Michigan Passenger Rail:
Investing in Jobs, Mobility, and Economic Growth

House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Local Transportation

Eric Stanger - Michigan Safety & Legislative Board Director
Nate Hatton - Amtrak Local Chairman

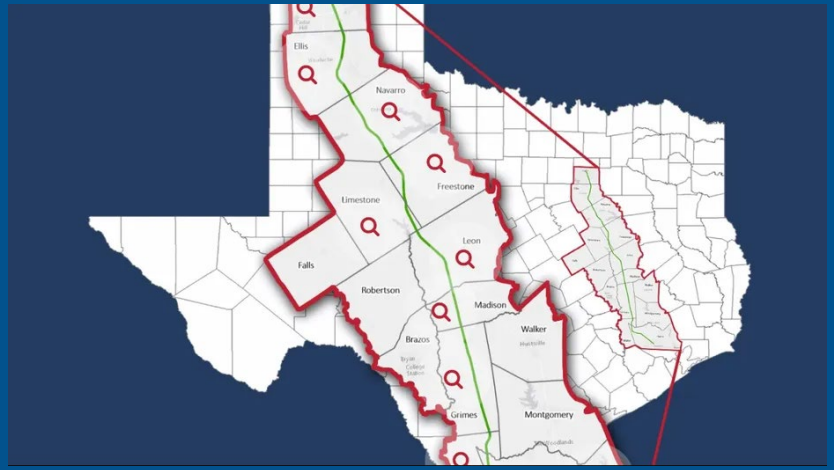
Why Passenger Rail Investment Matters Now

34.5 Million Trips made on Amtrak in 2025, Generating $2.7 Billion in Revenue

8 Million Michiganders within 30 minute commute of a current Amtrak Station

Peer State Investments in Passenger Rail

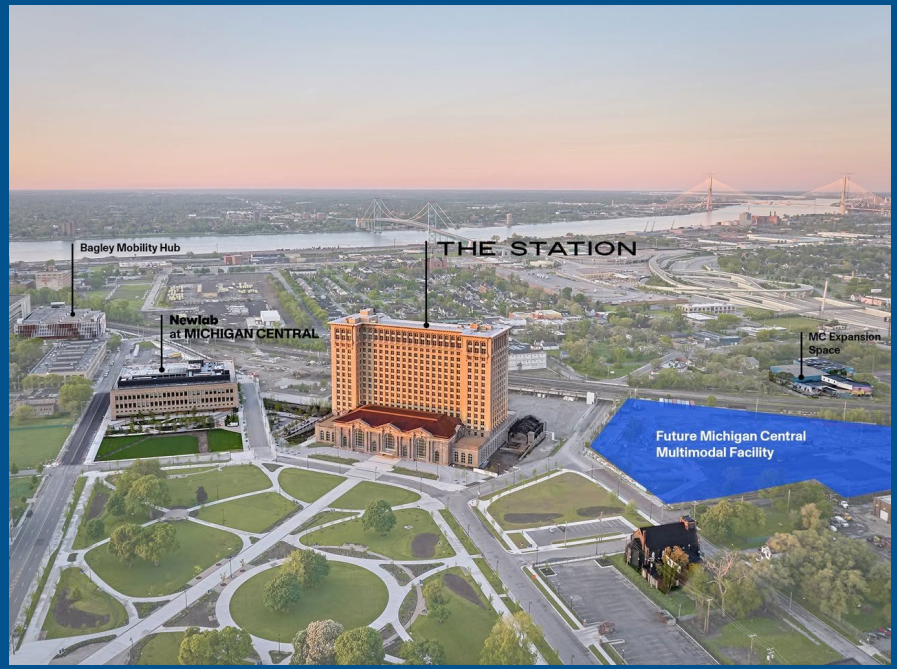
Other states understand that passenger rail is not a cost center, but a revenue-generating economic engine.



