



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Passenger Rail Authority

DJ Stadtler
Executive Director

919 East Main Street, Suite 2400
Richmond, Virginia 23219

(804) 303-8700
www.vpra.virginia.gov

March 5, 2025

309312

Brian O'Boyle
Designated Federal Officer – Passenger Rail Advisory Committee
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

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Office of Proceedings
March 5, 2025
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Public Record

RE: Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Nomination – Letters of Support

Dear Mr. O'Boyle,

Please find the attached Letters of Support from CSX Transportation, Norfolk & Portsmouth Beltline Railway, and the Virginia Railroad Association for DJ Stadtler's nomination to the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) as outlined in Surface Transportation Board Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DJ Stadtler".
C0D69C9037AD424...
DJ Stadtler



CSX Transportation
500 Water Street, J150
Jacksonville, FL 32202

February 25, 2025

Chairman Patrick J. Fuchs
Surface Transportation Board
395 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Support Letter for Surface Transportation Board (STB) Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Membership (PRAC) Nomination

Dear Chairman Fuchs,

On behalf of *CSX Transportation*, we'd like to support the nomination of Mr. DJ Stadtler, Executive Director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority for the vacancy on the Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (PRAC) to represent a state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail service.

As the Executive Director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), Mr. Stadtler represents the contracting agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia for Amtrak Virginia services. Virginia has sponsored state-supported service since 2009 and was among the first states to execute a "209 Operating Agreement" with Amtrak when PRIIA legislation took effect October 1, 2013.

Amtrak Virginia service has grown from one daily roundtrip in 2009 to 8 daily roundtrips today with service from Norfolk, Newport News, Richmond and Roanoke into Washington Union Station and continuing into the Northeast Corridor. Virginia has committed billions of state and local dollars in the Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) program to continue growth of Amtrak Virginia services to 13 daily roundtrips, extending services further into the Commonwealth's New River Valley in partnership with Norfolk Southern, and separating passenger and freight rail where feasible in the congested Northern Virginia rail corridor it shares with CSX Transportation.

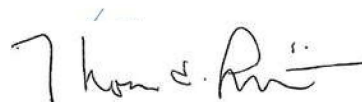
Virginia's unique geographic location at the junction of the Northeast and Southeast Corridors, and VPRA's transformative collaboration with railroad partners makes Mr. Stadtler a unique asset to the PRAC. With record high ridership in 2024 on Amtrak Virginia service a result of the connections to Northeast Corridor destinations, Amtrak is both an operating partner and connecting host railroad for VPRA. VPRA first began "Service Performance Committees" with Amtrak, CSX, and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) to jointly identify trends and solutions to improve Customer On-time Performance for Amtrak Virginia, Amtrak Long Distance, VRE, and North Carolina's Carolinian Service. A similar initiative will begin with Norfolk Southern as well.

Under Mr. Stadtler's leadership, VPRA takes a holistic view of On-time Performance, recognizing the need to balance freight and passenger operations with constrained railroad capacity as Virginia embarks on an historic investment to enhance passenger rail service.

We support Mr. Stadtler's nomination in hopes of bringing the innovative and balanced view Virginia has thus far taken under the Transforming Rail in Virginia initiative to deliver improved railroad operations among all affected stakeholders and passengers.

Sincerely,
Sincerely,


Andy Daly
CSXT Senior Director Passenger Operations


Tom Livingston
CSXT VP Government Relations



**NORFOLK AND PORTSMOUTH
BELT LINE RAILROAD COMPANY**

1340 TRUXTON STREET
CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
(757) 271-1800

2/28/2025

Brian O'Boyle
Designated Federal Officer – Passenger Rail Advisory Committee
Surface Transportation Board
395 E. Street, SW
Washington, DC 20423

Dear Mr. O'Boyle

On behalf of the Norfolk and Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad (NPBL), we are pleased to support the nomination of Mr. DJ Stadtler for the vacancy on the Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (PRAC) to represent a state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail service.

As the Executive Director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), Mr. Stadtler leads the contracting agency in the Commonwealth of Virginia for Amtrak Virginia services. Virginia has sponsored state-supported intercity passenger rail since 2009 and was one of the first states to execute a "209 Operating Agreement" with Amtrak following the implementation of PRIIA legislation on October 1, 2013.

Virginia's commitment to passenger rail expansion has been significant, with Amtrak Virginia service growing from one (1) daily roundtrip in 2009 to eight (8) daily roundtrips today. These services connect Norfolk, Newport News, Richmond, and Roanoke to Washington Union Station and extend into the Northeast Corridor. The Commonwealth has invested billions of dollars through the Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) program, aiming to expand Amtrak Virginia to thirteen (13) daily roundtrips, extend service into the New River Valley, and enhance freight-passenger rail separation in Northern Virginia through partnerships with Norfolk Southern and CSX Transportation.

