



# Pennington County Board of Commissioners

County Administration Building

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August 15, 2023

Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)  
Working Group Members  
[contactus@fralongdistancerailstudy.org](mailto:contactus@fralongdistancerailstudy.org)

RE: Public comments related to the second series of the regional working group meetings and the conceptual 'Enhanced Network'

Dear Honorable Working Group Members,

The Pennington County Board of Commissioners wish to point out one of the largest omissions of the currently proposed conceptual 'Enhanced Network' is Rapid City and the entirety of western South Dakota. This glaring gap will continue to restrict critical travel flows and future opportunities.

The location of Rapid City, along with not having high-capability rail service, has constrained the economic opportunity of the region. Railroad investments are needed at large to benefit both freight and passenger services.

The Board continues to stand by our position the routes to be considered should link and serve in common communities, large and small, across states compromising of the Greater Northwest Region. Specifically, in South Dakota, there is a continuous railroad right-of-way that is available and desirable from Sioux Falls to Rapid City and down to Denver via the Badlands Route.

Thank you for engaging with State DOTs, Amtrak, Class I Railroads, metropolitan planning organizations, regional passenger rail authorities, local officials, federally recognized tribes, and the broader stakeholder community to evaluate how to better connect people with long-distance rail services.

Thank you for accepting and considering our comments on this important issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Pennington County Board of Commissioners

Lloyd LaCroix, Chair  
LL/hh