THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON DC 20590

March 14, 2011

The Honorable David Cicilline
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cicilline:

I am pleased to inform you that I have designated the Northeast Corridor as the eleventh and final High-Speed Rail corridor, pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 104(d)(2). This designation includes the existing Northeast Corridor main rail line and any alternative routings for train service between the metropolitan areas of Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; New York, New York; and Boston, Massachusetts.

This designation will ensure that States in the Northeast Corridor, which spans the mega-region between Boston and Washington, D.C., will be eligible to apply for funding from existing Federal high-speed and intercity passenger rail programs, including Section 501 of the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008.

President Obama has developed a bold plan to connect 80 percent of Americans to high-speed rail within the next 25 years. As the population grows, funding for this plan will help address the Nation's transportation challenges by creating investments in an efficient network of passenger rail corridors that connect communities across the country. As we work together to realize these goals, the designation as a High-Speed Rail corridor will provide new avenues for funding to improve railway infrastructure along the Northeast Corridor, which includes the most densely populated area of the United States.

Sincerely yours,

Ray LaHood