

# National Association of Regional Councils



## 2006 NARC Policy Brief

*NARC policies are developed yearly from consultations with and information provided by the association's working groups, committees and its membership. The policies provide a context for NARC's national agenda on significant national and legislative issues. Each policy brief includes a rationale for NARC's position on topics relevant and important to America's regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations, metro and rural, large and small.*

Amtrak

### **Issue:** Amtrak

**Background:** NARC supports a well-funded and balanced heavy rail national passenger system. Intercity city service can act as a relief to steadily worsening congestion in major freeway corridors and as a relief to short-hauls in our aviation system. Rail can also help facilitate a more secure transportation system by providing emergency evacuation and redundancy in the system. We will continue to fight to fully fund Amtrak as a solution to ease intercity congestion. We will also continue to work with Amtrak on ways to better integrate their service in rural areas to promote economic development.

### **Legislative Recommendations:**

- NARC will participate in the Amtrak reauthorization debate (due 2006) as it has for a number of years and support, with its partners, a fully funded system.
- NARC will pursue the \$2 billion Amtrak request to Congress to enhance and maintain Amtrak's rail service.
- NARC will continue to support an Amtrak labor and management overhaul to make the service more efficient and reliable.
- NARC will pursue with its State Association partners more investment locally and at the state level in rail infrastructure.
- NARC will continue to pursue legislation establishing high speed rail and Maglev corridors.

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