

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 31, 2017

Richard H. Anderson
Amtrak President and Co-CEO
1 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Anderson,

We write to urge you to help address pressing safety issues at the Tina Lane-Birnie Avenue Rail-Highway crossing in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.

In March, a Department of Public Works employee was killed when his snowplow was struck by an Amtrak train. This tragic event marks the fifth death and seventh collision at the location since 1975, making the Tina Lane-Birnie Avenue crossing the deadliest in Massachusetts, according to the Federal Railroad Administration. Despite the alarmingly high number of collisions, the crossing has 'passive' signals, meaning pedestrians and drivers are only warned about the tracks through static signs and pavement markings.

The Town of Longmeadow and the Commonwealth are pursuing federal funding to implement active signals and safety features, including warning lights and gates that will alert pedestrians and motorists to oncoming trains. In September, the Federal Highway Administration approved \$738,000 of federal aid to help make these much needed safety improvements. But as the owner and operator of the railroad, Amtrak must first confirm that the crossing is public, approve a design and construction plan, and may need to contribute a portion of the implementation costs in order for this important project to proceed.

We are encouraged by Amtrak's participation in a site visit to evaluate the feasibility of implementing enhanced safety measures. This is a crucial step towards addressing the pressing safety issues at the Tina Lane-Birnie Avenue Rail-Highway crossing. We urge you to continue to work with the Town and Commonwealth to implement these much needed safety improvements as swiftly as possible.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you would like additional information about our request, please contact Daniel Greene or Sydney Levin-Epstein in Senator Markey's office (202-224-2742).

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Richard E. Neal
Member of Congress