



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

September 23, 2015

Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
400 North St., 6th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Secretary Richards;

I am writing to you today in reference to the Commonwealth-supported *Pennsylvanian* passenger rail service operated by Amtrak between New York City and Pittsburgh. I am strongly interested in expanding this service from its current single trip in each direction per day, and to that end my staff attended the September 15th public meeting regarding the ongoing update of our Commonwealth's rail plan.

I was very pleased to learn that at that public meeting my staff was informed by Jennie Granger of PennDOT that both Governor Wolf and yourself support increased service on the *Pennsylvanian* and have asked Amtrak to begin discussions with Norfolk Southern to find opportunities to increase service frequency to two trains per day on the line. Thank you for your support on this matter.

While an increase from one to two daily trains on the *Pennsylvanian* would be welcomed by Western Pennsylvanians, I believe that 3 trains per day should be our goal for service in the short term. In the April 2014 study "On Track to Accessibility", the case for three daily trains each way is clearly outlined. This study demonstrates the increases in ridership and related increase in passenger revenue and decreases in road maintenance, accidents, and emissions that would result from three daily round trips. Perhaps more importantly this study explains the dramatic increase in utility three trains per day would create because round trips during the same day would become possible.

In recent years, states such as Virginia, North Carolina, and Oklahoma have expanded service and created new service on lines owned by the major rail carriers, a model I am hopeful we can emulate. In order for Western Pennsylvania to remain economically competitive, and for Pittsburgh to continue to be a livable city, we should strive for increased connectivity through passenger rail.

Sincerely,

William Peduto
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

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