Modern passenger rail can carry large numbers of people longer and faster, at more efficient levels than ever before. Through the use of fuel efficient diesel engines, as well as electrically-run trains in the Northeast Corridor, passenger rail helps mitigate air pollution as compared to automobiles or aircraft. With proper funding, rail networks with energy efficient technologies can be developed to help cut fuel consumption from the transportation sector, guard against future oil price shocks, avoid costly military operations and bolster national security.

**Transit Rail**

- **23.5% MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT** per passenger-mile than cars
- **31.4% MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT** than light trucks

**Railroads reduce amount of paved surface** required for transportation. Serious degradation of aquatic ecosystems occurs when more than 10% of a watershed is paved.

- **It takes 16 lanes of highway to carry as many people per hour as just 1 two-track railroad.**

- **Transportation accounts for about 30% of US greenhouse gas emissions.**

- **300 miles of railroad uses less land than a single commercial airport.**

- **3 billion gallons of fuel were wasted in traffic congestion last year**—enough to fill the New Orleans Superdome four times over.

- **Each year individuals can avoid driving 4,400 miles by taking public transportation.**
AMTRAK DIESSEL AND ELECTRIC TRAINS—

- **39.5% MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT** per passenger-mile than light trucks
- **32.6% MORE EFFICIENT** than automobiles
- **12% MORE EFFICIENT** than commercial aviation

AMTRAK HELPS MITIGATE DIRECT AND INDIRECT AIR POLLUTION BY:

- Running electric locomotives on the Northeast Corridor and fuel-efficient diesels elsewhere
- Removing tens of millions of passengers a year from highways and airports
- Encouraging denser development around many of its stations
- Adding to the appeal and cost-effectiveness of rail travel by serving passengers, making connections and sharing facilities

INNOVATIVE EQUIPMENT HELPS AMTRAK FIND SOLUTIONS FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY—

Amtrak’s new Cities Sprinter locomotives feature regenerative braking – a dynamic brake system that has the ability to feed up to 100% of energy generated during braking back to the power grid.

In 2014 Amtrak introduced new GenSet switchers in Washington, D.C. These include a special engine to reduce diesel fuel consumption by about 50%, while producing lower levels of pollutant emissions.