



THE LANCASTER
CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

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July 21, 2009

Mr. Toby L. Fauver
Deputy Secretary for Local and Area Transportation
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
400 North Street – 8th Floor
Harrisburg, Pa 17120

Dear Mr. Fauver:

On behalf of our membership, I write in strong support of the Administration seeking American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to bring high speed rail to Pennsylvania.

As part of the application process, we understand about \$1.4 billion would be used for upgrades to the Amtrak Keystone Corridor East between Harrisburg and Philadelphia. Particularly in a county like Lancaster – that continues to be one of the fastest growing county's in the state – high speed rail would greatly improve intercity passenger rail service and benefit area commuters and tourists. In fact, Amtrak service between Harrisburg and Philadelphia has grown more than 62 percent since 2002. Amtrak's Lancaster Train Station is the third-busiest in the state, as more than 1,000 passengers use the rail service daily.

In the event high speed rail comes to the Keystone Corridor East, and given these facts, we encourage the Lancaster Train Station to continue to be a stop between Harrisburg and Philadelphia. We believe the success of high speed rail depends, in part, on Lancaster County.

Furthermore, over the past decade, our local planning commission has worked along-side PennDOT and other partners to bring about a \$12 million renovation project that will improve the historic Train Station. Bringing high speed rail to Lancaster would tie-in nicely with the renovation project, expected to be completed by 2010.

Needless to say, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to the existing network to prepare for high speed rail. The Lancaster Chamber stands ready to work with PennDOT, the Lancaster County Planning Commission, Amtrak and all stakeholders to ensure we maximize this opportunity.

I greatly appreciate PennDOT taking the initiative in applying for available federal funds. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or David Greineder, advocacy director, at 717.397.3531.

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I look forward to working with the Administration to advance high speed rail in the region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Baldrige".

Thomas T. Baldrige, C.C.E.
President
The Lancaster Chamber of Commerce & Industry

cc: U.S. Senator Bob Casey, Jr.
U.S. Senator Arlen Specter
U.S. Representative Joe Pitts
Lancaster County State Legislative Delegation
Lancaster County Board of Commissioners
Mr. Dave Royer, Lancaster County Planning Commission
Mr. Brad Webber, Amtrak