Intercity passenger rail can promote a balanced transportation system that provides alternative travel options - between cities - and within cities through interconnectivity of the local transit system at rail stations.

Intercity passenger rail can help serve the needs of national and regional commerce in a cost-effective, resource-efficient manner by offering travelers and freight convenient access to economic centers.

Intercity passenger rail can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and foster better land use planning, resulting in less impact to the natural environment.

Intercity passenger rail can create corridors that become focal points for economic and social activities - enhancing sense of place and creating strong neighborhood centers that are more economically stable, safe and productive.

Intercity passenger rail can enhance energy efficiency of personal travel, as well as reduces dependence on foreign oil.

Passenger rail is one of the safest modes of intercity transport – with a 0.02% (or 7 passengers) fatality rate, compared to 83% automobile (37,187 passengers) fatality rate.

Passenger rail infrastructure investments also provide ancillary benefits to freight rail service - a vital component of the state and nation’s economy.

Almost half of the nation’s Fortune 500 companies, representing over $2 billion in annual revenue, are headquartered in the nation’s large metropolitan areas.

Development patterns considered environmentally sound generally follow a local plan, proceeding at a reasonable rate of growth, incorporating natural resource preservation with consideration of location, and providing opportunities for alternative transport modes other than autos.

A person who commutes 60 miles each way daily could save an estimated 1,888 gallons of gas/year by using a car to using mass transit.

"The most effective way to reduce energy consumption is to scale homes of varying sizes in areas where households could replace some automobile use with transit use, leading to reductions of 39 to 50 percent in household energy use."

— United States EPA

Intercity rail consumes 17 percent less energy per passenger mile than a car and 21 percent less energy per passenger mile than autos.

"Passenger rail supports compact, well-planned land use patterns – focusing growth in existing population centers to meet required travel needs while reducing greenhouse gas emissions."

— Passenger Rail Working Group, National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission

"Studies indicate that less travel time, more predictability, enhanced control, and less effort required to make a trip reduces stress levels and negative health effects associated with driving."

— Center for Transportation Excellence

Obesity and declining physical fitness can be associated with inactive, sedentary, auto-dependent lifestyles in sprawling urban and suburban areas where few travel options are available, and are now used for 80 percent of trips less than one mile in length.

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Intercity rail infrastructure projects create about 42,000 jobs.

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