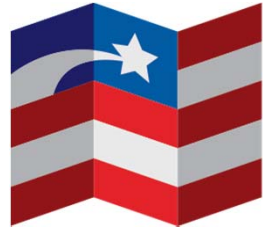


# How Advocates Can Envision The Future – Building Community Support Through NARP's 'A Connected America' Vision

## Hon. John Robert Smith

- Board Chair, Transportation for America





**Transportation**  
for America

# Moving the Amtrak Funding Conversation Forward

John Robert Smith  
November 3, 2017  
NARP RailNation - Chicago

[www.T4america.org](http://www.T4america.org)  
@t4america



## The Hon. John Robert Smith

Chairman, Transportation for America

Senior Policy Advisor, Smart Growth America

Chairman, Transportation for America Advisory Board

- Served 16 years as the Mayor of Meridian, MS
- Served as a Chairman of Amtrak's Board of Directors from 1998 - 2003; chairman the board the last two years.



# Transportation for America

**Transportation for America** is the alliance of elected, business and civic leaders from communities across the country, united to ensure that states and the federal government invest in smart, locally-driven transportation solutions — because these are the investments that hold the key to our future economic prosperity.



*Image source:*  
<http://www.virginiaplaces.org/rail/graphics/amtrakmana>

# Unexpected Champions

- **PRIIA**

- **FAST Act**

# Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act (PRIIA), 2008



Senator Frank Lautenberg



Senator Trent Lott

# Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, 2015



Senator Cory Booker



Senator Roger Wicker



# New Funding Sources for Passenger Rail

- Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI)
  - Funds capital improvements for initiation or restoration of passenger rail
  - Safety improvements
- Restoration and Enhancement Grants (REG)
  - Operating expenses for first three years of new or restored passenger rail service
- Both are critically important to states planning to initiate, restore, or improve passenger rail service



# U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

## Majority Members:

- Sen. John Thune (South Dakota), *Chairman*
- Sen. Roger Wicker (Mississippi)\*
- Sen. Roy Blunt (Missouri)\*
- Sen. Ted Cruz (Texas)
- Sen. Deb Fischer (Nebraska)\*
- Sen. Jerry Moran (Kansas)
- Sen. Dan Sullivan (Alaska)
- Sen. Dean Heller (Nevada)\*
- Sen. Jim Inhofe (Oklahoma)\*
- Sen. Mike Lee (Utah)
- Sen. Ron Johnson (Wisconsin)\*
- Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (West Virginia)\*
- Sen. Cory Gardner (Colorado)\*
- Sen. Todd Young (Indiana)\*

## Minority Members:

- Sen. Bill Nelson (Florida), *Ranking Member*
- Sen. Maria Cantwell (Washington)\*
- Sen. Amy Klobuchar (Minnesota)\*
- Sen. Richard Blumenthal (Connecticut)\*
- Sen. Brian Schatz (Hawaii)
- Sen. Ed Markey (Massachusetts)
- Sen. Cory Booker (New Jersey)\*
- Sen. Tom Udall (New Mexico)\*
- Sen. Gary Peters (Michigan)
- Sen. Tammy Baldwin (Wisconsin)\*
- Sen. Tammy Duckworth (Illinois)\*
- Sen. Maggie Hassan (New Hampshire)\*
- Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (Nevada)

\* Members of the Subcommittee on Surface Transportation and Merchant Marine Infrastructure, Safety and Security (Sen. Deb Fischer, Chair and Sen. Cory Booker, Ranking Member).

