



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

OFFICE OF  
SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION

P. O. Box 3151  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105-3151  
September 23, 2005

Mr. Rick Booth  
4641 Yates Road  
Bensalem, PA 19020

Dear Mr. Booth:

This is in response to your letter of September 10 to Secretary Biehler regarding Amtrak's proposed intention of ceasing service at the Cornwells Heights station. The Secretary has asked me to reply on his behalf.

The Secretary appreciates your interest in the provision of passenger rail service to commuters in the Philadelphia region, particularly those who travel longer distances to New York City. Obviously the Cornwells Heights/Bensalem area lies along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor (NEC). However, Amtrak's passenger service on the NEC does not receive Commonwealth operating subsidy. Our current subsidies cover only the expenses for certain trains along the Keystone Corridor between Philadelphia and Harrisburg. We are therefore not in a position to influence Amtrak regarding its operational decisions for that Corridor. In addition, we know of no such provision that funds made available for the upgrade of the Keystone Corridor are conditioned upon Amtrak's agreement to continue service to Cornwells Heights.

The Commonwealth acknowledges the rights of Amtrak's management to make such decisions as it believes are necessary for the continued operation of the passenger service. Fortunately for the commuters in the Bensalem area, Amtrak has decided recently to maintain service to the Cornwells Heights station. However, we encourage you to continue to make your concerns known to Amtrak's management regarding any scheduling adjustments. We commend you on your interest and ability in educating civic leaders and the public by using your website. We also support the idea of requesting more coordination between Amtrak and SEPTA regarding train schedules for the station. Schedules for both carriers are available on their respective websites.

Thank you for your continued commitment to public transportation in the Commonwealth. Questions regarding this letter may be directed to Calvin Cassidy at [ccassidy@state.pa.us](mailto:ccassidy@state.pa.us).

Sincerely,

Toby Fauver, A.I.C.P.  
Acting Deputy Secretary  
Local and Area Transportation