



## THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON DC 20590

April 14, 2011

Mr. Robert A. Scardelletti  
International President  
Transportation Communications International Union  
3 Research Place  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Scardelletti:

Thank you for your letter requesting that I consider redistributing Federal funding that had been allocated to Florida under the High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail (HSIPR) Program to the Northeast Corridor.

On March 11, the U.S. Department of Transportation announced that approximately \$2.4 billion would be made available through a competitive, merit-driven process to States and other eligible applicants to develop high-speed rail corridors across the United States. This amount is subject to change pending the passage of the Fiscal Year 2011 appropriations bill. Applications for the additional high-speed rail funding were due on April 4, 2011, as described in detail in our Notice of Funding Availability at [www.fra.dot.gov/rpd/passenger/477.shtml](http://www.fra.dot.gov/rpd/passenger/477.shtml).

On March 14, 2011, I designated the Northeast Corridor as the eleventh and final high-speed rail corridor, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 104(d)(2). This designation will ensure that the Northeast Corridor, which spans the mega-region between Boston and Washington, DC, will be eligible to apply for funding from all existing Federal high-speed and intercity passenger rail programs, including Section 501 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008.

President Obama's bold vision is to connect 80 percent of Americans to high-speed rail within the next 25 years. To put America on track to meet that goal, the Administration has proposed a Fiscal Year 2012 budget that includes a 6-year, \$53 billion rail plan that will create jobs, reinvigorate our manufacturing sector, and spur economic development for years to come. Many States across the country are actively embracing that vision and seeking to deliver the far-reaching economic benefits of high-speed rail to their citizens.

I appreciate your interest in the HSIPR Program and I look forward to its success along the Northeast Corridor and throughout the Nation.

Sincerely yours,



Ray LaHood