# U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee – Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials

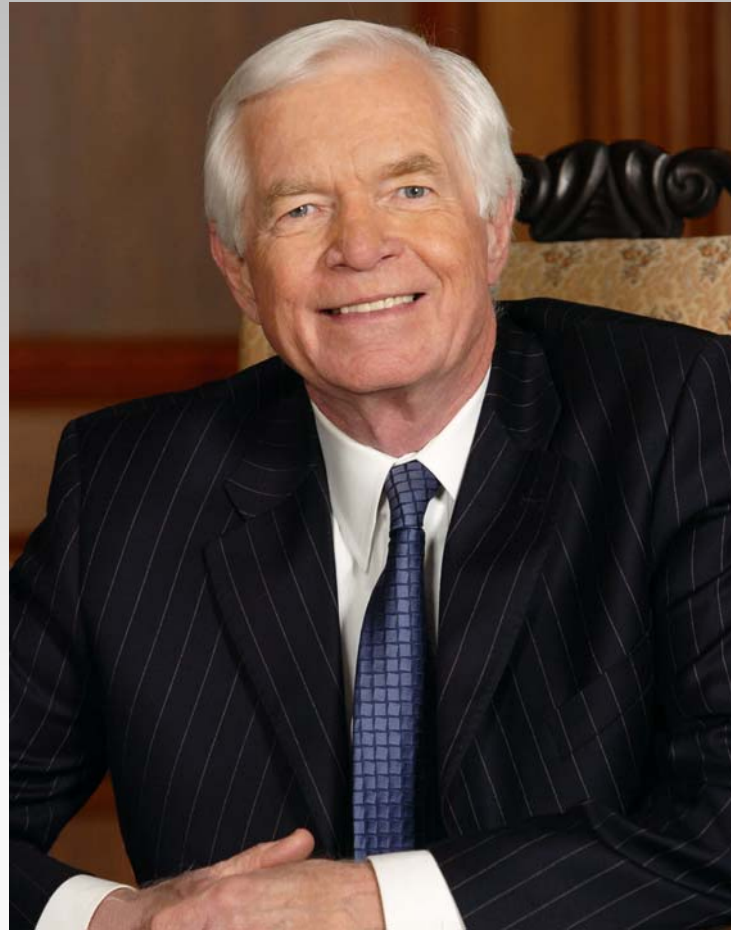
## Majority Members:

- Jeff Denham (California), *Chairman*
- John J. Faso (New York), *Vice Chair*
- John J. Duncan, Jr. (Tennessee)
- Sam Graves (Missouri)
- Lou Barletta (Pennsylvania)
- Blake Farenthold (Texas)
- Daniel Webster (Florida)
- Mark Meadows (North Carolina)
- Scott Perry (Pennsylvania)
- Mark Sanford (South Carolina)
- Todd Rokita (Indiana)
- John Katko (New York)
- Brian Babin (Texas)
- Randy K. Weber, Sr. (Texas)
- Bruce Westerman (Arkansas)
- Lloyd Smucker (Pennsylvania)
- Paul Mitchell (Michigan)
- Jason Lewis (Minnesota)
- Bill Shuster (Pennsylvania), *Ex Officio and Chair, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee*

## Minority Members:

- Michael Capuano (Massachusetts), *Ranking Member*
- Donald M. Payne, Jr. (New Jersey)
- Jerrold Nadler (New York)
- Elijah E. Cummings (Maryland)
- Steve Cohen (Tennessee)
- Albio Sires (New Jersey)
- John Garamendi (California)
- André Carson (Indiana)
- Richard M. Nolan (Minnesota)
- Elizabeth H. Esty (Connecticut)
- Cheri Bustos (Illinois)
- Frederica S. Wilson (Florida)
- Mark DeSaulnier (California)
- Daniel Lipinski (Illinois)
- Peter A. DeFazio (Oregon), *Ex Officio and Ranking Member, Transportation & Infrastructure Committee*

# Appropriations



Senator Thad Cochran

# FY17 Appropriations

- CRISI: \$68 million
  - \$10 million for passenger rail restoration
- REG: \$5 million
- Amtrak: \$1.5 billion

