



Anne Witt
Vice President, Strategic Partnerships

August 20, 2008

Honorable Lyndo Tippet
Secretary
North Carolina Department of Transportation
1501 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1501

Dear Secretary Tippet:

Thank you for your recent letter to Amtrak President Alex Kummant announcing the State of North Carolina's desire to add additional state-supported Amtrak service between Raleigh and Charlotte. Alex has asked my department to take the lead in assisting the NCDOT Rail Division to inaugurate this service in a timely manner. We have already begun the process of bringing this additional service to reality with an initial meeting to establish a process and timeline.

You are correct in identifying the hiring and training of federally certified locomotive engineers as a time consuming process. However, given the relative small number of additional employees that are needed to operate the service, our Transportation Department has already added the necessary positions to our most recent engineers and conductors training classes and we therefore anticipate having these resources available in a timely matter.

We understand that NCDOT must refurbish some of its equipment fleet prior to beginning the new service and that this process will likely be complete in March and likely defines the critical path to an anticipated start date.

I look forward to working with you and being on-board the newest Piedmont frequency for its inaugural run next spring.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anne Witt", written over a circular stamp or mark.

Anne Witt
Vice President, Strategic Partnerships

cc: Alex Kummant