



Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Impacts Rail!

The U.S. Congress made a significant investment in the railroad industry in 2021. What will it mean going forward, and could it potentially impact rail electrification? One thing is sure: the new law translates into significant funding for rail improvements to enhance our nation's rail network.. It is the most significant rail infrastructure measure since before the deregulatory measures Congress adopted in 1980.

AMTRAK. This is possibly the biggest investment in electric rail in history.

- **Funding:** \$22 billion funding
- **Eligible categories:** the Amtrak Northeast Corridor and the Amtrak National Network. In both categories, the eligible uses include acquiring new passenger rail rolling stock, bringing Amtrak-served stations into compliance with the *Americans with Disabilities (ADA) Act*, and eliminating the backlog of deferred capital work on Amtrak-owned railroad assets both in the Northeast Corridor and elsewhere.



INTERCITY RAIL. The Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program provides funds for capital projects to repair, replace, or rehabilitate qualified railroad assets to reduce the state of good repair backlog and improve intercity passenger rail performance.

- **Funding:** \$36 billion
- **Eligible recipients:** individual states, including the District of Columbia, a group of states, an interstate compact, a public agency or chartered authority established by one or more states, a political subdivision of a state, Amtrak acting on its behalf or under a cooperative agreement with one or more states, federally recognized Indian Tribes, or any combination of the entities above.

LEVERAGING PRIVATE & STATE INVESTMENT. The Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Grant Program will leverage private, state, and local investments to fund projects that improve intercity passenger and freight rail safety, efficiency, and reliability.

- **Funding:** \$5 billion
- **Eligible recipients:** states, including the District of Columbia., a group of states, an Interstate Compact, a public agency or publicly chartered authority established by one or more states (and subdivisions), Amtrak and other intercity passenger rail carriers, Class II/III Railroads, and associations that represent Class II/III Railroads. Rail carriers and equipment manufacturers, in partnership with at least one of the first five entities above, federally recognized Indian Tribes, the Transportation Research Board, University Transportation Centers engaged in rail-related research, and non-profit labor organizations representing rail employees are also eligible.

CROSSING ELIMINATION. The new Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Program provides funds for the mitigation or elimination of hazards at railway-highway crossings.

- **Funding:** \$3 billion
- **Eligible uses** include grade separation or closure, track relocations, and improvement or installation of protective devices, signals, signs, or other measures to improve safety related to a separation, closure, or track relocation project.

BACK TO THE FUTURE. The Restoration and Enhancements Grant Program provides operating assistance to initiate, restore, or enhance intercity passenger rail service.

- **Funding:** \$250 million
- **Eligible uses** include establishing new services, additional frequencies, service extensions, and offering new onboard services.

Priority is given to applications for routes selected under the Corridor Identification and Development Program and operated by Amtrak.

CORRIDOR IDENTIFICATION AND DEVELOPMENT. This program will identify new intercity passenger rail corridors, develop the necessary service planning elements, and create a non-Northeast Corridor Project Pipeline for associated capital projects.

INTERSTATE RAIL COMPACTS. This grant program will provide funding for interstate rail compacts' administrative costs and to conduct railroad systems planning, promotion of intercity passenger rail operations, and the preparation of grant applications.