



STATE OF VERMONT
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 4, 2026

David Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink:

I am writing to express the Vermont House of Representatives Committee on Transportation's strong support for the grant application being submitted by Amtrak, in partnership with a coalition of State-Supported Intercity Passenger Rail sponsors, for National Railroad Partnership Program (NRPP) funding to procure additional rolling stock for State-supported services. This collaborative application reflects Amtrak's close working relationship with states across the country and its commitment to acquiring the equipment needed to maintain and expand passenger rail service well into the future.

NRPP funding will help acquire new rail equipment to replace aging legacy fleet vehicles nearing the end of their useful life. While some Airo equipment orders are already underway, significant unmet needs remain. Modernizing the fleet by acquiring additional Airo equipment will:

- improve the state of good repair;
- reduce operating and maintenance costs;
- increase service reliability; and
- provide passengers with modern safety features and amenities.

These improvements directly support the continued success of Vermont's State-supported services, the Vermonter and the Ethan Allen. Additional trainsets will increase equipment availability, allowing for potential service expansion, more frequent trains, and improved schedule flexibility. These enhancements will strengthen the State's economy by:

- boosting tourism to destinations across Vermont;
- improving access to health care for residents who rely on intercity passenger rail;
- improving Vermonters' access to cities along the Northeast Corridor; and
- expanding job access and economic opportunities for Vermont communities served by Amtrak.

An additional significant component of this proposal is that Amtrak's procurement will comply fully with federal Buy America requirements, ensuring that new trains are manufactured in the United States. Purchasing new trains built in the United States will stimulate economic activity nationwide, creating jobs in advanced manufacturing and transportation. This commitment directly supports American workers, strengthens domestic supply chains, and generates well-paying jobs in manufacturing and related sectors, benefiting local and regional economies throughout the United States.

We fully support this NRPP grant application and are confident that securing these funds will lead to meaningful improvements in passenger rail service both in Vermont and across the country while meeting long-term mobility, economic, and infrastructure needs.

Sincerely,

Rep. Matt Walker, Chair, House Committee on Transportation