



SUPPORT FOR REVIVING BATON ROUGE TO NEW ORLEANS PASSENGER RAIL

Re-establishing passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans is critical to the continued economic growth of the southeast Louisiana Super Region which includes more than 2.2 million people and nearly 1 million jobs. Connecting the two largest and most populous metros with passenger rail will mitigate growing traffic congestion and aging infrastructure issues while providing a reliable, efficient transportation option for regional and intercity travel.

WHY

The Southern Rail Commission (SRC), Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC), and GNO, Inc. initiated this poll to gauge residents' support for restoring rail between Baton Rouge and New Orleans as a part of the Gulf Coast Passenger Rail Network.

WHO

This poll contains data from a survey of 1,050 registered voters in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson, Orleans, St. James, and St. John Parishes in February and March, 2019.

Those polled showed compelling support for funding and riding the passenger rail connecting Baton Rouge and New Orleans.

75%

POSITIVE
TOWARD
TRAIN

After hearing that the train would offer an alternative to driving back and forth between Baton Rouge and New Orleans, would travel at about 80 mph, and would take about one hour and fifteen minutes to travel between the two cities, 75% of respondents voice a positive reaction to the plan.

63%

WOULD
RIDE

After hearing the above description, 63% of respondents say they are very or somewhat likely to utilize the passenger rail service.



SOUTHERN RAIL COMMISSION

85%

SAY ITS
IMPORTANT

Regardless of whether or not they are likely to ride the train themselves, 85% of respondents say that having passenger rail service between New Orleans and Baton Rouge is very important or important.

79%

STATE SHOULD
MATCH

When told there are federal matching dollars available that would pay for half of the cost of the project, 79% support using state funding to help build the rail line.

83%

STATE
FUNDING

When reminded that state funding supports highways, airports, and ferries, 83% of respondents agree that state funding should support passenger rail service too.

82%

REDUCE
TRAFFIC

82% of respondents agree the train will help eliminate traffic congestion on I-10.

80%

ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

80% of respondents agree that passenger rail service will bring economic development to all of the parishes, including East Baton Rouge and Orleans, along the rail line.

61%

CANDIDATE
POSITION

Before they vote this fall, 61% of respondents want to know if candidates for Governor and state legislature support or oppose the passenger rail line.

