



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

April 17, 2025

Mr. Roger Harris
President
Amtrak
1 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Subject: Reconstruction and Expansion of Penn Station New York

Dear Mr. Harris:

As you are aware, on November 15, 2024, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) announced it selected (i) Amtrak to receive Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) grant funding under its Federal-State Partnership for Intercity Passenger Rail Program for the Northeast Corridor (FSP-NEC) for project development activities for the proposed Penn Station Capacity Expansion project (Penn-X), and (ii) the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York (MTA) to receive FY24 FSP-NEC funding for project development activities for the proposed Penn Station Reconstruction project (Penn-R).

At the time of the FY24 FSP-NEC selection announcement, FRA informed Amtrak and MTA it would be necessary to perform additional analyses and conduct stakeholder and public outreach prior to FRA making class of action determinations and initiating the environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for Penn-X and Penn-R. FRA has determined the necessary planning for reconstruction and expansion of Penn Station will be conducted under a single grant, led by Amtrak. To that end, this letter is to inform Amtrak, as a courtesy, that FRA is withdrawing its selection of the Penn-R project for project development activities under the FY24 FSP-NEC program.

In addition, FRA believes robust planning is necessary to ensure service objectives and preliminary alternatives are based on updated ridership and operations analyses, as well as build stakeholder support. FRA will work with Amtrak to assess and evaluate regional service options to identify improvements with the goal of optimizing service and recognizing fiscal constraints. FRA expects that Amtrak, in close coordination with FRA, will lead this effort. The additional planning work will help to ensure the success of this ambitious and transformative passenger rail improvement project while preserving accountability for any federal dollars that will be spent.

FRA will reduce the amount of the award of Amtrak's FY24 FSP-NEC grant by the appropriate amount to reflect the focus on planning for reconstruction and expansion of Penn Station.

FRA's mission to enable the safe, reliable, and efficient movement of people and goods for a strong America, now and in the future, includes modernization and expansion of the Nation's rail system. In implementing that mission, FRA is committed to ensuring that rail development projects, including those proposed for Penn Station New York, further the goal of achieving modern, efficient passenger rail service for the communities it serves.

FRA looks forward to advancing this important planning effort to ensure Penn Station meets the needs of the communities it serves, now and in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle Fields". The signature is written in a cursive style and is placed on a light blue rectangular background.

Kyle Fields
Chief Counsel