

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205
October 11, 2016

Ms. Sarah Feinberg
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Ms. Carolyn Flowers
Acting Administrator
Federal Transit Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Feinberg and Acting Administrator Flowers,

I write in support of the application submitted by New York State for funding from the Positive Train Control Grant Program through the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Funding will be used to facilitate the Hudson Line Positive Train Control Initiative.

Positive Train Control (PTC) systems are integrated command, control, communications, and information systems for controlling train movements with safety, security, precision, and efficiency. They are designed to prevent train to train collisions, derailments, and the movement of a train through a main line switch in the improper position. In December 2013, a train running from Poughkeepsie to Grand Central Terminal derailed, injuring approximately 150 people. The New York State Department of Transportation is working to prevent similar tragedies from occurring by integrating PTC throughout New York rail systems.

The requested funding will be used to bridge the gap in PTC coverage between the Empire Corridor South and the Empire Corridor West, and will provide for PTC deployment on the Amtrak section of the Empire Corridor. This project will put critical safety measures in place for the over 1.7 million people who travel on the Empire Corridor annually, as well as the railroad and utilities employees, and the surrounding communities that include Poughkeepsie, Rhinecliff, Hudson, Rensselaer, Albany, and Schenectady. The safety of the travelling public is of the utmost importance, and this funding will enable the Hudson Line to implement necessary protection measures on one of the busiest commuter corridors in the country.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Laura Driscoll at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator

cc: Matthew Driscoll, Commissioner of Transportation, New York State Department of Transportation