

**AMTRAK**

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**William J. Flynn**  
Chief Executive Officer



May 26, 2021

Dear Members of Congress:

Earlier this year, Amtrak released a sneak peek at our bold vision to bring sustainable, world-class intercity passenger rail service to more communities across America. Today, we are thrilled to share the accompanying report, which offers more details about our vision to improve 25 of our existing routes, add 39 new routes, and bring service to over 160 new communities, in addition to the over 525 communities we proudly serve today. To make Amtrak's vision a reality, we ask Congress to consider the following legislative actions:

1. **Create a Corridor Development Program** – Authorize a new program aimed at developing new passenger rail corridors and improving existing corridor routes through Amtrak's National Network grant. Amtrak would use the federal funds to cover the initial costs of getting these corridor routes up and running before asking states to support them consistent with federal law.
2. **Provide Dedicated, Predictable, and Sufficient Funding** – Intercity passenger rail has been underfunded for decades as federal funding has prioritized highways and aviation despite the clear strengths offered by rail service in certain markets. Amtrak and our state, local, and host railroad partners need increased funding levels and new, more predictable mechanisms, such as an Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund, like what virtually every other mode of transportation already enjoys, to fund annual grants and the Federal Railroad Administration's discretionary grant programs. *Support the Intercity Passenger Rail Trust Fund Act: S.899 and H.R.2769.*
3. **Stop Freight Trains from Unlawfully Delaying Passengers** – Since 1973, freight railroads have been required by law to provide Amtrak with preference over freight. However, many freight railroads ignore the law because Amtrak is unable to enforce it, and as a result, people suffer. Amtrak must be able to enforce its existing right to preference so that passengers can arrive on time. *Support the Rail Passenger Fairness Act: S.1500 and H.R.2937.*
4. **Ensure Fair Access to Host Railroads for New Service and Adding Trains** – An essential condition of the deal that created Amtrak and relieved freight railroads of the obligation to provide passenger service was fair access to all rail lines for existing and additional Amtrak trains. Unfortunately, too often host railroads resist and stall any efforts to expand service. The law must be clarified to stop private interests from preventing the passenger rail growth that people and communities need.

*Members of Congress*

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This country faces urgent challenges that demand a sustainable, reliable, and equitable transportation system. We look forward to working with federal, state, and local policy makers, and other interested parties, to further develop our vision for the future of the U.S. rail network and deliver the world-class intercity passenger rail system that America deserves.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William J. Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first and last names being more prominent.

William J. Flynn  
*Chief Executive Officer*