



March 6, 2019

Commissioner Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti
NJ Dept. of Transportation

Mr. Kevin Corbett, Ex. Director
NJ Transit

Dear Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti and Mr. Corbett,

The Raritan Valley Line Mayors Alliance, a bipartisan group of 31 mayors representing more than 23,000 daily commuters, has met and corresponded with NJ Transit officials regarding return of off-peak direct trains and the goal of getting three one-seat rides during peak hours and on weekends. We appreciate the time you have given us, but an important request remains unanswered.

Our Senate representatives wrote to you on December 7, 2018 requesting a feasibility study on implementing weekday peak period one seat service. As you know, commuting on the RVL means changing platforms and trains in Newark typically adding 35 minutes each way.

During the many years advocating for this service, there has been tremendous growth on the RVL with more than 8,000 new units planned along the line. Despite a growing ridership that equals or surpasses some other lines, RVL still does not have even one direct train into NY Penn during the peak hour. We know this lack of service has a direct impact on the desirability of our towns, home values and quality of life for our residents.

Our constituents have been further inconvenienced since the off-peak direct trains were suspended. We fully understood and supported the Positive Train Control installation but await confirmation this service will resume and when. As you can imagine, there was considerable disappointment and frustration upon hearing two other suspended lines would return to the schedule but no definitive information about the RVL.

With no regular one-seat rides, the off-peak service made some difference and we urge you to return them to service.

We are eager to meet with you to facilitate the return of off-peak trains as soon as possible and continue the work necessary to achieve our goal of one seat rides for your customers who use the Raritan Valley Line.

Respectfully,

Co-Chairs, Raritan Valley Line Mayors Alliance

Robert Fazen
Mayor, Bound Brook

Colleen Mahr
Mayor, Fanwood

Shelley Brindle
Mayor, Westfield

CC: Senator Christopher Bateman
Senator Joseph Cryan
Senator Patrick Diegnan
Senator Michael Doherty
Senator Thomas Kean
Senator Nicholas Scutari
Senator Robert Smith