Texas HSR Project, Dallas/Fort Worth

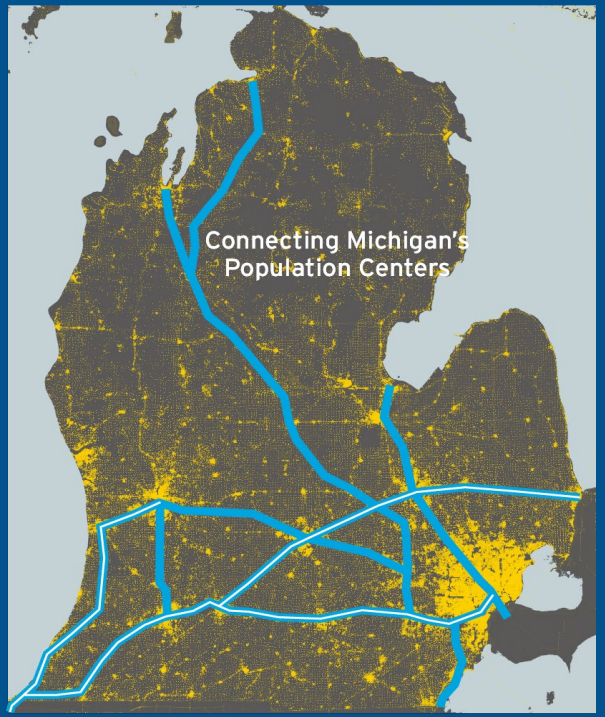
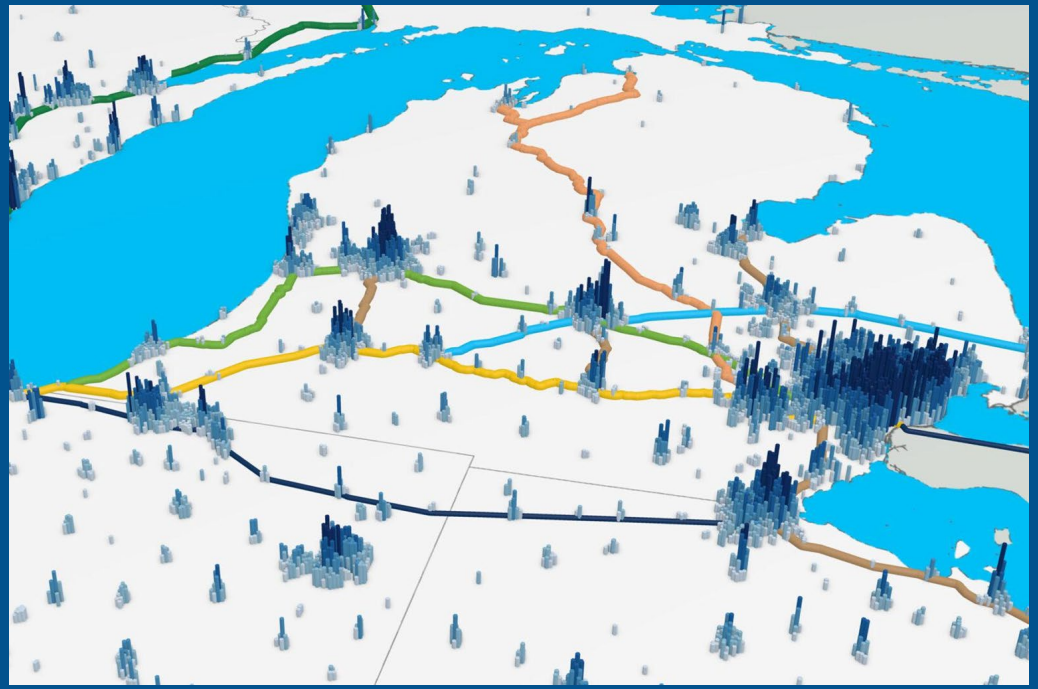
Restoring Michigan as a Regional Hub

- Michigan Central Station restored through major private-sector investment, signaling renewed confidence in rail-connected infrastructure
- Public investment is leveraging this momentum to deliver broader statewide economic benefits
- Plans underway to restore passenger rail service at the historic station
- Proposed international service linking Amtrak's Chicago–Detroit corridor to Windsor and Toronto
- Targeted service launch: late 2028–2029



Passenger Rail as an Economic Strategy

- More than transportation — a strategic economic development investment
- Employers use rail access to attract and retain skilled workers
- Companies cluster near rail corridors and walkable downtowns
- Drives "brain gain" and supports high-tech industry growth
- Boosts workforce mobility, tourism, and downtown revitalization
- Connects Michiganders to jobs while strengthening long-term competitiveness



A Modern Michigan Economy, Requires Modern Transportation