



**STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE**  
SUITE 700, JAMES K. POLK BUILDING  
505 DEADERICK STREET  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37243-1402  
(615) 741-2848

**BUTCH ELEY**  
DEPUTY GOVERNOR &  
COMMISSIONER OF TRANSPORTATION

**BILL LEE**  
GOVERNOR

December 15, 2022

Mr. Paul Nissenbaum  
Associate Administrator, Office of Railroad Policy and Development  
Federal Railroad Administration  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Federal Rail Administration (FRA) Docket No. FRA-2022-0031 Expression of Interest

Dear Mr. Nissenbaum:

The State of Tennessee is currently conducting a statewide study on the potential for passenger rail service linking the major cities in each of the grand divisions of the state. This study, commissioned by the Tennessee Legislature last session, is being conducted by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (TACIR) with a study completion date by July 1, 2023.

Currently the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) is also in the process of exploring options on how best to respond to growing transportation congestion in Tennessee's major urban areas and along major commuting and commerce routes in both urban and rural areas of the state. All options are on the table as we assess how best to meet the state's growth, prosperity, and mobility needs.

While we are not in a position to submit a specific corridor for consideration as part of FRA's current corridor solicitation, we did want to submit a letter to your agency to let you know that there is great interest in Tennessee when it comes to passenger rail. Once the TACIR study is complete and provided to the Legislature, TDOT and others will evaluate the results, assess next steps, and best determine Tennessee's ability to participate in future corridor identification solicitations by FRA.

We appreciate the efforts of FRA on the Corridor Identification and Development Program and the outreach and engagement that you and your staff have provided to our state. We look forward to continued dialog on the potential for increased passenger rail services in Tennessee and our participation in the Corridor Identification Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard H. Eley".

Howard H. Eley  
Commissioner