

# National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

777 North Capitol Street, N.E., Suite 300, Washington, D.C. 20002-4290 (202) 962-3310 Fax: (202) 962-3202 TDD: (202) 962-3213

September 16, 2009

Mr. Louis E. Renjel, Jr.  
Vice President, Strategic Infrastructure Initiatives  
CSX Transportation  
500 Water Street  
15<sup>th</sup> Floor, C-900  
Jacksonville, FL 32202

Dear Mr. Renjel,

Thank you for your June 26, 2009 letter to the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) regarding the CSX Transportation National Gateway Initiative. The TPB recognizes the need to address projected rapid growth in freight traffic in the coming decades, and appreciates the importance of an efficient freight rail system in supporting the economies of both the Washington metropolitan area and the nation as a whole. The TPB also recognizes that CSX has extensive rail facilities in and near our region, and that our region is strategically located in the middle of economically vital East Coast corridors. Rail service helps reduce the number of trucks that would otherwise travel through our area.

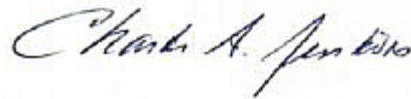
The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is pleased to join the Governors of Virginia and Maryland in support of the National Gateway Initiative in the upcoming Surface Transportation Authorization. We welcome the leveraging of significant private investment in this Initiative, along with potential funding from the new federal transportation authorization (recognizing that this does not include the current federal TIGER competitive grants, for which the region has identified other priorities). It is our expectation that in addition to improving freight rail movement through the region, the Initiative will accommodate increased passenger service by MARC, VRE, and Amtrak, specifically including the slots necessary to fulfill projections presented to the TPB on September 16, 2009.

The TPB notes that thirteen National Gateway projects fall within the Washington region. As this Initiative moves forward, we urge CSX to coordinate closely with TPB, MARC, Virginia Railway Express, Amtrak, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and state and local governments in the region to:

- ensure that local impacts are adequately addressed as these projects are developed, including noise, safety, and hazardous materials considerations; and
- continue and expand upon actions to relieve bottlenecks and conflicts between rail freight traffic and the passenger rail services provided by MARC, the Virginia Railway Express, and Amtrak.

The TPB agrees that the National Gateway Initiative will enhance the National Capital Region's ability to handle projected increases in freight traffic, reduce overall freight shipping costs, ease congestion and emissions, and minimize highway and road maintenance costs and delays. We look forward to working with CSX as the Initiative advances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Charles A. Jenkins". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Charles Jenkins  
Chairman  
National Capital Region  
Transportation Planning Board

cc:

Joseph Boardman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Amtrak  
Pierce Homer, Secretary, Virginia Department of Transportation  
Gabe Klein, Director, District Department of Transportation  
Ray LaHood, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
Beverly Swaim-Staley, Secretary, Maryland Department of Transportation  
Paul Wiedefeld, Administrator, Maryland Transit Administration  
Dale Zehner, Chief Executive Officer, Virginia Railway Express