



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Governor

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W. Sheppard Miller III
Secretary of Transportation

February 26, 2025

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

RE: Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Nomination

Dear Mr. O'Boyle,

I am pleased to nominate DJ Stadtler as a candidate for membership on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) as outlined in Surface Transportation Board Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1).

As the Executive Director of the Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPR), 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.

Mr. Stadtler has executive experience with the Federal Railroad Administration, Amtrak, and here with the Commonwealth of Virginia. Coupled with his background, Virginia's unique geographic location at the junction of the Northeast and Southeast Corridors and VPR's transformative collaboration with railroad partners would make Mr. Stadtler a unique asset to the PRAC. With record high ridership in 2024 on Amtrak Virginia service as a result of the connections to Northeast Corridor destinations, Amtrak is both an operating partner and connecting host railroad for VPR.

VPR 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, VPR 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 a historic investment to enhance passenger rail service.

I am confident Mr. Stadtler would be an enormous asset to the Board as a member of the PRAC. The pertinent nomination information is below, and his resume and statement of representation are also attached. Please feel free to reach out to me if you need any additional information or if you would like to discuss further.

1) Name, position, and business contact information of nominee:

DJ Stadtler, Executive Director
Virginia Passenger Rail Authority (VPRA)
919 East Main Street, Suite 2400
Richmond VA 23219
Cell: (804) 338-5214
Email: dj.stadtler@vp.ra.virginia.gov

2) Interest the candidate will represent:

PRAC representative from a state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail (Virginia)

3) Summary of the Candidate's experience and qualifications for the position:

Mr. Stadtler has 28 years of experience in the passenger rail industry, including serving in executive roles at the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Amtrak, and in his current role as Executive Director of the VPRA. He has earned a reputation as a trusted leader throughout industry working with Amtrak, Federal and State Governments, Congress, Labor Organizations, construction, and consulting vendors, and with the freight railroads.

In his current role at the VPRA, Mr. Stadtler is accountable for all strategy, policy development, and operations of the Authority, which is tasked with managing all administrative and fiduciary activities for Virginia's state-supported passenger rail services. In a short four-year timeframe, he has grown the authority from one employee to approximately 60, positioning us well to deliver our over \$4 billion in infrastructure improvements that benefit both passenger and freight rail up and down the east coast. He has built a strong organization on the foundation of integrity, accountability, collaboration, and results.

Prior to his time at VPRA, Mr. Stadtler spent 12 years as an Executive at Amtrak, serving as Chief Financial Officer, Chief Operating Officer, and Chief Administrative Officer. As Chief Operating Officer he oversaw all aspects of the operating railroad, including safety, transportation, mechanical and engineering, managing 18,000 employees. At various times in his tenure with Amtrak, he had responsibility for negotiating labor agreements, real estate agreements, and agreements with host railroads ensuring that both freight and passenger operated in harmony. Additionally, he managed the major projects organization, being known as an outcome-oriented leader to whom "problem projects" were consistently brought to for solutions. During part of this time he served as a Director on the Board of the Transportation Technology Center, a subsidiary of the Association of American Railroads (AAR) which conducts railroad

equipment testing and training for member railroads, and he also served as a Director on the Board of the Union Station Redevelopment Corporation.

Mr. Stadtler spent the early years in his career working at the Federal Railroad Administration, giving him a strong knowledge of the safety and regulatory environment of both passenger and freight railroads. This also gave him a thorough understanding of how passenger and freight must work together on shared infrastructure to ensure rail plays a strong role in an efficient multi-modal transportation network. As a member of the federal Senior Executive Service he played an integral part in securing both operating and capital funds for Amtrak, providing oversight and accountability to the overall grant process.

In summary, Mr. Stadtler's rail experience spans across State, Federal, and Amtrak, making him uniquely qualified to serve as a member of the PRAC. His knowledge of freight and passenger rail from the operating and regulatory fronts, coupled with his strong reputation as a trusted leader make him a tremendous asset for the committee.

4) Representation that the candidate is willing to serve as a member of the PRAC:

See attached statement.

5) A statement that the candidate agrees to serve in a representative capacity:

See attached statement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Sheppard Miller III", followed by a stylized flourish or "S" mark.

W. Sheppard Miller III
Secretary of Transportation

D J S T A D T L E R

Executive Leader

540-729-0960

dj.stadtler@gmail.com

www.linkedin.com/in/dj-stadtler

Spotsylvania, Virginia



Strategic Leadership

Delivered turnaround, growth strategies, and operational improvements to confront economic and business challenges. Drove \$600M turnaround putting Amtrak on the road to operating profitability (pre-Covid) against significant economic and organizational challenges.

Financial Management

Raised financial management and reporting to highest standards of excellence, restoring confidence among key stakeholders and earning increase in congressional appropriations after years of stagnation.

Operational Excellence

Led the restructuring of train and engine staffing assignments, optimizing schedules to provide adequate employee rest and ensure safety while minimizing downtime, resulting in savings of over \$10M with no negative impact on train frequencies.

