

1967



1990



2011



2017



RAIL PASSENGERS
ASSOCIATION

Preparing for the Transportation Reauthorization

Policies, Programs and Timelines

October 2019

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

What Does an Authorizing Act Do?

- A law that establishes or continues one or more Federal agencies or programs, establishes the terms and conditions under which they operate, authorizes the enactment of appropriations, and specifies how appropriated funds are to be used
- Authorization bills create, modify, and/or extend agencies, programs
- Limited in duration

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

Components of the STR

- Highway Trust Fund
- Mass Transit Account
- Grant Programs
- Safety Provisions
- Special Policy Provisions

	FAST Act FY2017 Authorized Levels	FY2017 Appropriated Levels	FAST Act FY2018 Authorized Levels	FY2018 Appropriated Levels	FAST Act FY2019 Authorized Levels	House THUD FY2019 Budget	FAST Act FY2020 Authorized Levels
Program							
Amtrak - National Network	\$1,026.0	\$1,167.0	\$1,085.0	\$1,300.0	\$1,143.0	\$1,292.0	\$1,200.0
Amtrak - NEC	\$474.0	\$328.0	\$515.0	\$650.0	\$557.0	\$650.0	\$600.0
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure & Safety Grants	\$190.0	\$68.0	\$230.0	\$593.0	\$255.0	\$300.0	\$330.0
Federal State Partnership For State Of Good Repair	\$140.0	\$25.0	\$175.0	\$250.0	\$300.0	\$500.0	\$300.0
Restoration & Enhancement Grants	\$20.0	\$5.0	\$20.0	\$20.0	\$20.0	\$0.0	\$20.0
Total ICPR	\$1,850.0	\$1,593.0	\$2,026.0	\$2,813.0	\$2,276.5	\$2,742.0	\$2,452.0
Transit Formula Grants	\$9,773.0	\$9,734.0	\$9,733.0	\$10,567.0	\$9,939.0	\$10,740.0	\$10,150.0
Capital Investment Grants	\$2,302.0	\$2,413.0	\$2,302.0	\$2,645.0	\$2,302.0	\$2,610.0	\$2,302.0
WMATA	\$150.0	\$150.0	\$150.0	\$150.0	\$150.0	\$150.0	
Total Transit	\$12,225.0	\$12,297.0	\$12,185.0	\$13,362.0	\$12,391.0	\$13,500.0	\$12,452.0

Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008

- Funding: Set annual funding levels for Amtrak's capital and operating accounts (no dedicated revenue)
- Safety: Established requirement and deadline for Positive Train Control
- Special Policy Provisions: Created Next Generation Equipment Committee (Sec. 305)

Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA) of 2008

- Special Policy Provisions / Funding: Directed Amtrak to create methodology for allocating costs to States cost of providing intercity service on routes under 750 miles (Sec. 209)
- Special Policy: Directed Amtrak and FRA to develop metrics and minimum standards for measuring the performance and service quality of intercity passenger train service (Sec. 207)

Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015

- Included Intercity Passenger Rail for the first time
- Funding: Restructured Amtrak's annual grant from [Capital/Operating] to [Northeast Corridor/National Network]
- Funding: Created three new grant programs—
Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement,
Federal-State Partnership for Good Repair, Restoration
and Enhancement

