



JOHNSTOWN AREA HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

June 10, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wolf, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
508 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor ^{Tom} Wolf:

The Johnstown Area Heritage Association would like to offer its strong support for increasing passenger-rail service along Amtrak's Pennsylvanian service between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg.

As the owner of the Johnstown Train Station, we are committed to rehabilitating this important community resource. We also believe that increased passenger rail service will do much to support the City of Johnstown's efforts to revitalize the city's central core and to integrate public transportation options.

Currently, the Johnstown train station is serviced by only one eastbound train from Pittsburgh and one westbound train from New York City per day, making use of this service very difficult and inefficient for many potential riders. Increasing this service to three eastbound and three westbound departures per day provides much better access for Cambria County and surrounding residents traveling to Pittsburgh and points west, and to Harrisburg and points east along the Pennsylvanian. Increased service will also make commuter rail trips to Pittsburgh feasible.

A recent study by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership titled "On Track to Accessibility" suggests ridership would nearly double with the additional daily stops, which would generate more revenue from tickets and food and beverage services. Because many existing costs are fixed, adding more passenger service will cost less proportionally compared with the cost of existing, limited service.

As air and bus service has declined and highway congestion has increased, creating viable passenger-rail service has become increasingly important. In addition, younger Americans, senior citizens and international travelers are showing a growing preference for rail travel, but the extremely limited service through our area deters them from coming here or living here.

Providing additional multi-modal transportation options has many far-reaching benefits for Pennsylvania, its residents and economy. We encourage you to work for additional service from Amtrak along the Pennsylvanian. We thank you for your time and consideration regarding this important transportation option for residents of Cambria County and surrounding areas.

Sincerely,

Mark Pasquerilla
Chairman