



**AmeriStarRail**

*Transportation Innovation*

June 30, 2025

Mr. Roger Harris  
President  
National Railroad Passenger Corporation  
1 Massachusetts Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Harris,

AmeriStarRail (ASR) is an LLC based in Wilmington, Delaware that has developed a number of innovative infrastructure and operating solutions to improve Amtrak's Northeast Corridor rail passenger service utilizing private financing. Our proposed initiatives to improve Amtrak's efficiency, marketshare and utilization of federal infrastructure funds include serving Coach passengers on all Amtrak high-speed trains, the Baltimore Grand Slam tunnels and a bi-level Susquehanna River bridge which will eliminate the most congested junction with freight trains on the Northeast Corridor at Perryville, Maryland.

AmeriStarRail has also developed innovative solutions to operate Amtrak's long distance trains profitably. We propose teaming with Amtrak to demonstrate our privately financed operation of a new long distance train, coast-to-coast, to coincide with the celebrations of America's 250th birthday next year. AmeriStarRail proposes that the train be named and operated as *The Transcontinental Chief* to honor the Native American heritage of our great nation.

*The Transcontinental Chief* will revolutionize rail passenger and express logistics services with the transportation innovation of operating a combined service for passengers, Auto Train capacity for cars, vans, motorcycles, RVs and charter motorcoaches as well as intermodal express service to carry entire tractor trailers coast-to-coast in less than 72 hours. Utilizing the efficiency of roll-on, roll-off (RORO) loading of railroad flatcars for trucks at RailPorts, Amtrak's statutory rights to carry express shipments will also offer a rolling truck stop solution for truckers to rest onboard Amtrak trains while covering 200 - 500 miles during their required 10 hour rest period.

Utilizing Amtrak's Superliner fleet, the new train would replace *The Southwest Chief* and *The Pennsylvanian* providing transcontinental service between Los Angeles and New York City via Chicago, Harrisburg and Reading. New York will be served from Hoboken Terminal due to the New York Penn Station tunnel restrictions for the bilevel Superliners. A single level train section from Harrisburg will also serve Washington, DC via Philadelphia (See attached route map).

Because *The Transcontinental Chief* will use existing TTX flatcars, auto carriers, Amtrak locomotives and passenger cars on a route that is mostly double tracked, service could begin as early as next year on National Train Day, Sunday, May 10, 2026 just in time to welcome travelers for America 250 events and the 2026 FIFA World Cup. This start date is subject to the approval of the host railroads BNSF, Norfolk Southern and New Jersey Transit.

AmeriStarRail's proprietary innovation in five key areas, Service, Marketing, Technology, the Organization and Safety creates the ability to transform Amtrak's money losing long distance trains into profitable train service for passengers and intermodal express. Some of the innovative results that can be achieved by AmeriStarRail teaming with Amtrak to operate *The Transcontinental Chief* include:

#### **Service**

- Coast-to-Coast Amtrak through service: Los Angeles to New York in less than 72 hours
- Chief Class: a private railroad car on selected trips of *The Transcontinental Chief*
- Auto Train service: New York, Chicago, the Grand Canyon and Los Angeles
- Intermodal Express service for tractor trailer trucks
- New Amtrak service in Pennsylvania at Lebanon, Reading and Bethlehem and at Hoboken, New Jersey
- ASR proprietary operating techniques will help prevent the chronic train delays and service disruptions of Amtrak's previous inefficient operation of lengthy trains for Mail and Express services

## Marketing

- Opportunity for tourists to travel across the country on a transcontinental train for America's 250th Birthday
- Air/Rail packages for tourists to see America by train one-way and return by plane
- Transcontinental Auto Train service
- Opportunities for 2026 FIFA World Cup tourists to see America coast-to-coast on a single train
- Up to two kids (under 18) ride free in Coach with the purchase of an Adult or Senior Citizen Coach ticket

## Technology

- Intermodal Express service uses TTX flatcars and auto carriers for roll-on/roll-off (RORO) operations
- RailPorts provide truckers with access to Intermodal Express flatcars and Amtrak passenger coach, sleeper and dining services as they travel 200 - 500 miles during their required 10 hour rest period
- RORO techniques minimizes terminal times at the RailPorts for Intermodal Express shipments
- Improved cargo theft security for Intermodal Express shipments

## The Organization

- RailPort personnel provide valet service for Auto Train operations and as needed for Intermodal Express truckers
- Joint labor/management Service Quality Program will improve Amtrak service quality

## Safety

- Intermodal Express service on *The Transcontinental Chief* provides a rolling rest stop for truckers who need a safe alternative to the nationwide truck parking shortage for the federally required 10 hour rest period; according to the USDOT, solutions for truck parking are a national priority under "Jason's Law"
- Coast-to-Coast Auto Train service reduces long drives for those traveling by car, motorcycle, bus or RVs

As mentioned in our May 1, 2025 update letter, AmeriStarRail is on track to complete our alternative Bi-Level Trainset Arrangements for Amtrak's future Long Distance Fleet no later than October 1, 2025. We are developing a magnificent trainset design with features and amenities to ensure that Amtrak passengers will have the finest trains available for travel across America.

*The Transcontinental Chief* will be a great opportunity for Amtrak to team up with the private sector to confront the challenges of its money losing long distance trains and create opportunities to usher in a profitable Golden Age of rail travel for passengers and truckers, with the ingenuity of free enterprise, as we celebrate our great nation's 250th birthday next year.

We look forward to putting together a mutually beneficial, privately funded proposal for *The Transcontinental Chief* for Amtrak to consider.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Spencer  
Chief Operating Officer

Cc:

President Donald J. Trump  
Department of Government Efficiency  
USDOT Secretary Sean Duffy  
Members of Congress  
Federal Railroad Administration  
BNSF, NS and New Jersey Transit



# The Transcontinental Chief

Proposed Coast-to-Coast Amtrak Train

SUBJECT TO OPERATING AGREEMENTS WITH HOST RAILROADS



**Proposed Route of The Transcontinental Chief**

- Combined Train (Los Angeles-Harrisburg)
- Broadway Section (Harrisburg-NYC/Hoboken Terminal)
- Capitol Section (Harrisburg-Washington DC)
- SELECT KEY STATIONS
- OTHER STATIONS
- Other Amtrak Routes



INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OF AmeriStarRail, LLC