OBJECTIVES
Connecting the economic centers of Louisiana with other regional assets and resources

PRIORITY PROJECTS/PARTNERS
1 I-20 Corridor Study
2 Baton Rouge to New Orleans
3 Gulf Coast Passenger Rail

PARTNERS
- Capital Region Planning Commission
- New Orleans Regional Planning Commission
- Louisiana Super Region Rail Authority
- Elected officials in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, St. Charles, St. James, Jefferson, St. John, Ascension
- Baton Rouge Area Foundation
- GNO Inc./Baton Rouge Area Chamber
- LA/TX Departments of Transportation
- East Texas Corridor Council
- Northwest Louisiana Council on Governments

STATE OF PASSENGER RAIL
The State of Louisiana is currently served by three passenger rail lines, including: the City of New Orleans that connects New Orleans and Chicago; the Crescent that connects New Orleans to Atlanta and onto New York City; and the Sunset Limited that connects New Orleans to Los Angeles. Further opportunities exist to establish a regional network of passenger rail service in North Louisiana connecting Shreveport to Dallas-Ft. Worth and Meridian, Mississippi.

BATON ROUGE TO NEW ORLEANS
- As more than $20B in near-term industrial development has been announced for the super region, investing in lasting improvements such as passenger rail will secure our ability to compete as a super region.
- Passenger rail will serve as the spine of a multi-modal network that will provide employers access to a much wider, more diverse labor pool, and provide workers with vastly increased access to jobs and affordable housing along with decreased commuting costs.
- In early 2014, an updated feasibility study was completed to operate passenger rail on existing freight lines.
- New Louisiana Super Region Rail Authority was established in 2012 and seven parishes along rail corridor have made appointments to the Authority.
- Authority is exploring strategies to fund replacement of the Bonnet Carre Spillway Bridge owned by Kansas City Southern.
- Plan to initiate NEPA/EIS study in 2015.
- Local station area planning underway at 3 proposed stops.

Economic Opportunity: Providing new transportation option to better connect two largest cities in LA comprising half of the state’s population.

Economic Opportunity: Critical evacuation route in the event of natural disasters.

I-20 CORRIDOR STUDY
- The East Texas Corridor Council (Amtrak, TXDOT, Union Pacific and local governments) completed a feasibility study in 2014 to study passenger rail service between Dallas-Ft. Worth and Shreveport.
- The NW Louisiana Council of Governments is currently studying the 2nd segment for this passenger rail service to link Dallas-Fort Worth, Shreveport and Vicksburg, Mississippi. This study is funded by the State of Louisiana.

Economic Opportunity: With shrinking regional airport service, threat of losing essential air service is a real concern. New rail service creates a life-line to connect residents with the international airport in Dallas-Fort Worth.

Economic Opportunity: The proposed I-20 Rail Corridor service will connect the mega-regions of Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta with the economies and populations of Northern Louisiana and beyond through connections with Amtrak’s Texas Eagle, City of New Orleans and Crescent trains.
The Southern Rail Commission was created to foster partnerships in support of passenger rail between the states of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

SouthernRailCommission.org