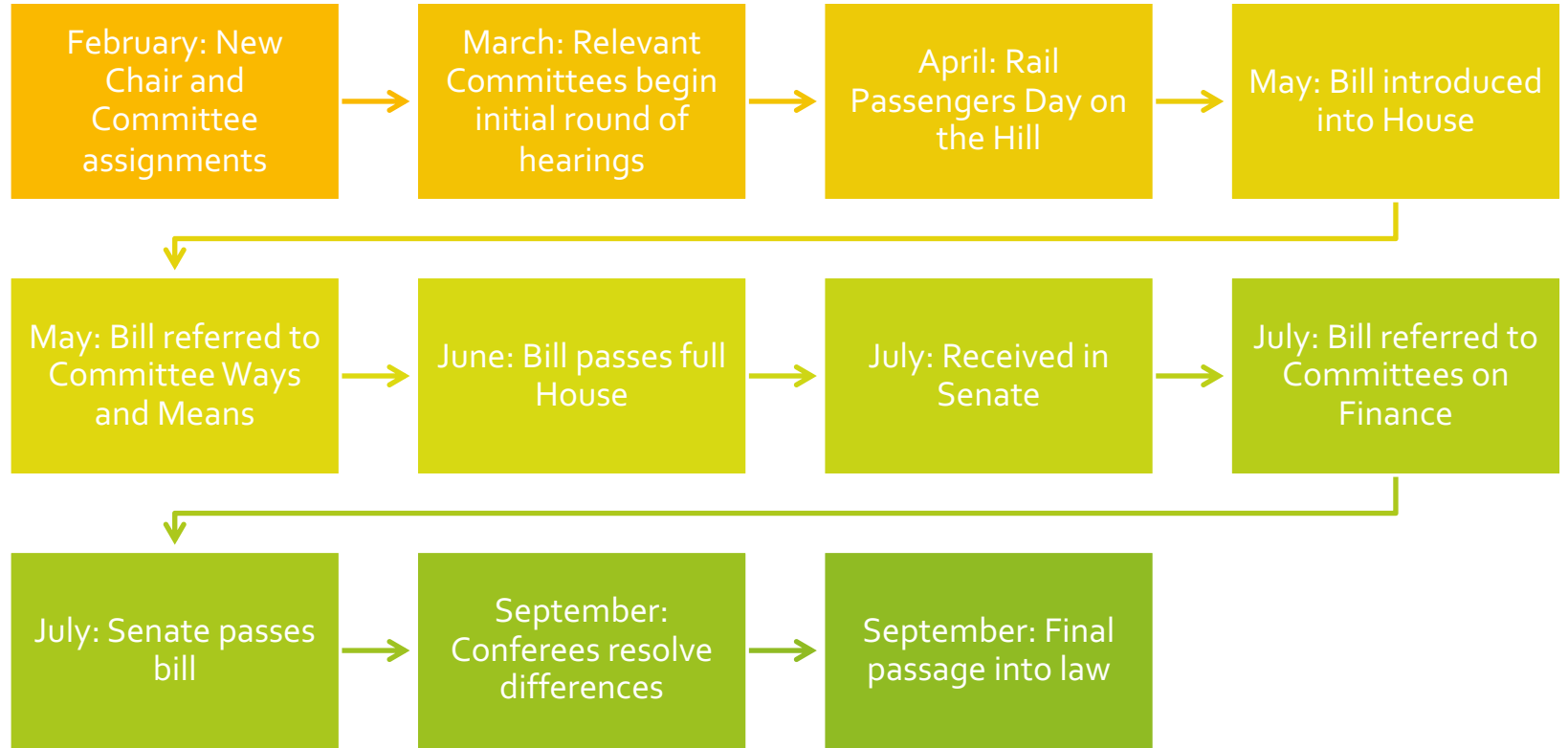
Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act of 2015

- Special Policy: Expands Amtrak board (9 members to 10).
- Special Policy: Amtrak shall develop and begin implementing a plan to eliminate the operating loss associated with providing food and beverage service on board Amtrak trains

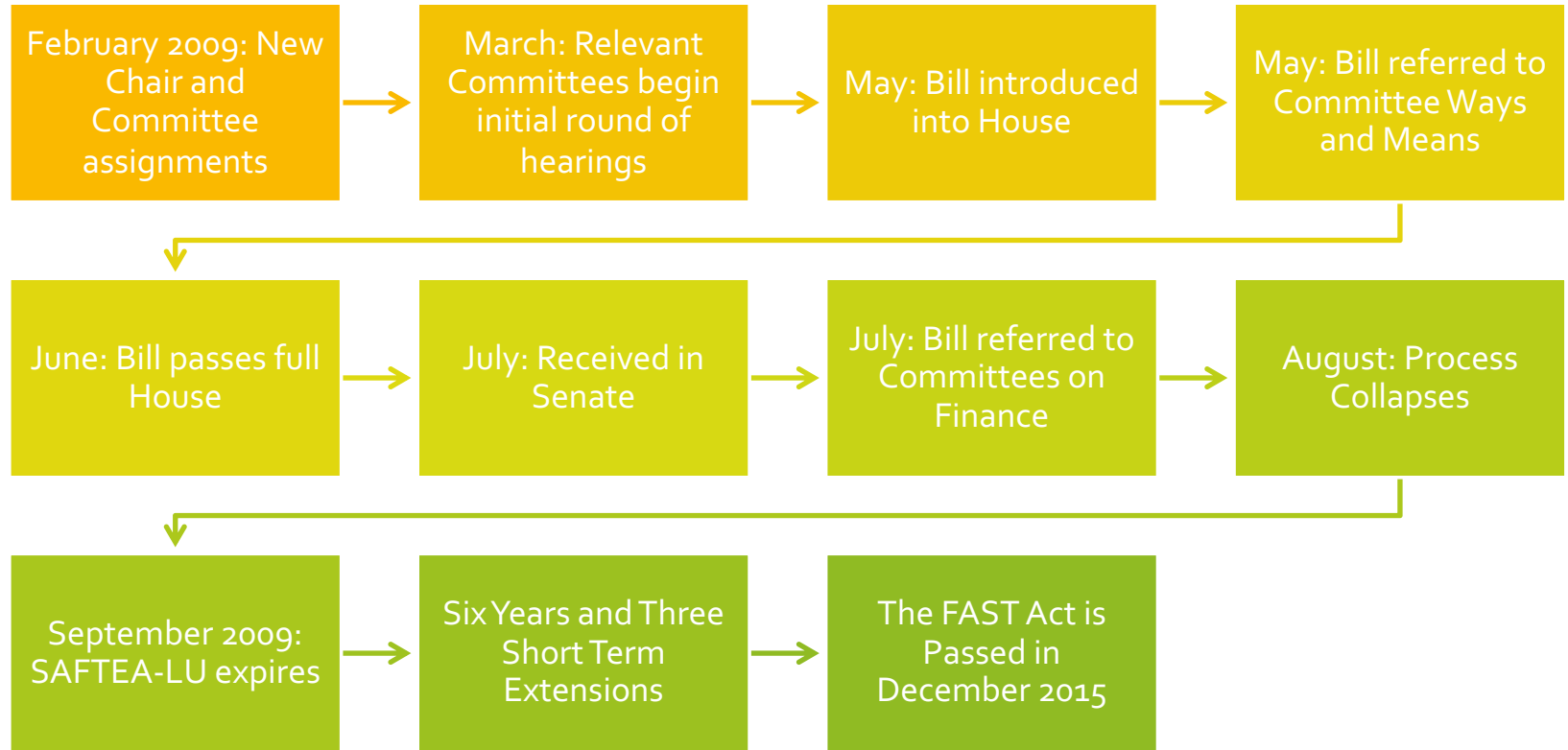
Studies and Committees and Reports and Studies and Committees and Reports

- PRIIA Amtrak Pioneer and Sunset Restoration Studies
- PRIIA Amtrak Route Improvement Studies
- Gulf Coast Working Group
- National Advisory Committee on Travel and Tourism Infrastructure
- USDOT Shared-Use Study
- NEC Commission Through-Ticketing and Procurement Study
- Amtrak OIG Report on Amtrak Boarding Procedures
- Competitive Passenger Rail Service Pilot Program
- USDOT RFP for Performance-Based HSR Proposals

Nominal Reauthorization Timeline for 2019



Actual Timeline of the Last Surface Reauthorization



Red Flags for the Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- The CBO projects the trust fund's cumulative deficits will grow from \$21 billion in fiscal year 2022 to \$108 billion by fiscal year 2026.
- The Budget Control Act lowers domestic discretionary caps by \$71 billion in FY 2020.