TESTIMONY OF

RICHARD PHELPS
VICE PRESIDENT, TRANSPORTATION
AMTRAK

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON RAILROADS, PIPELINES, AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

OF THE

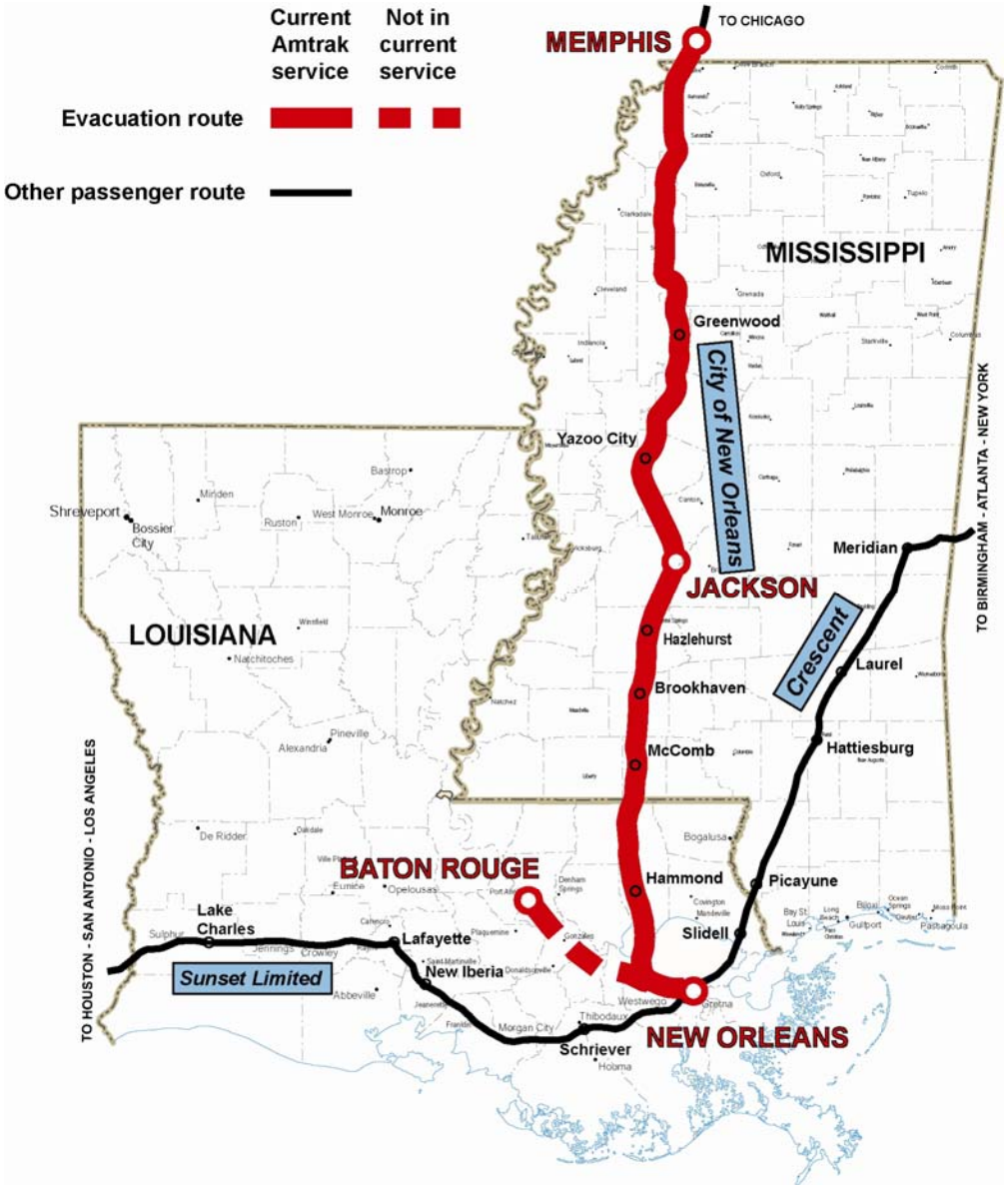
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2008
10:00 A.M.
NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Evacuation – Key Trigger Events

