The State of Alabama is currently serviced by one passenger rail line. The Crescent line serves the cities of Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Anniston, Alabama to New Orleans and to New York City and destinations in between. Restoring passenger rail service between Birmingham, Montgomery and Mobile, Alabama is a priority for the Southern Rail Commission. These cities were formerly served by the Gulf Breeze route that made its final run in 1995.

- In 2009, the Alabama State Legislature passed the Alabama Capital Stimulus for Rail Project Act to require the Alabama Department of Economics & Community Affairs, with assistance from the SRC, to establish a program to market and promote passenger rail options.
- A capital improvement, engineering and service feasibility study has been completed for the Birmingham to Montgomery segment.
- A feasibility study for the Montgomery to Mobile segment is slated to start soon.
- Infrastructure studies to improve existing Crescent passenger rail route from Tuscaloosa to New Orleans has been completed. Tuscaloosa to Birmingham to Anniston and on to Atlanta awaits further funding.
- Support from local elected officials including Mayors of Bay Minette, Mt. Vernon, Mobile, Birmingham, Atmore and Anniston.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES

BIRMINGHAM TO MONTGOMERY TO MOBILE
- Critical evacuation route from gulf coast cities
- Creation of 500 jobs in linking Birmingham to Montgomery
- Capital investment will break even after five years
- Provides alternative modes of travel to casinos, conventions and other tourist destinations
- Relieves high congestion on highways as more than 5 million people annually visit the beaches of southern Alabama
- Serves the workforce of growing industries such as gas, petrochemical, aerospace and shipping
PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: GULF COAST PASSENGER RAIL

Southern Rail Commission applied for a Federal Railroad Administration Grant

This vision has received support from local elected officials, business leaders, state legislators, Members of Congress, FRA and Amtrak.

The Southern Rail Commission was created to foster partnerships in support of passenger rail between the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

SouthernRailCommission.org

OBJECTIVE

Restoring and improving passenger rail across Gulf Coast States disrupted by Hurricane Katrina a decade ago

• The Passenger Rail Reform and Investment Act of 2015 (HR 749), which was unanimously approved by the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee includes a provision (Section 306) to establish a Gulf Cost Rail Service Working Group that would evaluate the restoration of intercity passenger rail service in the Gulf Coast region between New Orleans and Orlando. The provision includes SRC as a member of the Working Group.

• SRC submitted an application, and is awaiting approval for an FRA Planning Grant to assess the feasibility, economic impact and intermodal needs to support restored and improved passenger rail service along the Gulf Coast from New Orleans to Orlando and destinations in between.

• SRC submitted Statement of Interest and is awaiting approval for FRA-led planning study for Gulf Coast Passenger Rail Restoration.

• SRC and FRA jointly hosted the Southeast Regional Convening in New Orleans in September 2014 for the States of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, and Florida to support better rail coordination and planning.

• SRC created an alliance of elected officials, as well as business and civic leaders, that has strengthened regional planning and economic integration throughout these states as future passenger rail service is planned.

• This alliance has spurred cities along the Gulf Coast to address their intermodal and transit connections to better integrate into the rail system.