

## *Did You Know?*

- The United States does not have a single high speed rail service.
- The Amtrak Acela travels at an average speed of 83 mph between Washington, DC and New York City. True high speed rail averages a minimum of 120 mph.
- The Northeast Corridor is the only right-of-way Amtrak owns with the potential for high speed service.
- Nearly all other Amtrak passenger service runs on tracks and rights-of-way owned by private freight rail.
- Amtrak's attempt at high speed service have resulted in lawsuits (GAO report 5-698T), equipment without parts such as brakes, and the closing of Acela service.
- In 2007, every Amtrak ticket was subsidized an average of \$50.
- For every dollar Amtrak receives for food service it costs taxpayers two dollars.
- High speed passenger service current operation speeds:
  - French AGV: 200 mph
  - China-Shanghai Maglev: 350 mph
  - The slowest Japanese Bullet train has an average speed of 125 mph.
- More people ride the Washington, DC Metro in a week than ride Amtrak Acela in a year.
- Virgin Rail in the United Kingdom operates high speed rail, paying investors a dividend with billions of private dollar investment and dramatically reduced national subsidy.
- Amtrak employment has dropped from 26,000 in 1998 to 18,000 currently.