- National Weather Service (NWS) forecasts landfall date and time
- State of Louisiana asks FEMA to initiate rail evacuation
  - Ideally, 72 hours before landfall
- FEMA notifies Amtrak it intends to execute evacuation plans
  - Planning assumes 60 hour window
  - 24 hours to organize evacuation
  - 36 hours to evacuate
- Levee gate closure seals rail routes, ends evacuation
  - Assume closure 12 hours before landfall, ***BUT:***
  - Closure could be as much as 24 hours before landfall

Rail Routes – New Orleans and Vicinity

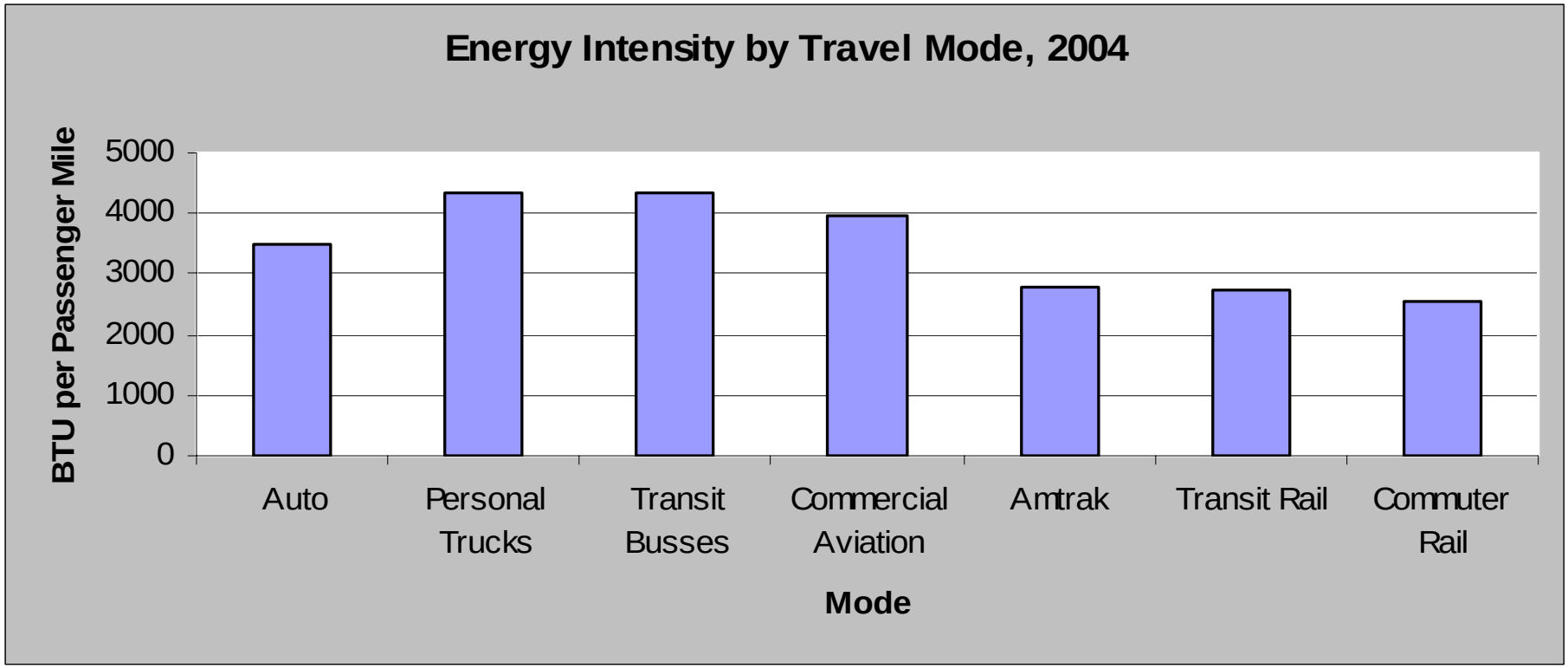


Amtrak's Support to Relief Efforts

- FEMA Contract Support, 2007
  - Three trainsets normally present (*City of New Orleans*, *Crescent*, *Sunset Limited*)
  - Logistical preparation for evacuation
    - 18,000 stockpiled emergency "snack pack" meals
    - 72,000 bottles of water
  - Emergency crew preparations
    - Designated qualified crews for evacuation trains and staff
    - "Go kits" for crews
    - Designated crews qualified on route and rulebook
    - Liaison teams and equipment prepared for movement to Baton Rouge
- New Orleans Union Passenger Terminal a designated shelter
  - Food and water stored in commissary
  - Station grounds used as emergency facility during Katrina

