The State of Mississippi is currently serviced by two passenger rail lines. The Crescent line serves the cities of Meridian, Hattiesburg, Laurel, and Picayune, Mississippi to New Orleans and to New York City and destinations in between. The City of New Orleans line serves the cities of McComb, Brookhaven, Hazlehurst, Jackson, Yazoo City, and Greenwood Mississippi to New Orleans and to Chicago and destinations in between.

I-20 CORRIDOR STUDY
- Study will assess opportunities to initiate passenger rail service to link economies in Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi and ensure accessibility to residents under threat of potential loss of essential air service.
- 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-Fort 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.
- To complete the full I-20 Rail Corridor Study, Mississippi will evaluate passenger rail service from Vicksburg to Meridian, pending state funding.

ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
- Need for developing transportation alternatives to the growing congestion along Interstate 20 which is estimated to increase 70% by 2020
- Smaller mid-sized cities are rapidly losing air service. This proposed route provides another essential travel mode by providing access to international airports at Dallas-Ft. Worth and Jackson for residents in Vicksburg, Meridian and Hattiesburg
- Proposed service would connect mega-regions of Dallas-Fort Worth and Atlanta with economies and populations of Central Mississippi and beyond through connections with Amtrak’s Texas Eagle, City of New Orleans, and Crescent trains.
- Provides an emergency evacuation route during disasters and enhances accessibility by providing an additional mode of transportation
- Would improve the Canadian Northern–Kansas City Southern freight corridor between Jackson, Hattiesburg and Gulfport to encourage economic and port development
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.

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 Coast 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.

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

SouthernRailCommission.org