



## The Oakland Task Force

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Secretary Leslie Richards  
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation  
400 North Street, 6th Floor  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

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Dear Secretary Richards,

On behalf of the Oakland Task Force, I write to urge you to support an increase in passenger rail service on Amtrak's Pennsylvanian train line between Pittsburgh and New York City. As a partnership of Oakland institutions, businesses, community groups, and public agencies, the Oakland Task Force represents the interests of Pennsylvania's third-largest downtown. Transportation is one of our areas of focus, and the increase of passenger rail service offers a sustainable solution and long-term opportunity for our entire region.

The recent study performed by Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership, *On Track to Accessibility*, clearly outlines the benefits of increasing service on the Pennsylvanian track. By their estimates, increasing the number of trains from one to three will increase ridership by 195,000 each year. This near doubling of riders represents a strong return on investment, and at a fraction of the cost of other proposed alternatives. In addition to raising nearly double the revenue, the increased service would provide cost savings to both the Commonwealth and the citizens of the region, reduce emissions by reducing vehicle-miles, and present economic opportunities through increased connectivity.

We support this initiative and urge you to request Amtrak increase service on the Pennsylvania train line. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you might have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Supowitz  
Chairman, Oakland Task Force