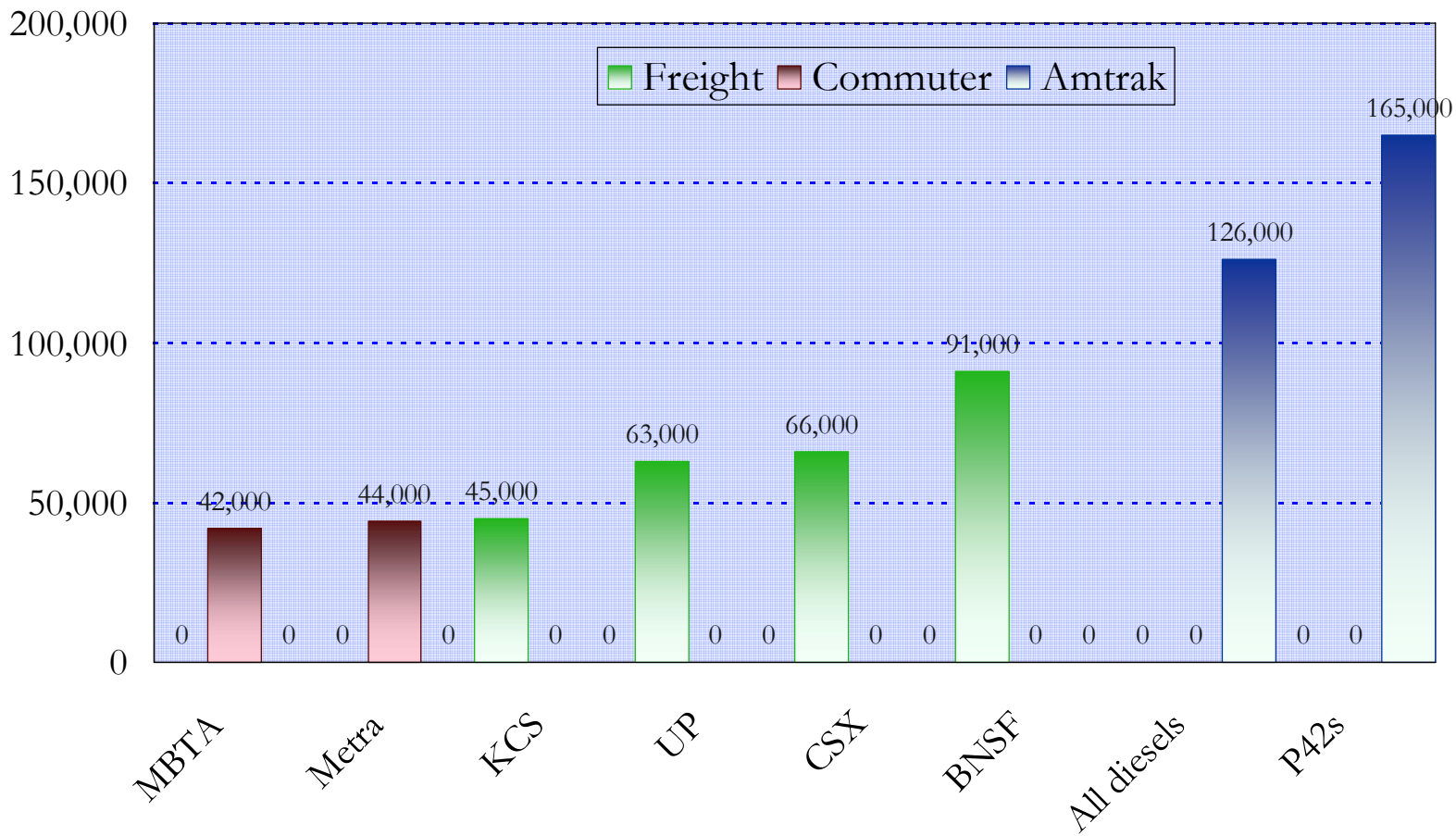
Backup Slides

Comparative Energy Intensities



Source: U.S. DoE, "Transportation Energy Data Book, Edition 26 – 2007"

