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Mr. John C. Driscoll
Director and CEO
Alabama State Port Authority
P.O. Box 1588
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Dear Mr. Driscoll

March 4, 2021

In response to your inquiry about where CSX stands as it relates to negotiations with Amtrak on the proposed new passenger service from New Orleans to Mobile, we remain ready to extend the study agreement and see it through to completion. As you are aware, the agreement was for a one-year term, expiring on January 24, 2021. At the time of expiration, we were in the final phase of the study. CSX has communicated its willingness to extend the agreement and complete the study to Amtrak, and we continue to be perplexed by their unwillingness to reinstate it.

As you are aware, this proposed new service involves two round trips per day over the 140-mile single track route on CSX's freight corridor between New Orleans and Mobile, which includes seven draw bridges and 170 at-grade crossings. We had been working cooperatively with Amtrak and Norfolk Southern on the study, which would determine the impacts to the Port of Mobile and many other freight customers. Previous assessments have included this corridor ((HDR 2016 study, 2017 Gulf Coast Working Group Report to Congress, HNTB's Gulf Coast Passenger Service Implementation Cost review in 2018), but none have modeled this new twice daily roundtrip between New Orleans and Mobile.

Please know that CSX understands your concerns, which are shared by many freight customers. The study results should provide the information necessary to plan for this passenger service to operate safely and reliably without degradation to your service. Again, CSX remains ready to resume the final phase of the study.

The Port of Mobile and its rail service is not just a regional matter, but is a key interchange nationwide across most industries. We look forward to the growth and opportunity your port brings and wish to proceed with all the facts to make sound investments.

Sincerely,

Andy Daly