

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the Commissioner

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November 7, 2012

Mr. Joseph C. Szabo Administrator U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Szabo:

I am pleased to submit to you the 2012-2016 Connecticut State Rail Plan produced in compliance with the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA), Public Law 110-432. The Plan contains Connecticut's mission, vision, and values for rail transportation's role in an intermodal network.

The Plan provides an overview and inventory of the commuter, intercity, and freight rail system and facilities in Connecticut, the services provided, and the asset condition and constraints. It aims to support Connecticut's role in developing a growing, interconnected rail system with adjoining states and to advance high-speed, intercity and freight investments in the region.

The Plan presents strategies and programs focused on ensuring that the existing passenger and freight rail infrastructure is maintained in a state of good repair, with another tier of investments aimed at maximizing the potential of current and future rail services.

The Plan outlines a Long-Range Service and Investment Program utilizing a twenty-year planning horizon (2012-2032) that provides the full extent of the state's rail program including costs, strategies, and steps for maintaining and expanding the system.

The development of this Plan began in 2009 and is the result of extensive outreach and coordination with stakeholders and the public. Additionally, state legislation required a public hearing on the draft Plan at the Connecticut General Assembly prior to it being finalized.

The Connecticut Department of Transportation looks forward to working with the Federal Railroad Administration on implementing the contents of the 2012-2016 Connecticut State Rail Plan.

Sincerely,

James Redeker Commissioner

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