Date

Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Federal Railroad Administration

U.S. Department of Transportation

1200 New Jersey Ave., SE.

Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I/We/Organization is pleased to support the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation’s (PennDOT) FY2022 *Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements* (CRISI) grant application for the ***Pennsylvanian Rail Modernization****:* *Expanding Amtrak Passenger Rail Service on the Keystone West Corridor.* This project provides the groundwork to increase passenger rail service along the Amtrak *Pennsylvanian* route. If awarded, the grant will be used to design and construct improvements between Harrisburg and Pittsburgh to support expanded passenger rail service without adversely affecting the movement of freight trains that share the tracks. The project consists of several needed infrastructure improvements including:

* Construct a 3rd mainline between Harrisburg and Rockville, with reconfigured interlockings, expanded fuel pads and eliminated tracks pans.
* Construct new crossovers at Mifflin and Hawstone.
* Construct a 3rd mainline between Gray and Altoona, with new universal crossovers and a helper staging track, and relocate the mechanical office/storage buildings.
* Upgrade existing crossovers at Johnstown.
* Upgrade and extend the spur track in Pittsburgh to create a new main for bypassing Amtrak trains, install power turnouts on each end of the track, and clear new bypass track for double-stacking.

I/we applaud PennDOT’s continued efforts to work with all parties to expand Pennsylvania’s passenger rail service on the Keystone West corridor and its commitment to increase public transportation opportunities throughout the Commonwealth and maintaining jobs from the protection of freight movement along the corridor. The improvements are crucial to providing greater mobility and accessibility to some of the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable populations, improving economic opportunities throughout the Commonwealth, and addressing climate change through enhanced passenger and sustained freight rail services.

Through the years, PennDOT has partnered on numerous transportation infrastructure projects that have improved the economy and quality of life in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The ***Pennsylvanian Rail Modernization****: Expanding Amtrak Passenger Rail Service on the Keystone West Corridor* project will continue PennDOT's progress to support and improve the Commonwealth and its communities. I/we am/are very supportive of the effort to design and construct improvements that address the challenges in expanding reliable passenger rail service along the Keystone West Corridor.

Sincerely,

Name

Title