

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

March 17, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We write today to request that the ***Washington, D.C. to Charlotte, NC Corridor (the Corridor)*** application for selection and funding under the Federal Rail Administration's Corridor Identification and Development Program for fiscal year 2022 receive full and fair consideration. Development of the Corridor is a joint venture between the North Carolina Department of Transportation Rail Division (NCDOT) and the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA) and is the top priority submission to the Corridor ID Program for both states because of the decades of work which have made this corridor ready for final design and construction funding.

The Corridor will expand passenger rail service in the growing Southeast Corridor which is expected to reach more than 25 million people by 2040. This corridor will support new passenger rail access to underserved communities, enhance transportation equity and multimodal connectivity, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support job creation. Since the Federal designation of the Southeast Corridor in 1992, North Carolina and Virginia have partnered with Amtrak, freight railroads, and the Federal Railroad Administration to environmentally clear the Corridor, develop service plans, advance planning for capacity projects, and invest significantly in projects to improve the capacity, reliability, and safety of the Corridor.

Cooperation and coordination have been central to advancing the three segments of the Corridor: DC to Richmond (DC2RV), Raleigh to Richmond (R2R) and Raleigh to Charlotte. North Carolina and Virginia have established strong partnerships, both with each other and with the respective freight railroads to expand intercity and commuter rail services with state and federal investments in the existing freight owned corridors. Virginia and North Carolina have acquired, and now own, railroad right-of-way along the entirety of the Charlotte, NC to Washington, DC corridor to enable dedicated passenger rail routes.

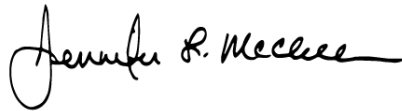
Through the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative, the Commonwealth has established a project pipeline that includes more than a dozen shovel ready projects which will enhance passenger rail service to the Southeast and facilitate connecting trains over the Long Bridge to the Northeast Corridor (NEC). Integral to Virginia's investment in the development of an intercity passenger rail corridor between Washington DC and Charlotte NC is the construction of a new Long Bridge across the Potomac, which will unlock the bottleneck between the north and

southeast and allow for greater reliability and efficiency of passenger service routes along the southeast corridor.

Admission of the ***Washington, D.C. to Charlotte, NC Corridor*** into the Corridor Identification and Development Program will support Virginia and North Carolina in conducting critical service development planning, advancing shovel-ready projects, and ultimately, completion of a vital component of the national rail passenger transportation system through the connection of the north and southeast.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress