

May 10th, 2024

The Honorable Jack Marchbanks  
Director, Ohio Department of Transportation  
1980 West Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43223



Director Marchbanks,

We write you to formally express the strong interest and support of key leaders from within business, higher education, economic development, nonprofit, and local government entities from across the Akron-Canton region to include a new Amtrak stop within our area as part of the 3C+D Corridor plan. In doing so, we commit to working with the Ohio Department of Transportation and Ohio Rail Development Commission on further exploring opportunities to connect our region to other parts of the state through new passenger rail service.

As you know, the current 3C+D Corridor plan does not include a stop in the Akron-Canton region, despite it being the fourth most highly populated area in the state (only behind Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati). In Amtrak's public communications about the proposed 3C+D Corridor, it states that population density, connectivity to higher education, proximity to Fortune 500 companies, and traffic congestion as some of the top factors which informed the current plan. We are confident that the Akron-Canton region can make a compelling argument on how we satisfy these factors and hope you will provide us with an opportunity to discuss our position. Until then, please consider the following information related to the above factors.

**First**, Akron-Canton is the fourth largest region in Ohio with a population of 1,103,793 across the Akron and Canton-Massillon MSAs (which include Summit, Portage, Stark, and Carroll Counties). **Second**, we have five institutions of higher education, with over 60,000 students in combined enrollment at Kent State University, the University of Akron, Walsh University, Malone University, and Stark State College. **Third**, the Akron-Canton region has three Fortune 500 companies, Goodyear, FirstEnergy and The Timken Company, several healthcare systems, and over 1,700 manufacturing companies. **Fourth**, both Akron and Canton have significant issues related to traffic congestion for residents who utilize the Akron Central Interchange and State Routes 21 and 30. A new mode of transportation, such as passenger rail service, could help alleviate this – especially for those who are crossing county lines for work.

Beyond the four factors identified above, we know from [Amtrak's Vision for Improving Transportation Across America](#) that they view the right conditions for expansion in terms of economic impact, new and existing jobs in the area, environment and transportation equity, connection to higher education/business/community, advancing sustainability, traffic congestion, and demographics. If given the opportunity to discuss potentially including a stop in the Akron-Canton region, we commit to helping assemble the required information and data points in a good faith effort to see if it makes sense.

Akron and Canton have always been deeply connected in respect to our shared airport, roadways, cultural assets, industry footprint, and commuter interchange rates. More recently, there has been

a recognition of these connective tissues, which led a more proactive approach from our communities to work more closely together on big issues such as this. Ensuring the Akron-Canton region has an opportunity to be included in Ohio's proposed Amtrak expansion plans is something our stakeholders feel strongly about, and we're ready to collaborate on next steps.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. We hope to talk with you soon and thank you in advance for your consideration of our position and request.

Sincerely,

**Renato Camacho**  
President & CEO  
Akron-Canton Regional Airport

**Dr. Cliff Deveny**  
President & CEO  
Summa Health

**Chris Gessner**  
President & CEO  
Akron Children's Hospital

**Jason Butterworth, J.D.**  
Attorney  
Brennan, Manna & Diamond, LLC

**Jim Mullen**  
President & CEO  
United Way of Summit & Medina

**B. Patel**  
Principal  
Green Harvest Capital

**Steve Millard**  
President & CEO  
Greater Akron Chamber

**Tim Maloney**  
President  
Canton Chair Rental

**Dr. Gary Miller**  
President  
The University of Akron

**Shammas Malik**  
Mayor  
City of Akron

**Jeff Dafler**  
President & CEO  
Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce

**Tony Costanzo**  
AT&T Director, External Affairs  
AT&T (Cleveland/Northern Ohio)

**Ilene Shapiro**  
County Executive  
County of Summit

**Dwayne Groll**  
CEO & Chairman of the Board  
Environmental Design Group

**Jason Dodson**  
Shareholder  
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**Gust Callas**  
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**Rich Fry**  
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**Tia Ramlow**  
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**John Rizzo**  
Vice President  
Akron-Canton Advocacy Alliance