Average annual miles



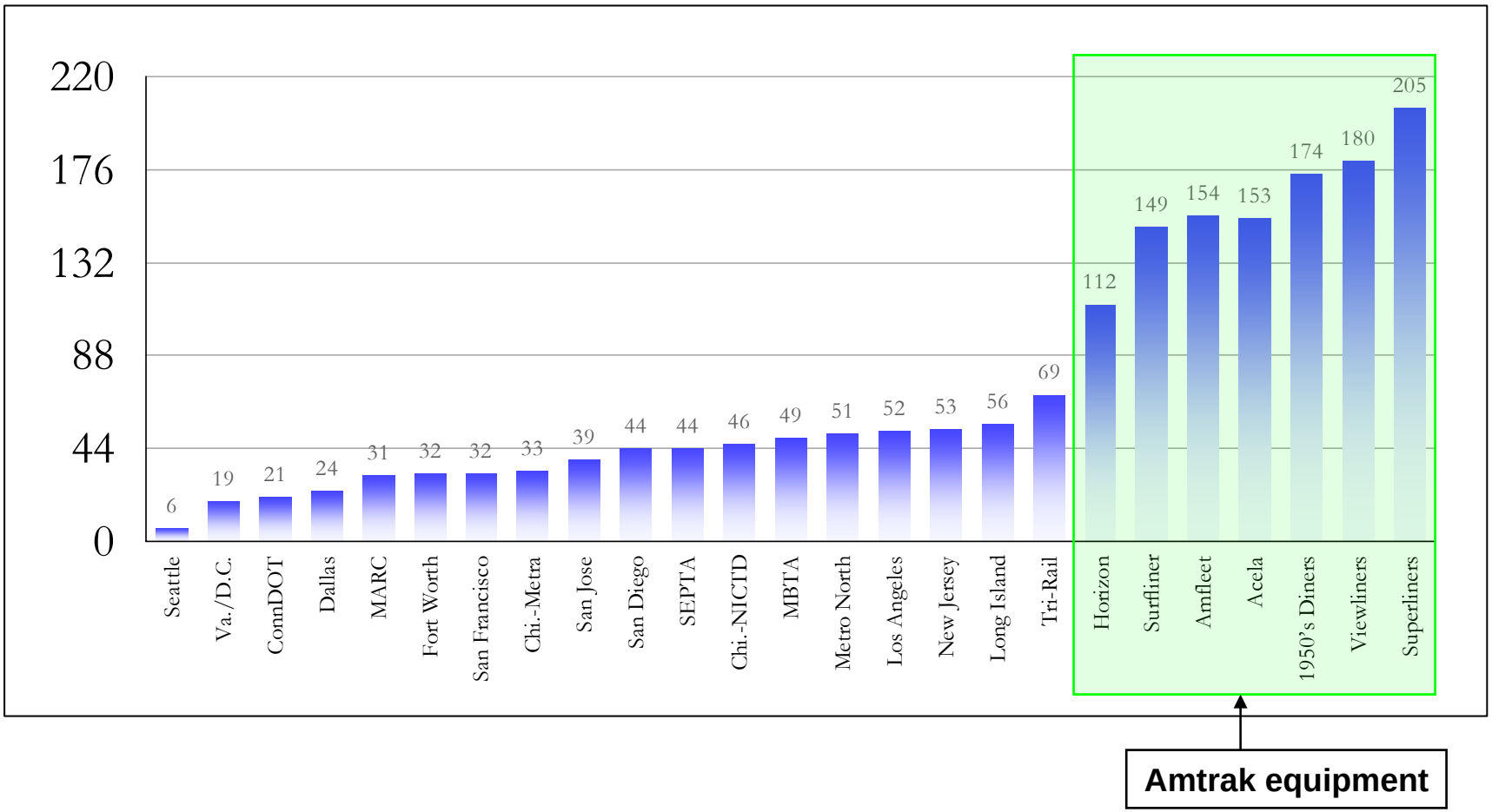
Amtrak's Average Annual Car Miles – Highest in US Passenger Rail

Commuters:

