

IMPROVING PASSENGER RAIL IN THE EMPIRE CORRIDOR

What It Could Deliver for Central New York

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Agenda

8:00am - 9:00 am	Registration & Continental Breakfast	
9:00am – 9:15am	Welcome	Hon. J. Ryan McMahon II Onondaga County Executive
9:15am – 9:30am	Opening Remarks	Hon. William Magnarelli 129 th Assembly District Chair, Assembly Transportation Committee
9:30am – 10:00am	Amtrak 101 What Are State- Supported Trains?	Steve Strauss Executive Director Empire State Passengers Association
10:00am – 10:30am	Empire Corridor Improvement Plan	Bruce Becker President Empire State Passengers Foundation
10:30am – 10:45am	Break	
10:45am – 11:30am	The North Carolina Experience - Raleigh to Charlotte	Jason Orthner North Carolina DOT Director, North Carolina State Rail Program
11:35am – 12:15pm	Virginia Moves Rail Forward	Christine Fix Director of Planning Virginia Passenger Rail Authority
12:30pm – 1:30pm	Lunch	
	The Airos are Coming – New Trains for NY	Lucas Peilert Strategy Director Siemens Mobility North America
1:45pm – 2:30pm	The Corridor ID Program In New York	Ray Hessinger Director - NYS DOT Freight & Passenger Rail Bureau
2:30pm – 2:40pm	Break	

2:40pm – 3:30pm

**Panel - Reactions to
What We've Heard**

Moderator:
State Senator Rachel May

Robert Provost

President, NYS Tourism Industry
Association

Joseph Alston

Director of Government Affairs,
NYS Business Council

Henry Litsky

Policy and Advocacy Coordinator,
Reconnecting Rochester

3:30pm – 3:50pm

**Closing Remarks
& Next Steps**

Steve Strauss

Executive Director
Empire State Passengers
Association

Thanks To Our Symposium Sponsors



New York State Business Council



Visit Syracuse



Reconnect Rochester



Mobility Solutions Northeast

