



Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
SUPERVISOR
CHAIRMAN, MTA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 2, 2013

Michael P. Melaniphy, President
American Public Transportation Association
1666 K Street, 11th Floor
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Melaniphy:

I am writing in my capacity as both the Chairman of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) and a Board member of the Southern California Regional Rail Authority (Metrolink) to urge the American Public Transportation Association (APTA) to support maintaining the December 31, 2015 Federal deadline for the implementation of Positive Train Control (PTC) and to ensure that any alternative PTC technology that is considered be interoperable with PTC and meet the same safety benefits offered by this critical safety measure.

It is my understanding that APTA, at its annual Legislative Conference, considered changes to its legislative program that would permit the use of alternative technologies to satisfy the PTC mandate included in the Rail Safety Improvement Act (RSIA) of 2008. I am opposed to any policy that may serve to weaken the intent of the PTC provisions of the RSIA.

The September 12, 2008 head-on collision between Metrolink Train #111 and a Union Pacific freight train that claimed the lives of 25 people and injured over 100 more provided a tragic example of how human error can transform the daily movement of hundreds of commuter and freight trains on Southern California's interoperable rail system into a deadly accident. In the wake of this tragedy, Metrolink and its legislative partners set forth a national initiative to implement new technology called PTC that uses global positioning satellite navigation to communicate with train operators, and provide warnings should trains enter into restricted areas and override operations to stop the train to prevent such an accident from happening again.

I fully support maintaining the December 31, 2015 Federal deadline for the implementation of PTC and strongly urge APTA to ensure that any alternative PTC technology that is considered be interoperable with PTC and meet the same safety benefits offered by this critical safety measure.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of my correspondence on this important rail safety issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Antonovich".

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Chairman, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority