ECONOMIC VITALITY

Intercity passenger rail drives the local economy by...

- **PROMOTING BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY**
  - Business productivity can be increased through gains in travel efficiency — allowing people to work and travel at the same time. Additionally, expanding distances that people can travel in a two- to three-hour trip enables expanded labor markets and support of business development in downtown locations as well as other office centers.

- **SUPPORTING STRATEGIC INDUSTRY CLUSTERS**
  - Intercity rail provides the opportunity to support the development of industry clusters by enhanced day-trip links between centers of education, finance, and technology. It also improves access to labor markets, allowing the consolidation of higher-end business, financial, and cultural/tourism services.

- **CREATING NEW JOBS**
  - Construction and operation of rail service promotes job growth, as well as increases wages, business sales, and value-added opportunities. For every $1 billion invested in rail infrastructure, approximately 42,000 jobs are created.

- **DRIVING HIGHER DENSITIES AT RAIL STATIONS**
  - Higher-density, mixed use development at rail stations and moderate density development within station influence areas helps to develop and maintain broad-based, long-term economic growth.

- **PROVIDING TRANSPORTATION COST SAVINGS**
  - Transportation cost savings (particularly those for commuting and other regular trips) allow more flexibility for investment in housing and discretionary spending in the local economy.

- **TRANSPORTATION COST SAVINGS**
  - Alternate transportation options provide daily cost savings in terms of travel time, fuel costs, and business productivity; the USDOT values a savings of one hour in long distance intercity travel at $38 per hour in current dollars.

  - In Florida, intercity rail connections allow concentrations of medical research, pharmaceutical, and healthcare sectors to benefit from stronger travel connections between the major cities.

  - An economic impact analysis of the Midwest Regional Rail System identified that in Milwaukee, enhanced passenger rail service could generate up to 3,075 permanent jobs, $56 million in annual household income, and $227 million in increased property values around the downtown station.

  - Chicago's Union Station redevelopment plans call for the addition of an 18-story tower over the station. Development adjacent to an intercity rail station in Albany, NY will create a mixed-use office, residential, and hotel development. Both will bring in thousands of new jobs to the station area.

  - The average American driver may spend over 450 hours each year — equal to nearly 11 workweeks — behind the wheel.

  - Americans living in transit intensive metropolitan areas save $22 billion per year in transportation related expenses.

- **ECONOMIC VITALITY**
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