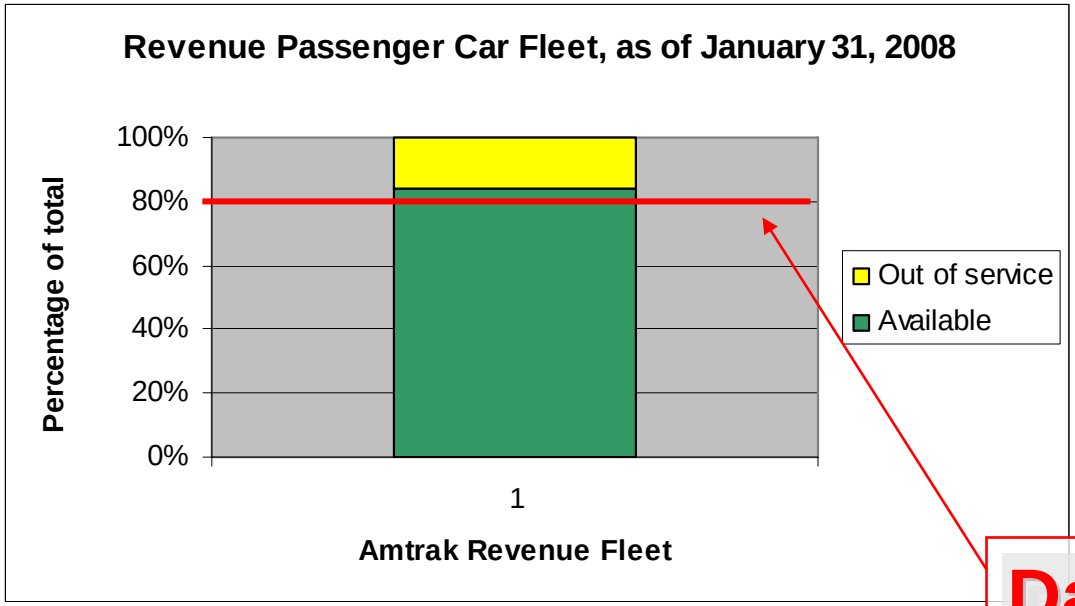
Maintained nights, weekends, off-peak

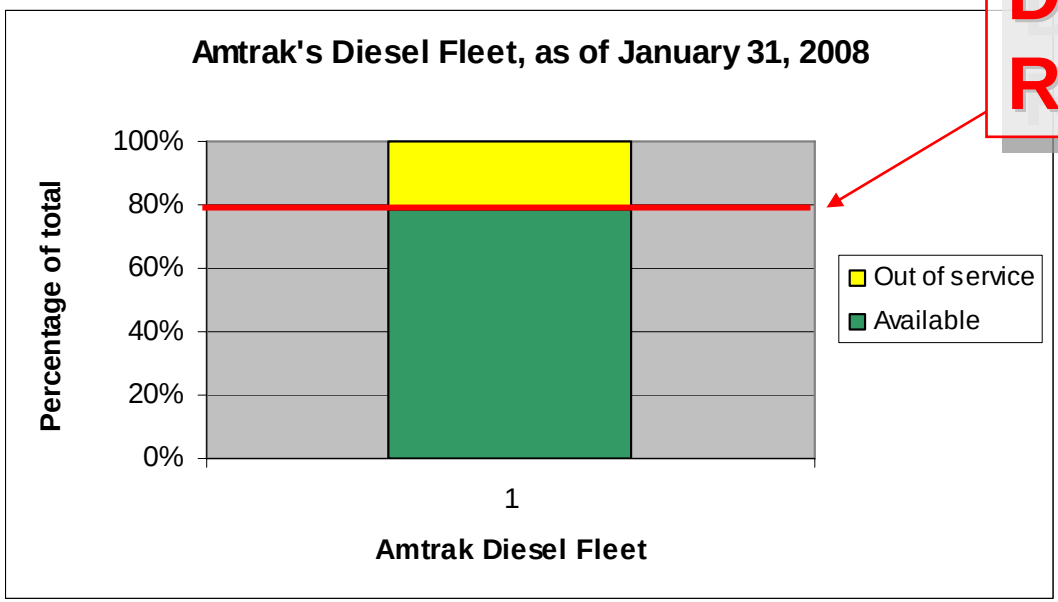
Amtrak:

Operate 24x7, turnaround in 4 to 6 hours



Fleet Availability Snapshot





- **Amtrak uses well over ninety percent of its available fleet on a daily basis**
- **This chart shows usage on a typical day – normal operations required 95% of the available coaches and 103% of the available diesel engines**

Daily Requirements