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SOUTHERN RAIL COMMISSION STATEMENT ON CRISI FUNDING DEADLINE

MEDIA CONTACT: John Spain, Chairman of Southern Rail Commission
Email: lknotts@cpex.org Tel: 225-389-7192

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The Southern Rail Commission (SRC) regrets that it was unable to apply for the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)’s FY17 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure Safety and Improvements (CRISI) funding due to the lack of state funding commitments from Mississippi and Alabama. The CRISI program was created and funded with the support of Senator Wicker and then-Senator Cochran, and the Gulf Coast rail project was well suited to take advantage of this unique opportunity. Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards was prepared to commit \$9.5million towards the project. The SRC stands ready to apply for the FY18 round of funding should Mississippi and Alabama commit the required matching funds.

LOUISIANA
Gov. John Bel Edwards
Tommy Clark
Governor’s Designee

According to the Trent Lott National Center at the University of Southern Mississippi, restoring passenger rail along the Gulf will deliver an annual return on investment of between \$64 million and \$525 for Mississippi, between \$19 million and \$229 million for Alabama, and between \$86M and \$378M for Louisiana, depending on the increase in tourism. The combined local match between Mississippi and Alabama of approximately \$20 million would be more than offset by this unprecedented return on investment.

Rep. Stephen Carter
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John Spain
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“I know I speak for my fellow Commissioners when I say I’m very disappointed to not take advantage of this funding for which Gulf Coast Passenger Rail is so perfectly suited. We’ll turn our sights to the 2018 fiscal year, and I’m hopeful we will have full support to apply for CRISI funds at that time,” said John Spain, SRC Chairman.

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MISSISSIPPI
Gov. Phil Bryant

About the Southern Rail Commission

Ashley Edwards
Kay Kell
Melinda McGrath
Jack Norris
Alice Perry
Knox Ross
Patrick Sullivan

The SRC engages and informs public and private rail interests to support and influence southeast passenger rail initiatives. They promote the safe, reliable and efficient movement of people and goods to enhance economic development along rail corridors; provide transportation choices; and facilitate emergency evacuation routes.

The Commission was founded in June of 1982 by the 97th Congress which enabled the formation of an interstate rail compact, which was subsequently approved by the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama legislatures. The Southern Rail Commission comprises governor-appointed commissioners from each member state. For more information, visit www.SouthernRailCommission.org