# FY 18 Appropriations

- House FY18 appropriations:
  - \$95 million cut to Amtrak
  - CRISI funded at \$25 million
  - No funding for REG
- Senate FY18 appropriations:
  - \$105 million increase to Amtrak (\$1.6 billion)
  - CRISI funded at \$92 million
    - \$35.5 million for passenger rail restoration
  - REG funded at \$5 million

# Trump Administration's FY2018 Budget

- Proposes slashing Amtrak's budget by nearly 50% to \$850 million
- Cuts come from eliminating federal funding for long distance routes.
- Reduces federal investment in transportation



Image source: Flickr user Emmett Tullos

# U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations

## Majority Members:

- Sen. Thad Cochran (Mississippi), *Chairman*
- Sen. Mitch McConnell (Kentucky)
- Sen. Richard Shelby (Alabama)\*
- Sen. Lamar Alexander (Tennessee)\*
- Sen. Susan Collins (Maine)
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski (Alaska)
- Sen. Lindsey Graham (South Carolina)\*
- Sen. Roy Blunt (Missouri)\*
- Sen. Jerry Moran (Kansas)
- Sen. John Hoeven (North Dakota)\*
- Sen. John Boozman (Arkansas)\*
- Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (West Virginia)\*
- Sen. James Lankford (Oklahoma)
- Sen. Steve Daines (Montana)\*
- Sen. John Kennedy (Louisiana)
- Sen. Marco Rubio (Florida)

## Minority Members:

- Sen. Patrick Leahy (Vermont), *Vice Chairman*
- Sen. Patty Murray (Washington)\*
- Sen. Dianne Feinstein (California)\*
- Sen. Richard Durbin (Illinois)\*
- Sen. Jack Reed (Rhode Island)
- Sen. Jon Tester (Montana)
- Sen. Tom Udall (New Mexico)
- Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (New Hampshire)
- Sen. Jeff Merkley (Oregon)
- Sen. Christopher Coons (Delaware)\*
- Sen. Brian Schatz (Hawaii)\*
- Sen. Tammy Baldwin (Wisconsin)
- Sen. Chris Murphy (Connecticut)\*
- Sen. Joe Manchin (West Virginia)\*
- Sen. Chris Van Hollen (Maryland)

\* Members of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (THUD) Subcommittee (Sen. Susan Collins, Chair and Sen. Jack Reed, Ranking Member).



# U.S. House Committee on Appropriations – Transportation Subcommittee

## Majority Members:

- Mario Diaz-Balart (Florida),  
*Chairman*
- David Joyce (Ohio), *Vice Chair*
- Charlie Dent (Pennsylvania)
- John Culberson (Texas)
- David Young (Iowa)
- David Valadao (California)
- Tom Graves (Georgia)

## Minority Members:

- David Price (North Carolina),  
*Ranking Member*
- Mike Quigley (Illinois)
- Katherine Clark (Massachusetts)
- Pete Aguilar (California)

# Amtrak Service is Critical

- Critical connections for rural and urban areas
  - Generates economic activity and development while reducing congestion.
- Lifeline for rural communities
  - Particularly important as Essential Air Service is being reduced.

**Westbound  
California  
Zephyr in  
Grand  
Junction, CO**



# Meridian, MS







# Union Station at Completion

- Annually, Union Station hosts 250 events and 300,000 people



# Union Station Development Results

- Private development of \$165 million in surrounding area
- New life for historic structures



# Restored City Hall



(photo credits: The Meridian Star)







