



## What People are saying about “Putting America Back on Track: The Economic Case for a 21st Century Public Rail System”

Read the full report here:

<https://www.publicrailnow.org/research/economic-study/>

[“From Margins to Growth: The Economic Case for a Public Rail System,”](#) lays bare the economic facts for the current state of the US rail system, facts working railroaders have been espousing for decades. Public rail ownership has the potential to save up to \$140 billion annually for US consumers, provide an estimated 180,000 new rail road jobs by 2030, and avert \$190 billion in public health, environmental and fiscal costs, while helping to meet climate goals by avoiding 180 metric tonnes of carbon emissions.

---

*This research shows us the huge impact robust rail could have on the economy, railroad jobs, human health, and the climate-- and that these gains are not possible under the current private ownership. It's important for the public and policymakers to understand the true costs of ceding this vital infrastructure to corporations that slash freight service, endanger communities and delay passenger trains-- all while making record profits. Rail transformation presents an enormous opportunity for the United States to get its carbon reductions on track while also delivering a load of other benefits. - Emmett Hopkins, Climate and Community Institute*

*The numbers in the report speak for themselves. We need to act quickly to stay below 1.5°C and public rail ownership is part of the solution. The report shows that under public ownership the US could electrify our entire rail system in 13 years, and avert millions of metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>e with mode shift to rail. Not only does electrification of the rail system benefit the planet*

*enormously but the report outlines how beneficial it is for human health, too. - Matt Krogh, STAND.earth*

*I am a union steward who has witnessed how private ownership of railroads is responsible for the destruction of our environment and good union jobs. It will only worsen until the people who live in this country have control and accountability powers over the railroads.- Eric Basir, ATU #308*

*We can't expect the shareholders to protect our families and our careers!! -Matt Weaver, BMWED #2624*

*Shifting to a publicly owned rail system could save the U.S. up to \$400 billion annually in shipping costs by 2050, while creating 180,000 new railroad jobs and an additional four million jobs across the broader economy. This transformation wouldn't just strengthen the economy; it would deliver substantial environmental and public health benefits by cutting transportation emissions by 10% and reducing greenhouse gas emissions by nearly 5,000 million metric tonnes—about 2% of the world's remaining carbon budget. - Jason Doering, BLET #766*

*"Class 1 railroads are hoarding wealth that could be used to invest in and expand the rail industry. This peer-reviewed report clearly demonstrates that under public ownership, working Americans would benefit enormously. The report shows that by electrifying the U.S. rail system, we could create 180,000 additional rail jobs by 2030, as many as 4 million new jobs across America by 2050, and save up to \$400 billion annually in shipping costs. We must continue to advocate for the massive amounts of infrastructure that rail electrification will require while also pushing for the adoption of low-emission locomotives built by union workers as we continue to work towards achieving full rail electrification."*

*Tommy Carden, Associate Director Green Locomotive Project, Warehouse Workers for Justice, United Electrical*

*The latest peer-reviewed report from the Public Rail Now campaign exemplifies the potential of our U.S. rail system and its benefits to the American economy. An ambitious shift from trucks to rail could lower shipping costs and reduce commodity prices, saving consumers an estimated \$100 billion by 2030. Additionally, this shift could prevent millions of tons of air pollution, which contributes to \$140 billion in annual healthcare costs. By electrifying the entire U.S. rail system over the next 13 years, we could also help keep global warming below the 1.5°C threshold. - Steve Ongerth, CoFounder of IWW Environmental Union Caucus*

