



**EMPIRE STATE
PASSENGERS
FOUNDATION**

IMPROVING PASSENGER RAIL IN THE EMPIRE CORRIDOR

Annual Passenger Rail Education and Policy Symposium

Wednesday, October 7, 2026

The Duke at Mercantile on Main / Rochester, New York

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Registration and Continental Breakfast	
9:00 - 9:05 a.m.	Gathering & Safety Briefing	Bruce Becker, President Empire State Passengers Foundation
9:05 - 9:20 a.m.	Welcome	Mayor Malik D. Evans City of Rochester
9:20 - 10:00 a.m.	The '90B' Plan & State Supported Trains: What You Need to Know	Steve Strauss, Executive Director Empire State Passengers Association
10:00 - 10:40 a.m.	Remarks on Passenger Rail	State Senator Jeremy Cooney, District 56 Chair, Senate Transportation Committee
10:40 - 11:00 a.m.	Break & Networking	
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.	The Wisconsin Experience	Richard Kedzior Passenger Rail Program Manager Wisconsin Department of Transportation
11:45 - 11:55 a.m.	Break	
11:55 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Lunch Speaker The Momentum Plan: Improving Existing Amtrak Service in New York State	Z. Franklin Tang Assistant Research Scholar Marron Institute, New York University
1:00 - 1:10 p.m.	Break	
1:10 - 1:40 p.m.	New York State Freight & Passenger Rail Plan Update	Michael Cameron, Deputy Director New York State Dept. of Transportation Freight and Passenger Rail Bureau

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1:40 - 2:20 p.m.	Panel: Unlocking Rail Opportunities Across the State: Students, Recreation, and Jobs	Moderator: Amorette Miller Deputy Supervisor, Town of Greece Stephen H. Kolison, Jr. Ph.D. President, SUNY Fredonia Mayor Jared Kraham, City of Binghamton Aisha Adam Bechir, President SUNY Student Assembly
2:20 – 2:30 p.m.	Break	
2:30 – 3:15 p.m.	Panel: The Role of Local Government in Transportation and Economic Development	Moderator: Robert Duffy, President & CEO Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce Mayor Joseph Ferris, City of Hudson Zack Young, Director, Fund Management & Client Services, Mission Driven Finance Nicole Watts, Chair, Onondaga County Legislature David Carlucci, Past NYS Senator
3:15 – 4:00 p.m.	The Colorado Front Range Rail Program	James Flattum, Director of Outreach Coloradans for the Colorado Connector
4:00 - 4:30 p.m.	Addressing First & Last Mile Connections	Michael Kodransky, Senior Director of Innovative Mobility, Catalyst Mobility Henry Litsky, Policy/Advocacy Coordinator Reconnect Rochester
4:30 - 4:45 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Monroe County Executive Adam Bello Steve Strauss, President Empire State Passengers Association

Thanks to our Event Sponsors:

Rochester Institute of Technology Center for Innovation in Manufacturing & Sustainability; AMPED; Climate Solutions Accelerator of the Genesee-Finger Lakes Region; Greater Rochester Chamber of Commerce; Parks & Trails New York; Reconnect Rochester; Batavia Downs; and Visit Rochester



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The 2026 New York State Passenger Rail Symposium

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