



1           **2021, More Trains. More Cities. Better Service: Amtrak's Vision for Improving**  
2           **Transportation Across America.**

3           **(3) A recent survey which drew in over four thousand six hundred**  
4           **completed responses, primarily from parishes which would be directly served**  
5           **by the proposed rail service, found strong support region-wide for passenger**  
6           **rail as well considerable interest in multimodal travel locally.**

7           **(4) The Department of Transportation and Development Rail Plan**  
8           **provides that the department, based on input received from stakeholders and**  
9           **the public during the preparation of the plan, shall work toward the following**  
10          **initiatives:**

11          **(a) Work with neighboring states on rail initiatives which benefit the**  
12          **region.**

13          **(b) Participate in the Southern Rail Commission on both passenger and**  
14          **freight initiatives.**

15          **(c) Support the improvement of existing Amtrak services and Amtrak**  
16          **stations.**

17          **(d) Support the development of new intercity rail initiatives that enhance**  
18          **mobility options for Louisianians.**

19          **(5) Now is the ideal time to explore the opportunity to electrify passenger**  
20          **rail, clarify who the owners and operators of the track and rail line will be, and**  
21          **determine whether or not the track should be passenger only or shared with**  
22          **freight, and what the safest, most efficient manner would be to best utilize the**  
23          **railway.**

24          **B. The Department of Transportation and Development shall initiate a**  
25          **project development program aimed at securing all necessary approvals and**  
26          **permits to begin passenger rail service between Baton Rouge and New Orleans,**  
27          **and shall apply for grants and other funds typical for passenger rail, as**  
28          **appropriate, and to facilitate development of the necessary platforms or stations**  
29          **to support passenger service.**



Effective August 1, 2022.

(Adds R.S. 48:385)