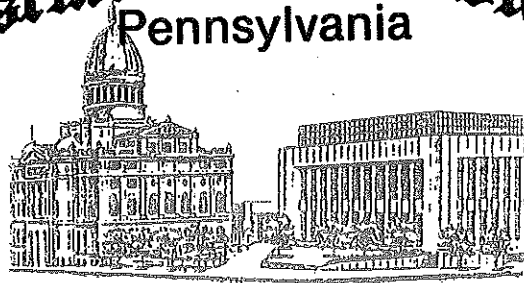


R. Tyler Courtney
Commissioner

Charles W. Anderson
Chairman

Ted Kopas
Commissioner

Westmoreland County Pennsylvania



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February 4, 2015

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

Re: Pennsylvanian Amtrak Passenger Rail Service Expansion

Dear Acting Secretary Richards,

The Westmoreland County Commissioners would like to offer our strong support for increasing passenger rail service along Amtrak's Pennsylvanian service route between Pittsburgh and Harrisburg. Currently, the two stops in Westmoreland County, Greensburg and Latrobe, are 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 to Westmoreland County and surrounding residents traveling to Pittsburgh and points west, and Harrisburg and points east along the Pennsylvanian. In addition, increasing efficient, multi-modal options for travelers has a positive impact on decreasing highway congestion and improving air quality throughout the region.

A recent study by the Pittsburgh Downtown Partnership titled "On Track to Accessibility" suggests ridership would nearly double with the additional daily stops, with revenue from tickets, food and beverage services increasing substantially, as well. Due to currently existing


fixed costs, the level of State support is expected to increase less proportionally to the increase in service.

With the substantial increase in Multi-Modal Funds available through the implementation of Act 89, the State's financial commitment is potentially more attainable.

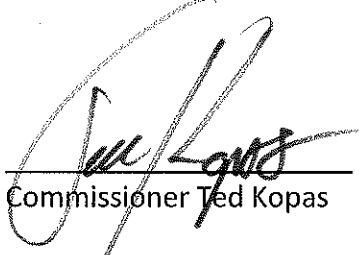
In addition, increasing service on Amtrak's Pennsylvanian is consistent with the Westmoreland County Comprehensive Plan Policy to "Develop an integrated transportation system to encourage economic development and to move people and goods efficiently to serve both present and future needs".

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

Sincerely,


Commissioner Charles Anderson


Commissioner Tyler Courtney


Commissioner Ted Kopas