As a key railroad serving Hampton Roads and the Port of Virginia, NPBL recognizes the importance of balanced and well-integrated freight and passenger rail operations. Mr. Stadtler's leadership in developing collaborative solutions among freight and passenger railroads makes him an exceptional candidate for PRAC. His role in initiating Service Performance Committees—bringing together Amtrak, CSX, VRE, and soon Norfolk Southern—demonstrates his proactive approach to ensuring efficient rail operations that benefit all stakeholders.

With record-breaking ridership in 2024, VPRA's strong partnership with Amtrak and the Northeast Corridor has reinforced the importance of intercity passenger rail as a viable

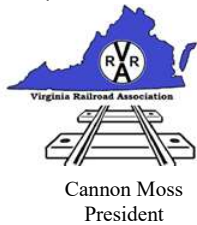
travel option. Mr. Stadtler's commitment to on-time performance, operational balance, and infrastructure investment will bring a pragmatic, results-driven perspective to PRAC, ensuring freight and passenger rail continue to grow and thrive together.

We fully and enthusiastically support Mr. Stadtler's nomination. His expertise and leadership will bring valuable insight to PRAC as it navigates the complexities of intercity passenger rail growth while maintaining a critical balance with freight operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cannon Moss". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cannon" being more prominent than the last name "Moss".

Cannon Moss
President & GM



VIRGINIA RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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Brian O'Boyle
Designated Federal Officer – Passenger Rail Advisory Committee
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Mr. O'Boyle,

On behalf of the Virginia Railroad Association, we are pleased to support the nomination of Mr. DJ Stadtler for the vacancy on the Passenger Railroad Advisory Committee (PRAC) to represent a state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail service.

Virginia is home to an extensive and diverse rail network, which includes two Class I railroads, CSX Transportation and Norfolk Southern Railway, as well as several short line and regional railroads that play a vital role in connecting industries, ports, and communities across the state. These include the Buckingham Branch Railroad, Chesapeake & Albemarle Railroad, Commonwealth Railway, Norfolk & Portsmouth Belt Line Railroad, North Carolina & Virginia Railroad, Carload Express, Winchester & Western Railroad, and Shenandoah Valley Railroad. Together, these railroads form an integrated transportation network that supports both freight and passenger operations, reinforcing Virginia's role as a critical rail hub along the East Coast.

As the Executive Director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA), Mr. Stadtler leads the contracting agency responsible for Amtrak Virginia services. Virginia has sponsored state-supported passenger rail since 2009 and was among the first states to execute a "209 Operating Agreement" with Amtrak following the implementation of PRIIA legislation on October 1, 2013.

Since its inception, Amtrak Virginia service has expanded from one (1) daily roundtrip in 2009 to eight (8) daily roundtrips today, connecting Norfolk, Newport News, Richmond, and Roanoke to Washington Union Station and the Northeast Corridor. Virginia has committed billions of state and local dollars to the Transforming Rail in Virginia (TRV) program, with plans to increase service to thirteen (13) daily roundtrips, extend routes into the New River Valley in partnership with Norfolk Southern, and separate passenger and freight rail where feasible in the congested Northern Virginia rail corridor shared with CSX Transportation.



VIRGINIA RAILROAD ASSOCIATION

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Virginia's unique position at the intersection of the Northeast and Southeast Corridors, combined with VPRA's collaborative partnerships with freight and passenger railroads, makes Mr. Stadtler an invaluable asset to PRAC. In 2024, Amtrak Virginia achieved record-high ridership, underscoring the growing demand for intercity passenger service and its essential connections to the Northeast Corridor. Amtrak serves as both an operating partner and a host railroad for VPRA, and under Mr. Stadtler's leadership, VPRA established Service Performance Committees with Amtrak, CSX, and Virginia Railway Express (VRE) to analyze trends and implement solutions for improving customer on-time performance for Amtrak Virginia, Amtrak Long-Distance, VRE, and North Carolina's Carolinian Service. A similar initiative will be launched with Norfolk Southern as well.

Mr. Stadtler's holistic approach to on-time performance reflects an understanding of the need to balance freight and passenger operations, ensuring efficiency and reliability in a constrained rail network. As Virginia embarks on a historic investment in rail infrastructure, his leadership will be critical in guiding collaborative solutions that enhance passenger rail service while maintaining strong relationships with freight rail partners.

We fully and enthusiastically support Mr. Stadtler's nomination, confident that his innovative leadership and commitment to balanced rail operations will provide valuable insight to PRAC and benefit all stakeholders and passengers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cameron Phelan', is written in a cursive style.