



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ALBANY, N.Y. 12232
www.nysdot.gov

ASTRID C. GLYNN
COMMISSIONER

DAVID A. PATERSON
GOVERNOR

February 2009

Dear Governor Paterson:

I am pleased to submit to you the *2009 New York State Rail Plan*, the State's first in 22 years. This Plan articulates a vision for New York's future rail transportation system that will make it a preferred choice for travelers and shippers, connecting New York's cities and businesses to the national and international transportation network. The Plan identifies a set of strategies and initiatives aimed at achieving this vision, and is a blueprint to guide planning and investment for the State's passenger and freight rail system for the next 20 years.

The Plan stresses our continuing commitment to the State's extensive rail transportation infrastructure. It discusses the importance of providing mobility for people and goods in an energy efficient manner to improve the state's economy and support future economic development. The Plan recognizes that the State's rail system serves businesses and industries, that it creates jobs for New Yorkers, and also transports many of the goods that we use each day. New York State's strong support for rail reflects the fact that rail consumes less energy and produces fewer emissions than other modes. The Plan advocates a continued partnership and increased collaboration between government and both private and public rail operators. Together, we seek to cooperatively make the strategic investments that will enable the freight and passenger rail system to enhance New York's transportation network and help the State better compete in the global economy.

This Plan is the product of extensive participation from the public and the rail industry. The draft Plan was released in June 2008, and four public informational workshops were then held across the State. Many comments were received and used in preparing this final document.

The final Plan presents a compilation of rail freight and passenger needs and a recommended investment policy that will guide our funding decisions for the next 20 years. A proposed investment program for rail passenger service, as required by recently enacted federal legislation, is included in the Plan, as well as a broader companion capital investment program to guide future freight rail improvements. The Plan looks to a time when the resources may be available – constrained as they are now and may be for some time – and seeks to get us ready to deliver rail improvements as part of the economic recovery for which we are all striving.

I hope that you, other elected officials, the rail industry, and other stakeholders find this plan informative and useful.

Sincerely,

Astrid C. Glynn
Commissioner