



American Association of
State Highway and
Transportation Officials

John R. Njord, President
Executive Director
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John Horsley
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Dear

We are writing to transmit AASHTO's **Criteria for Intercity Passenger Rail Reform**, a set of principles to guide states in developing and evaluating intercity passenger rail proposals. The criteria were developed at the recent meeting of AASHTO's Standing Committee on Rail Transportation. The Criteria are based on AASHTO's existing policy and are offered as a basis for continuing the dialogue with the Congress and the Administration on intercity passenger rail policy. A number of supporting documents are also enclosed, including AASHTO's reports on passenger and freight rail.

AASHTO believes that intercity passenger rail service is a basic element of the nation's multimodal transportation system. Earlier this year AASHTO issued a statement on **Stability for Intercity Passenger Rail Transportation** calling for short-term stability while the Congress, the Administration and the states develop a long-term policy. In the short-term Amtrak should receive funding sufficient to continue operation of current services and critical maintenance and state-good-repair capital investments. For the long term we must develop a workable framework for the future of intercity passenger rail. We are committed to serious engagement with Congress and the Administration to achieve this goal. The attached criteria will help guide the states in this effort.

AASHTO staff will follow up with Committee staff to discuss how we might most usefully work with you. Please feel free to call us directly to discuss how we can work together to give the country the rail service it needs and can have.

Yours truly,

John Njord, President

Joseph H. Boardman, Chairman
AASHTO Standing Committee on Rail