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ASSOCIATON FOR INNOVATIVE PASSENGER RAIL OPERATIONS

The Future of Passenger Rail

February 25, 2025

Alfred P. Craig-PE, Chairman of the Board

Fred.craig@transdev.com -202 309 4614

Ray Chambers, President

Ray.chambers@aiprorail.org -202 257 4099

Re: Surface Transportation Board Decision – Docket No. EP 774 (Sub-No. 1) –
Notice of Passenger Rail Advisory Committee Vacancy – Dated January 28, 2025
Attention Mai T. Dinh, Director – Office of Proceedings

February 25, 2025

To Whom It May Concern:

The Association for Innovative Passenger Rail Operations (AIPRO) is dedicated to the expansion of intercity passenger rail service. We believe PRAC can play a key role in recommending policies that lead to world class intercity passenger network across America. As Chairman and President of AIPRO, we request that a highly qualified candidate be named to this vacancy.

There are several excellent candidates we would be pleased to support. This position is for a representative from a state funding intercity passenger rail. It is our understanding that Chad Edison, Chief Deputy Secretary for Rail & Transit, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) has been nominated for this position. We have worked with Chad over many years, and feel he is outstanding in the field. He has developed creative solutions in his oversight of the Joint Powers Authorities resulting in world class corridor operations across the Capitol Corridor, San Joaquin Corridor, and the costal Pacific Surfliner from San Diego to San Louis Obispo. These three intercity corridors are among the busiest in the nation with on-time performance exceeding 90%. One key to his success has been the interaction with host railroads, particularly the Union Pacific and Burlington Northern. Direct access agreements negotiated on commercial terms encompass trackage fees, on-time performance, and other metrics and standards. Deploying this direct access model has yielded high-performance intercity passenger rail services while also enhancing freight throughput. Coordination between the intercity operations and commuter, such as with the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE), has been a win-win. Chad's creative approaches have resulted in on high on-time performance exceeding 90%. While there are outstanding leaders managing state-supported intercity corridors across the United States, we do not believe there is any individual who has accomplished more.

Chad is also Chair of the APTA Intercity Passenger Rail Committee, on which Ray Chambers, ALPRO President, and Gerald Francis, ALPRO Board Member, serve on the Steering Committee. Much of the Nation's intercity passenger rail stakeholder community is on this committee. It will be a valuable resource for Chad as PRAC studies new ways to expand intercity passenger rail.

Based on this we believe Chad would have invaluable input in the PRAC. We ask that you to consider naming Chad Edison to the PRAC.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Fred Craig

Alfred P. Craig, Jr. -PE
Chairman of the Board

Ray Chambers

Ray B. Chambers
President