



SOUTHERN RAIL COMMISSION



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Southern Rail Commission to host Alabama mayors during quarterly meeting

*To invite dialogue between the Commission and elected officials regarding passenger rail’s impact on connectivity, economic development and quality of life*

The Southern Rail Commission (SRC) will host a roundtable discussion with three Alabama mayors during its first quarterly meeting of the year.

The meeting of the SRC is scheduled for March 9 at 9:00am at the West Alabama Regional Commission in Northport. As the Governor’s designee, Alabama Commissioner J.W. McFarland, Jr. stated, **“The Southern Rail Commission is extremely grateful to Governor Bentley along with Speaker Seth Hammett, Mr. Jon Bargarner and Ms. Lyndsey Stewart of the Governor’s staff for their leadership in renewing the membership dues for the state of Alabama.”**

The meeting will feature Mayor Walter Maddox of Tuscaloosa, Mayor Vaughn Stewart of Anniston, and Mayor William Bell of Birmingham.

**“The Southern Rail Commission wants to work with local elected officials to create a strong multi-modal network across the Gulf South states,”** said Knox Ross, Chairman of the Commission. **“These mayors can help us understand the trends that they see in their communities and that gives us an opportunity to provide tools, resources and influence that can address the critical issues these mayors are facing.”**

The roundtable discussion will include a range of topics, related to existing passenger rail service, marketing, facilities and will include service planning for the upcoming 2021 World games in Birmingham and it’s regional impact.

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**“The region can benefit greatly from this world-class event,” said Toby Bennington, an SRC Commissioner from Alabama. “The SRC is interested in showcasing how passenger rail can be a safe and convenient way to move people and encourage tourism to other nearby cities and towns.”**

Established by an act of Congress in 1982, the SRC engages and informs public and private rail interests to support and influence rail initiatives across its member states of Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi.

**For more information about the Southern Rail Commission see: [SouthernRailCommission.org](http://SouthernRailCommission.org).**