Organizational Effectiveness

Led the reorganization of operating departments, eliminating siloes and increasing empowerment and accountability. Developed performance targets and KPIs on a standardized dashboard to drive healthy competition among business lines, leading to an increase in employee satisfaction survey scores of nearly 10%. Strengthened leadership and talent by effectively recruiting quality executives to top positions.

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Strategic senior executive with an exemplary record of growth, financial management, transformation, and operational excellence with North America's largest passenger rail operator. Versatile leader trusted for taking on complex challenges and negotiations in difficult business contexts as CFO, COO, and CAO that significantly improved financial positioning, operating performance, and organization capacity. Well-respected and skilled communicator with a track record of building effective relationships across a diverse portfolio of internal and external stakeholders.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

VIRGINIA PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY (VPRA) | Richmond, VA | 2021 - Present *Executive Director*

Accountable for all strategy, policy development, and operations of the Authority, which is tasked with managing all administrative and fiduciary activities for Virginia's state-supported passenger rail services. Plans and manages the capital delivery of a \$4 billion project portfolio, including railroad bridges, infrastructure, and vertical construction.

- As the first Executive Director and first employee of VPRA, managed the startup activities of the authority to include developing organizational structure, strategy, policies, and procedures, and most importantly, setting (and modeling) the tone for corporate culture.
- Stood up organization while continuing progress on projects, negotiating with freight and passenger railroads to add new passenger services on or ahead of schedule.
- Achieved record passenger rail ridership in both 2022 and 2023, exceeding pre-Covid ridership levels by as much as 38 percent.

AMTRAK (NRPC) | Washington DC | 2009 - 2020 *Executive Vice President, Chief Administration Officer*

Led administrative functions of \$3B U.S. national passenger railroad, overseeing human resources, labor relations, police, corporate security, real estate, stations and facilities, and procurement and logistics. Served as executive leadership team member, developing and delivering strategy across 20,000 employees in 46 states.

BOARD

POSITIONS

Wi-Tronix

Director

2021 – Present

Union Station Redevelopment Corporation

Vice Chairman

2017 - 2020

State Amtrak Intercity Passenger Rail Committee (SAIPRC)

Vice Chairman

2013 – 2017

Transportation Technology Center, Inc.

Director

Audit Committee

Finance Committee

2012 – 2017

EDUCATION

MBA, D'Amore-McKim School of Business

Northeastern University,
Boston, MA

BS, Business Management

Northeastern University,
Boston, MA

REFERENCES

Available upon request

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

AMTRAK (NRPC) | Washington DC | 2009 - 2020

Executive Vice President, Chief Administration Officer (con't)

- Saved over \$600M by successfully negotiating comprehensive labor agreements with 13 unions covering 17,500 employees, resolving three-year labor-management standoff and lapsed contract.
- Turned around struggling \$170M complex project to redevelop Amtrak’s key stations—New York City (Penn Station), Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, DC, and Chicago—reining in cost overruns and ending repeated delays to ensure the project was completed on time and budget.

Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer

Led Amtrak’s operations, providing executive oversight of 18,000+ employees covering transportation, mechanical, and engineering, operating more than 300 trains daily over 21,400 miles of track. Attracted and retained loyal customers and drove revenue growth by delivering safe, high-quality travel experiences to every customer.

- Asked to assume position temporarily by CEO to fix serious management deficiencies, led major reorganization of Operations that increased productivity by deploying more effective tools and processes, improving the corporation’s bottom line while maintaining the highest safety and security standards.
- Streamlined and consolidated complex and disparate reporting arrangements for each of 21 state-supported operations into one standardized reporting process, reducing administrative time by ~10% and allowing reporting automation.

Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer

Provided executive leadership and sound financial management in support of Amtrak’s strategic plan goals and objectives. Delivered timely and accurate financial information, sound accounting practices, efficient treasury services, and effective financial planning. Led procurement functions, real estate management, and development services.

- Turned around substandard performance in financial reporting, restoring transparency and integrity to a process that had repeatedly resulted in multiple material weaknesses identified during audits. Less than one year on the job reduced material weaknesses by 75% and then to zero in subsequent audits. Restored credibility of budget presentations, giving Congress confidence to increase previously flatlined appropriations.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | Washington DC | 1997 – 2008

Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Federal Railroad Administration

Director, Office of Budget, Federal Railroad Administration

Administrative Officer, Office of Commercial Space Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration

Senior Budget Analyst, Federal Railroad Administration

U.S. OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT | Washington DC | 1988 – 1997

Budget Analyst, Retirement, and Insurance Group



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

Tiffany Robinson
Chairperson

February 26, 2025

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

RE: Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Nomination

Dear Mr. O'Boyle,

I am honored to be nominated for a seat on the Passenger Rail Advisory Committee (PRAC) representing Virginia, a state that provides funding for intercity passenger rail.

This statement serves as my representation that I am willing to serve as a member of the PRAC; and that I agree to serve in a representative capacity.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please feel free to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DJ Stadtler", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

DJ Stadtler
Executive Director