

May 19, 2010



The Honorable Joseph C. Szabo
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Szabo:

The Chief Executive Officers of the transportation agencies of the eleven northeast states are pleased to submit a proposal for the Northeast Corridor (NEC) Multi-Modal High Speed Rail Improvement Plan in response to the Federal Railroad Administration notice of solicitation for proposals for Federally-led multi-state passenger rail corridor planning demonstration projects.

The NEC is the largest and most complex passenger and freight rail corridor in the Western Hemisphere. The NEC main stem traverses the northeast from Massachusetts to Washington, DC, with satellite and branch lines serving most of the northeast mega-region. The NEC is the regional spine for the larger network of connecting intercity and commuter rail systems that provides rail access to mid-size cities and smaller communities throughout the eleven states and the District of Columbia. This network links our states and communities west and south to the larger national system, and north and west to Canada.

The proposed demonstration project builds on the ongoing collaborative process between Amtrak and the regional stakeholders to develop the NEC to meet the expanded service, reliability, frequency, and trip time improvements that are envisioned by the northeast states and the District. This collaborative process has resulted in the recently completed Amtrak NEC Infrastructure Master Plan (Master Plan) and will be built upon to create the future NEC service development plan and required environmental analysis. The Master Plan will also be used to identify those projects which can be progressed under existing environmental documentation for near term funding under the High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program.

This planning study defines the specific steps necessary to plan and implement a better integrated, more efficient and higher capacity northeast regional transportation network with an improved intercity passenger rail system as a core component. The study will evaluate the potential for an integrated transportation network – including next generation high speed rail as a long term option – to meet travel demand due to population and jobs growth; support economic development; reduce growth in carbon emissions and dependence on foreign oil; and, contribute to improved land utilization and community reinvestment in both urban and non-urban areas of the region.

We look forward to working with the Federal Railroad Administration to complete the planning and environmental assessments for the next generation Northeast Corridor.

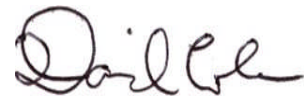
Sincerely,



Joseph F. Marie
Commissioner
Connecticut DOT




Carolann Wicks
Secretary
Delaware DOT



David A. Cole
Commissioner
Maine DOT



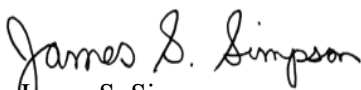
Beverley K. Swaim-Staley
Secretary
Maryland DOT



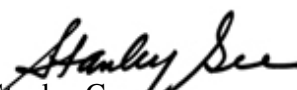
Jeffrey B. Mullan
Secretary
Massachusetts DOT



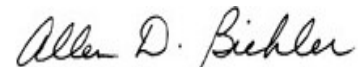
George N. Campbell, Jr.
Commissioner
New Hampshire DOT



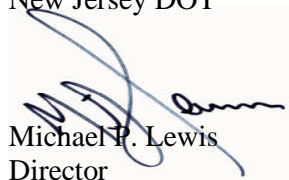
James S. Simpson
Commissioner
New Jersey DOT



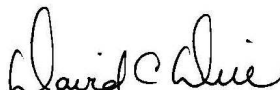
Stanley Gee
Acting Commissioner
New York State DOT



Allen D. Biehler, P.E.
Secretary
Pennsylvania DOT



Michael P. Lewis
Director
Rhode Island DOT



David Dill
Secretary
Vermont AOT

Enclosure