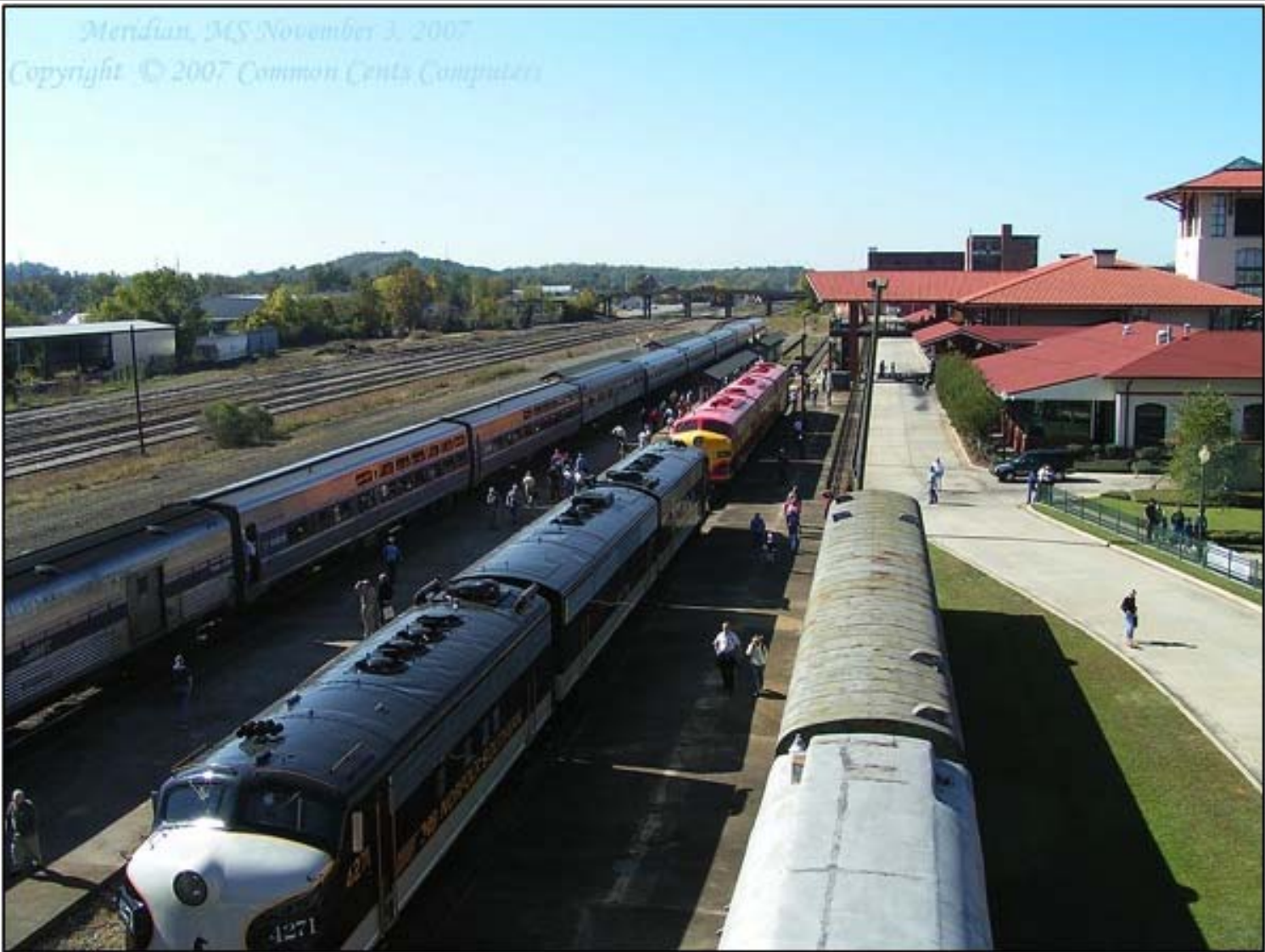


# Mississippi Arts and Entertainment Center





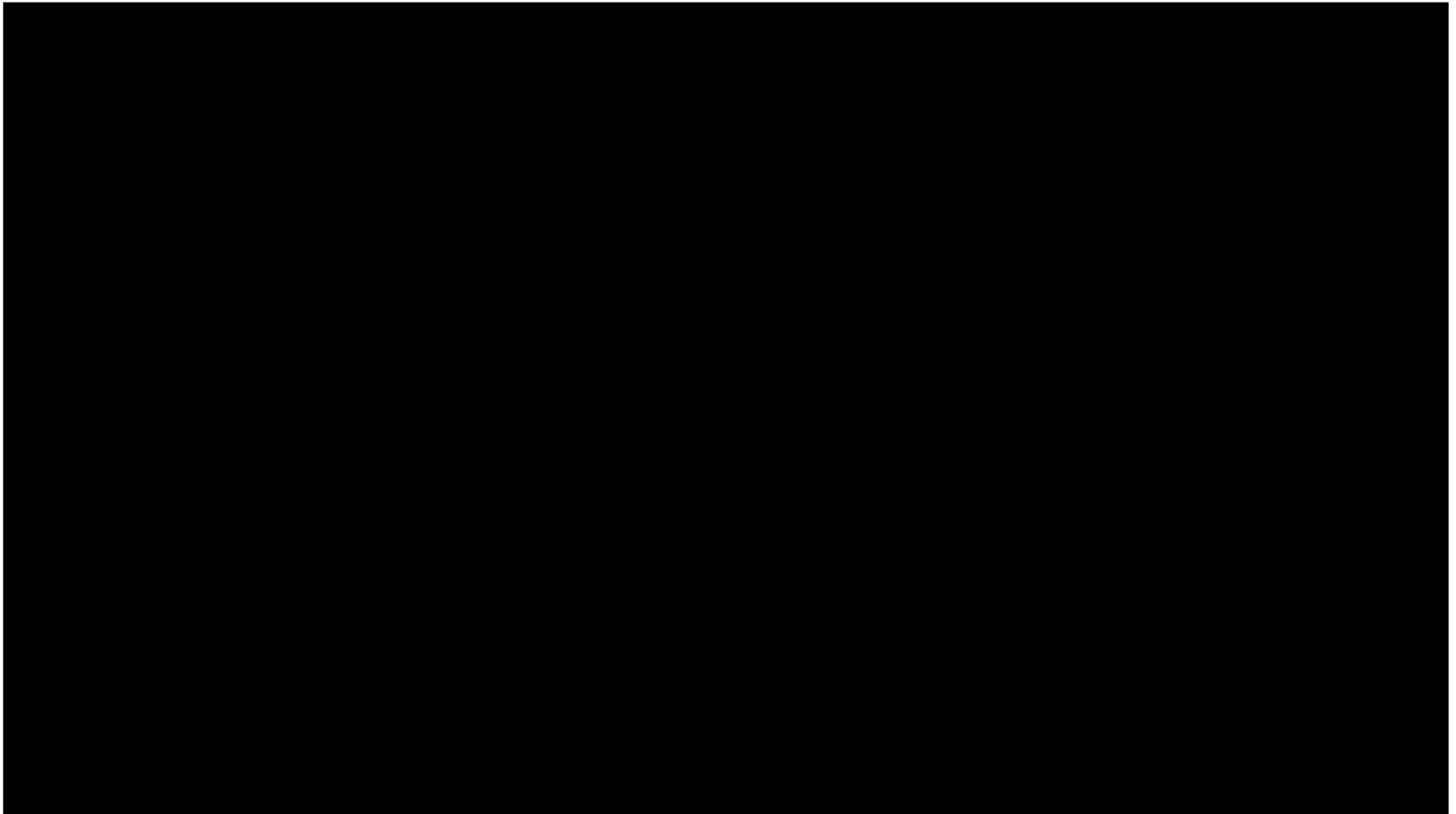




# Gulf Coast Designated Rail Corridor



# Gulf Coast Rail Inspection Trip - February 2016





# It Is Critical to Engage Future Generations



# Thank You



@t4america



@transportationforamerica



T4America



[www.t4america.org](http://www.t4america.org)

For questions and resources, contact:  
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[scott.goldstein@t4america.org](mailto:scott.goldstein@t4america.org)

