ridge National Laboratory, *Transportation Energy Data Book, Edition 33*[2014])

**Even undercapitalized Amtrak is improving its energy efficiency** with improved operating practices and higher load factors. Proper funding allowing Amtrak to modernize its fleet will further boost its energy advantage. *Trains are the only form of transportation with a demonstrated ability to move large numbers of people long distances using only electricity.*

Sharply cutting fuel consumption from the transportation sector is vital to guarding against future oil price shocks, avoiding costly military operations, and **bolstering our national security.**

### Amtrak helps mitigate both direct and indirect air pollution by:

- Running electric locomotives on the Northeast Corridor and fuel-efficient diesels elsewhere
- Removing tens of millions of passengers a year from highways and airports
- Encouraging denser development around many of its stations
- Adding to the attractiveness and cost-effectiveness of transit systems by serving passengers making connections and by sharing facilities

**2.9 billion gallons of fuel was wasted** in traffic congestion in 2011—enough to fill the New Orleans Superdome four times over.

**Transportation accounts for about 30% of US greenhouse gas emissions.** (Source: Environmental Law & Policy Center)

Railroads reduce the amount of paved surface required for transportation. Serious degradation of aquatic ecosystems occurs when more than 10% of a watershed is paved. (Source: Pew Oceans Commission) **A two-track railroad can carry as many people per hour as 16 lanes of highway**, and 300 miles of railroad uses less land than a single commercial airport. (Source: American Society of Civil Engineers)