

U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Railroad Administration
Mr. Amit Bose
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20590

March 6, 2023

Dear Administrator Bose,

The Pensacola City Council submits this letter in enthusiastic support of the Northwest Florida Passenger Rail Corridor, Corridor ID grant program application. Widely known for our white sand beaches, our welcoming business climate, our family friendly atmosphere, and our rich cultural heritage, the City of Pensacola is proud to join with our regional neighbors and partners to lead the effort of reinstating passenger rail service to Northwest Florida.

We seek to continue the natural evolution of passenger rail service that the Southern Rail Commission (SRC) has worked tirelessly to achieve with the imminent reinstatement of service from New Orleans to Mobile. The City of Pensacola intends to submit a Corridor ID grant application to continue service from Mobile to Tallahassee.

Passenger rail service through Northwest Florida would not only support tourism travel by providing an alternate means of transportation where there are currently no options other than vehicle travel, opening the opportunity for Floridians to experience the culture of New Orleans, and for those from New Orleans to travel to the pristine beaches of Northwest Florida, but would connect the rural areas of northwest Florida to the rest of the world providing economic opportunity to pockets of poverty. Passenger rail would provide mobility to those without reliable vehicles, college students, and the elderly needing to travel for medical care. The benefits are numerous, and as evidence by the community support at each and every stop during the 2016 promotional ride through northwest Florida, the demand is here.

We encourage your support of the Northwest Florida Passenger Rail Corridor grant application, and we can't wait to get started!

Respectfully,

Delarian Wiggins
Council President