



NORTHEAST CORRIDOR COMMISSION

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March 29, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

On behalf of the Northeast Corridor Commission, I am pleased to deliver both the *Fiscal Year 2018 Northeast Corridor Annual Report: Operations and Infrastructure* and the *Northeast Corridor Capital Investment Plan: Fiscal Years 2020 to 2024*. These documents satisfy requirements of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act and the Northeast Corridor Commuter and Intercity Rail Cost Allocation Policy.

The Northeast Corridor continues to average over 800,000 trips each day on eight commuter railroads and Amtrak's intercity services, connecting commuters, students, business travelers, families, and friends to their destinations. However, the aging condition of the corridor is evident and, as described in the FY18 Annual Report, one circuit failure or one downed electrical wire can affect dozens of trains, causing hundreds of train delay minutes – which are multiplied across thousands of passengers. Planning efforts to reverse the decades of neglect are reflected in the FY20-FY24 Capital Investment Plan.

The Commission will continue to support Amtrak and commuter rail operators' efforts to improve capital planning and project delivery so that agencies are able to efficiently invest the higher levels of funding needed to restore the NEC to a state of good repair and improve service reliability. We thank you for your support in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitch Warren". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mitch Warren
Executive Director
Northeast Corridor Commission