



# Texas Department of Transportation

DEWITT C. GREER STATE HIGHWAY BLDG. • 125 E. 11TH STREET • AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-2483 • (512) 463-8585

March 5, 2008

Michael W. Franke, P.E.  
Senior Director of Corridor Planning  
National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
525 West Van Buren Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60607

Dear Mr. Franke:

As discussed at the recent meeting held on February 11, 2008, and an earlier meeting with Amtrak senior management on October 19, 2007, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) is officially requesting the assistance of Amtrak to determine the feasibility of enhanced intercity passenger rail service in central Texas. Passenger rail service improvements between the large urban areas of San Antonio and Austin appear necessary to address the growing demand for regional intercity travel along this corridor.

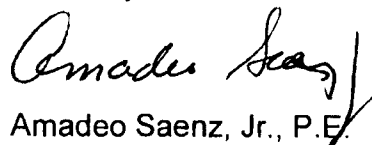
The minimum service requirements between these two urban areas should include six daily round-trips: two morning, one mid-day, two late afternoons, and one late evening. The service feasibility analysis Amtrak provides may be included as part of the Phase Three passenger rail component of the San Antonio regional freight study being conducted by TxDOT. Infrastructure and operations information along the currently utilized freight railroad subdivisions developed as part of the TxDOT study, as well as relevant demographic and socio-economic data prepared for other transportation studies for the region may be available upon request. We will look to Amtrak to provide all other elements of the study to address necessary rail infrastructure improvements, capital and operating costs, ridership, revenue, train schedules and all other items needed to ascertain the feasibility of Amtrak operated intercity passenger rail service in this corridor.

It would be helpful to receive information from the study no later than October 2008 in order to make the results of the study available to the Texas Legislature prior to their upcoming regular session that begins in January 2009.

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If you agree to provide assistance, please provide TxDOT with a scope of work, cost estimate and approximate timeline for completion of this analysis. Please contact Jennifer Moczygema either by email at [jmoczyg@dot.state.tx.us](mailto:jmoczyg@dot.state.tx.us) or by telephone at (512) 486-5127 to further coordinate the details.

Sincerely,

  
Amadeo Saenz, Jr., P.E.  
Executive Director