

[Month #], 2022

Marc D. Williams
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation
125 East 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Williams,

As Mayors of [communities], I write to express my enthusiastic support for more passenger rail service for Texans. We agree with Amtrak: Texas is woefully underserved by intercity passenger train service today. Consider other countries, where cities of comparable size to those in Texas are connected by as many as 60 daily trains (e.g., Berlin – Hamburg), while in Texas we have fewer than five daily trains in the entire state. It's no wonder people choose to drive between major metropolitan areas in Texas – we make it very difficult for them to make any other choice. We are ready to work with you to change that.

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is in the process of standing up a new corridor development program that will identify growth opportunities and fund much of the operating and capital needs required to improve and expand rail service across the country. We understand this Corridor Identification and Development Program will soon solicit non-binding interest from eligible parties for new intercity passenger rail routes or enhanced existing routes to develop a list of corridors that will guide future grantmaking.

Our Texas cities would like to work with you to ensure that Texas does not miss this important opportunity to express our interest in exploring how this program could help us improve passenger rail service in the region to better connect people and support local economies.

Therefore, please let the FRA know that Texas routes should be included in the federal government's corridor development program. We thank you for your support and we look forward to working with you to help bring safe, sustainable, and convenient Amtrak service to my community.

Sincerely,

[Name]

[Title]