

February 28, 2019

Kevin S. Corbett
Executive Director
New Jersey Transit
One Penn Plaza East
Newark, New Jersey 07105-2246

Re: Raritan Valley Line One Seat Ride

Dear Director Corbett:

Thank you for your letter dated January 17, 2019, which responded to our correspondence of December 7, 2018, regarding implementing one-seat ride service on the Raritan Valley Line. While your response is appreciated, it perhaps raised more questions than it answered.

In the letter, you indicated that New Jersey Transit continues to explore possible avenues for expanding one-seat service on the RVL, and that you directed NJT staff to update their work in that regard. We would like an in-depth briefing on the avenues that have been and are continuing to be explored in that regard. We are particularly interested in understanding the operational and budgetary issues that are involved in implementing shoulder-peak and weekend direct rail service on the RVL.

You further indicated that the distribution of ridership on the RVL versus other lines has thus far made reassignment of peak period slots infeasible. We would like a fuller explanation and more detail as to why this is the case, as well an understanding of what efforts have been made to determine the number of riders from towns adjacent to the RVL who have chosen other rail lines or other modes of transportation because of RVL's lack of a one-seat ride.

Additionally, you noted that previous staff work developed cost estimates for implementing RVL one-seat rides, and that you directed staff to update those estimates. Given current FY2020 budget discussions, we would like to discuss those cost estimates in order to get a better understanding of the budgetary impact for implementing one-seat ride service.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet face-to-face to discuss the above and other topics. We look forward to working with you to find mutually convenient dates in the coming month.

On behalf of the more than 23,000 RVL riders, thank you for your leadership on these important issues, and we look forward to meeting with you.

Very truly yours,

Sen. Christopher Bateman, 16th District

Sen. Robert Smith, 17th District

Sen. Patrick Diegnan, 18th District

Sen. Joseph Cryan, 20th District

Sen. Thomas Kean, 21st District

Sen. Nicholas Scutari, 22nd District

Sen. Michael Doherty, 23rd District

cc: Hon. Diane Guterrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner
Hon. Stephen M. Sweeney, Senate President
Hon. Patrick J. Diegnan Jr., Senate Transportation Comm. Chair
RVL Mayor's Alliance Co-Chairs
Bound Brook Mayor Robert Fazen
Fanwood Mayor Colleen Mahr
Westfield Mayor Shelley Brindle