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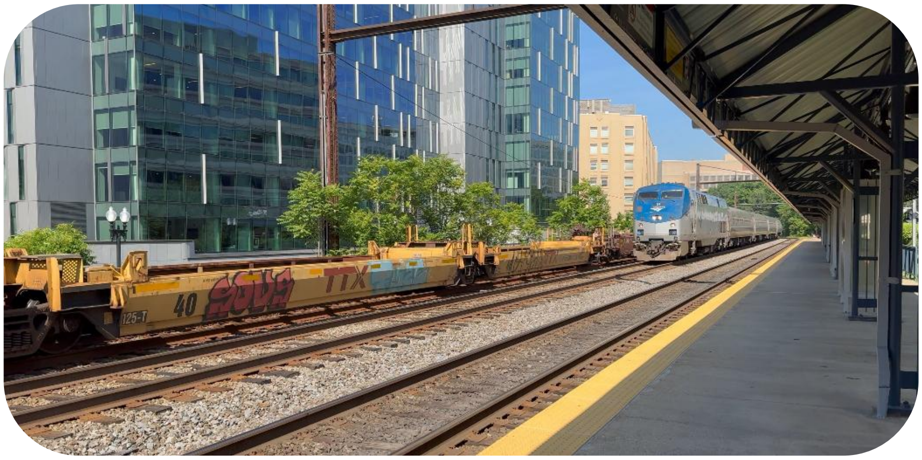
# 2025 REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

# Rail

## SUMMARY




The U.S. rail network spans 140,000 miles and supports both freight and passenger services. Freight rail moves 1.5 billion tons of goods annually, while Amtrak saw 28.6 million passengers in 2023, up from 22 million in 2022. The Northeast Corridor is experiencing rapid growth, with national passenger services expanding in speed, frequency, and reach. The IIJA authorized $66 billion for rail from FY 2022–2026, enabling key improvements like Amtrak corridor expansion and grade separation projects. Train safety incidents have declined 23% since 2000, but events like the 2023 East Palestine derailment, one of 10,577 incidents that year, highlight ongoing concerns. DOT initiatives aim to modernize the network, balancing innovations like precision-scheduled railroading with adequate staffing to ensure safety.

## FAST FACTS

- Freight rail car cargo weight increased by nearly 40% between 2000 and 2022.
- The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes $66 billion in rail infrastructure funding over 5 years.
- Every $1 invested in project upgrades achieves $4 in cost savings that would have been spent in address failures.
- Freight rail companies in the U.S. invest an average of 18.4% ($23 billion) of their revenue on capital expenditures annually.

## SOLUTIONS TO RAISE THE GRADE

- ✓ Promote passenger rail investment in high-population areas, particularly the NEC, to ease pressure on other transportation modes.
- ✓ Pass updated federal legislation on rail–highway crossings, hazardous materials, inspections, maintenance, and emergency response.
- ✓ Support financial and regulatory policies that encourage private rail investment and innovative financing.

To explore more solutions to raise the grades check out infrastructurereportcard.org

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