



CITY OF PITTSBURGH

"AMERICA'S MOST LIVABLE CITY"

February 13, 2015

Acting Secretary Leslie Richards
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Keystone Building
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Acting Secretary Richards:

As of today, citizens are advocating for increased passenger rail service to serve the City of Pittsburgh and surrounding area, specifically to increase the number of daily trains traveling across the Commonwealth between Pittsburgh and New York City, from one to three in each direction. While the current one train provides a service that is extremely useful to people traveling to and from Pittsburgh, three daily trains would be much more convenient and efficient for many potential riders.

This increase would be a cost-effective way to make Pittsburgh a more livable city. A recent study by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership entitled, "On Track to Accessibility," suggests ridership would nearly double with the additional trains, with a corresponding increase in passenger revenue. Because some current costs are fixed, the cost per train to the Commonwealth is expected to decrease. The substantial increase in multi-modal funds made available through Act 89 has made this commitment from the Commonwealth more attainable. Moreover, when indirect costs and benefits are taken into account, more multi-modal options for travelers will decrease highway congestion and improve air quality throughout the region.

The current train, Amtrak's *Pennsylvanian*, received bipartisan support when, in 2013, a federal statute required the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to provide a small level of financial support to maintain that train. The addition of two more trains would help increase this city's connectivity, much of which has been lost over the past five decades, as passenger rail, bus, and airline options have been decreased.

I support this initiative to make rail a better option for the citizens of Pittsburgh. I urge PennDOT to enter into discussions with Amtrak to triple the number of passenger trains between Pittsburgh and New York City.

Sincerely,

William Peduto
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh