



STATE OF NEW YORK  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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**NEW YORK STATE HOLDS RAIL SUMMIT**

*Summit focused on revitalizing New York's economy through high speed and intercity passenger rail*

In partnership with Governor David A. Paterson and Senate President Malcolm A. Smith, the New York State Department of Transportation and Empire State Development today hosted the New York State Summit on Rail Transportation (Summit). The Summit brought together more than two hundred public and private stakeholders in New York's rail industry to collaboratively identify and maximize New York's resources in an effort to solidify it as the premier location for rail manufacturing and servicing in the country. The Summit also offered the opportunity to discuss efforts to expand and promote high speed and intercity passenger rail service across the state.

"Holding the New York State Summit on Rail Transportation was a true win for our state and our rail related businesses," said Governor David A. Paterson. "By bringing together rail industry representatives, transportation experts, legislators and economic development officials, we are continuing to build the framework necessary to move New York State's rail initiative forward and provide the support necessary to help our businesses benefit from available resources and funding. Expanding high speed and passenger rail service across the State will have a profound impact by growing our economy and helping rebuild New York."

"Enhancing high speed rail across New York State is essential to our economic development and prosperity--today's Summit makes that all the more clear," said Empire State Development Chairman and CEO Dennis Mullen. "Governor Paterson and I are pleased this summit has afforded the opportunity for those interested in the rail industry to collaborate, beginning to discuss how we can best help our rail manufactures obtain their share of transportation funding, as well as attract additional rail manufacturers and servicing investment in our state. New York State is already a national leader in rail car manufacturing. We must now capitalize on these strengths as we look to create jobs, spur growth and better position our state."

"Expanding high speed intercity passenger rail service between Albany and Buffalo/Niagara Falls will enhance travel options, mobility and reliability across the state, bringing with it jobs, tourism, economic development and environmental benefits," said New York State Department of Transportation Acting Commissioner Stanley Gee said. "This summit provides another opportunity to plan for a future of improved rail service in New York State, the expansion of businesses who service the industry and new collaborations between public and private agencies, all part of Governor Paterson's efforts to revitalize New York's economy."

Senate President Pro Tempore Malcolm A. Smith, co-chair of the High Speed Rail Working Group of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and an instrumental partner in bringing this summit to New York said, "High speed rail will redefine our statewide economy and open Upstate markets to consumers across the country. The jobs and business investments that come with a 21<sup>st</sup> Century transit system will make every community competitive in today's global economy. I commend the Department of Transportation, Empire State Development and Governor Paterson for bringing together experts in high speed rail and industry representatives in an effort to keep our long-term goals for economic revitalization on track."

The all day Summit, which featured a keynote presentation from Congresswoman Louise Slaughter, founder and Chairwoman of the Upstate New York Congressional Caucus and champion for New York's high-speed rail initiative and funding, included presentations by various industry specialists and business leaders as well as economic development experts, legislative representatives, and state and federal rail officials. The Summit focused on three key areas: winning more high-speed and intercity passenger rail funding, learning how New York State agencies will help rail related businesses compete for these funds, and promoting the high speed rail movement with strategies to fund it in New York.

"In the last year alone, we've done more to advance high-speed rail in New York than has been done for the past 30 years combined," said Congresswoman Slaughter who has been New York's leading advocate for high-speed rail in Washington. "This summit is so important because it aims to harness the innovation and capabilities of the private sector. Together, we understand the capacity to boost the economy of Upstate New York through rail."

"It is a pleasure to host the New York State Summit on Rail Transportation in our congressional district," said Congressman Paul Tonko. "Over sixty percent of the federal high speed rail investments in upstate New York are coming to our region to build a second track between Albany and Schenectady. These investments and this summit showcase our commitment to upgrading our nation's infrastructure to improve livability in our communities and most importantly – to continue to create jobs and revive our economy."

"I'm very pleased to see such great interest in high-speed rail development from suppliers, manufacturers and others, as New York embarks upon a multi-decade effort to improve and expand intercity passenger rail service for its citizens," said Federal Rail Administration Karen Rae. "Here, and across the country, these historic investments are providing the basis for both near and long-term job creation and economic growth."

Quebec Delegate General John Parisella said, "Today's Summit highlights the substantial economic benefits that the development of high-speed rail could bring to both Quebec and New York State. A high-speed rail link between Montreal and New York City would provide a huge boost to trade and travel in the entire region, including the North Country. That means more business opportunities – and prosperity – on both sides of the border. There is no doubt that high-speed rail is a win-win proposition for New York State and Quebec."

"Amtrak is the unparalleled leader in high-speed rail operations in America today and is a major part of the future of intercity passenger rail. Our unique experience can be an asset in the development and operation of existing and new passenger rail corridors," said Amtrak President and CEO Joseph Boardman. "We are eager to work with our New York state partners to move their projects forward as quickly as possible."

“As a leader in the world transport market, I’m thrilled Alstom is participating in the New York State Summit on Rail Transportation and that New York State is taking the necessary steps to grow rail related business,” said Alstom Vice President of Industry and Government Relations Chuck Wochele. “Competing for New York State rail contracts will become increasingly important as high speed rail advances. It is critical to have this discussion and I thank the attending experts in high speed rail, along with my fellow industry representatives for bringing this critical issue to the forefront.”

“The commitment by ESD, DOT and all my partners in the rail industry, as well as government representatives, is encouraging as we work to strengthen the industry and assist related businesses,” said Bombardier Transportation North America Vice President - Rolling Stock, Locomotives and High Speed Rail - US Robert Furniss. “Bombardier has been a resident business in New York State for over 25 years, and has produced nearly 3,000 passenger rail cars and locomotives at our primary U.S. manufacturing site in Plattsburgh. We and our network of New York suppliers look forward to continuing to serve the rail transit and high-speed rail needs of the state as well as the nation.”

The Summit provided the forum for increased understanding of the rail program itself and the benefits it brings to related businesses and eventual users, and its message was clear. Manufacturers of products necessary for the rail program have great opportunities waiting for them in New York State, and will prosper from doing business here. High speed and intercity passenger rail service throughout the New York State is a vital part of our future.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, committed to being recognized on a global scale as the economic development engine driving job growth, strategic investment and prosperity in New York State. ESD is intent on paving the way for New York State to become the leader of the innovation economy and one of the most business friendly, productive and competitive economic development climates in the world. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) was formed in 1967 to direct the state's complex multimodal transportation system. NYSDOT is responsible for the coordination, funding and development of New York's comprehensive transportation policy; managing the State's more than 113,000-mile state and local highway system; inspecting more than 17,400 bridges; supporting an extensive 4,600-mile rail network; as well as providing oversight for the state's public and private aviation facilities, ports, waterways, and mass transit system. Consistent with its mission, “to ensure our customers - those who live, work and travel in New York State -- have a safe, efficient, balanced, and environmentally sound transportation system,” NYSDOT serves the system's billions of annual users based on its values of excellence, integrity, partnership, respect and customer service that instill trust and confidence in New York's infrastructure.

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