



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Jennifer L. Mitchell  
Director

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Mr. William Dyer  
Division Chief, National Rail Planning  
Office of Railroad Policy and Development  
Federal Railroad Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

**Re: Amendment to the Virginia State Rail Plan: Replacing locomotive and railcar equipment for Amtrak state-sponsored service**

Mr. Dyer:

In January 2018, Virginia's Commonwealth Transportation Board adopted a new Virginia State Rail Plan (SRP) with a discrete list of statewide goals and objectives. The 2018 SRP includes objectives to "support 'State of Good Repair' projects," "expand transportation options between regional markets through enhancements to passenger rail service," and "leverage previous investments by supporting passenger services."

In 2011 Virginia's General Assembly created the Intercity Passenger Rail Operating and Capital (IPROC) Fund, which was specifically created to support operation and equipment payments for state-sponsored Amtrak service. Under Virginia's operating agreement with Amtrak, Virginia makes regular payments towards equipment used on four routes operating from Washington, D.C. to Richmond, Roanoke, Newport News, and Norfolk, with stops in other cities and towns across the Commonwealth. As Amtrak's equipment is refurbished and maintained beyond its useful life, equipment failures are increasingly affecting intercity service, a key element of Virginia's vision for a multimodal transportation network.

Therefore, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) would like to include working with Amtrak to acquire new equipment as part of the goals and objectives in the 2018 SRP. Amtrak's plans to progressively upgrade its rolling stock with modern, safe, and reliable passenger

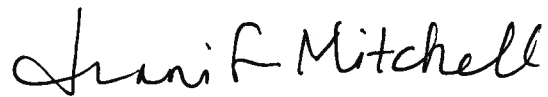
equipment designed to meet the future needs of the traveling public will benefit the Commonwealth for decades.

Please let this letter serve as an amendment to the SRP to specifically include Amtrak's initiative to replace locomotives and Northeast Regional consists with modern, state-of-the-art equipment to improve both reliability and the passenger's experience.

If you have any questions please contact Emily Stock, Manager of Rail Planning at 804-786-1052.

Sincerely,

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jennifer Mitchell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jennifer Mitchell