

## NCITEC Project Information

**Project Title:** Examination of Economic Competitiveness of Passenger Rail Service for Sustainable and Economically Efficient Intermodal Corridor Integration

**Principal Investigator:** P. Sherry

**Start Date:** June 2013

**Completion Date:** December 2014

**NCITEC Funds:** \$50,000

**Matching Funds:** \$55,000

**Category (select at least one and at most five categories):** freight transportation, passenger transportation, planning and forecasting, public transportation

### **Project Description:**

The primary objective of this project is a technical and economic competitiveness evaluation of selected Gulf Coast and Southwestern passenger rail/commuter intercity rail service alternative plans. The scope of this DU study will be limited to trains that would originate along the Mississippi Gulf Coast, intersect with southern Colorado and terminate in Los Angeles. The approach of economic impact evaluation is valid for enhancement /revival of other passenger rail services, such as Southwest Chief corridor that will be evaluated by DU team members. The key to select an economically viable and safe rail strategy will be good connectivity and employers' incentives to use the rail service. The overall goal of the present study is to investigate economic impacts of the restoration of passenger rail service through the South to Los Angeles considering Southern Colorado as an alternative route.

Using data on demographics, traffic volume demand and peak hour patterns, employers' data on current jobs and future expansion, transit services in the corridor, and economic indicators of cities in the corridor and surrounding region we will estimate the extent of the viability. In addition, estimates of passenger modal choice for the pilot study area and its implementation for the entire Gulf Coast and south west communities. Before and after rail service studies of traffic patterns, ridership estimation, and economic development impacts (concessions and jobs created due to revived rail service and integration with other local transport modes such as transit or privately owned short haul transport services). The project will also considering additional intercity commuter rail services and percent of commuters who can be incentivied to utilize passenger trains. This can be translated into savings in average annual travel time, reduction in stop and go time wastage during congestion hours, fuel savings due to less congestion during peak hours. Finally, reduction in harmful vehicle emissions with quantifiable public health costs and Green House Gas (GHG) emissions will also be discussed.