

May 26, 2006

Mr. Joe McHugh  
Vice President of Governmental Affairs  
Amtrak  
60 Massachusetts Avenue, NE  
Washington, D.C.20002

Subject: Leon County Railroad Station Utilization by National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak)

Dear Mr. McHugh:

The City of Tallahassee has recently been notified that Amtrak is considering a permanent service discontinuation of Amtrak's Sunset Limited Express, which currently serves Tallahassee and Leon County residents as well as citizens from north Florida and southern Georgia and Alabama. We are concerned about this decision and the limitations that it will provide to citizens who have depended on Amtrak to transport them to destinations both east and west of Tallahassee, as well as the obstacles it may present to visitors who wish to come to our community. This potential scenario is exacerbated by the fact that air service is limited and generally cost prohibitive for short destinations and for many would-be travelers. As such, Tallahassee has always appreciated the service that the Sunset Express has offered as an affordable alternative form of transportation to our citizens and visitors.

While the City well understands the need to operate in a fiscally prudent manner, we hope that you will look at the impacts that permanent service discontinuance would cause. We would appreciate it if you would consider these issues in your decision-making, and advise us of your plans accordingly. Note that we will also be contacting our Congressional delegation regarding this matter.

We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter of community-wide importance and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

John R. Marks, III  
Mayor  
City of Tallahassee

Cc: Members of the City Commission  
Anita R. Favors, City Manager  
Michael Wright, Assistant City Manager  
Dinah Hart, Senior Aide to the Mayor