

## **Rensselaer Station Platform & Track Capacity Improvements New York State Senate Task Force on High Speed Rail**

**Background** – Project was identified in the *NYS Senate High Speed Rail Task Force Action Program*. This project was classified as a high priority item for capacity improvements. The project will be funded from a \$22 million NYSDOT capital appropriation obtained by Senate Majority Leader Joseph L Bruno. (These are State General Fund monies under the Capital Projects Fund.)

Additional grant monies have been recently made available for intercity passenger rail projects from the Federal Railroad Administration. A condition for application for these funds is that the project be part of a State rail plan and be on the “Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan”. As a result, we are notifying you that we would like to put this project on the CDTC TIP and the STIP to be able to apply for funds for this project under this new Federal program initiative. As the FRA will begin receiving applications for these funds as of March 18, we would like to submit this project as soon as possible.

Further, this project is consistent with the Statewide Transportation Master Plan strategies to enhance functioning of existing multi-modal systems and to enhance reliability of intercity passenger rail services. It is also consistent with previous initiatives/strategies in CDTC plans and TIPs with respect to these services.

Overall Project Benefits for Phase II:

- Improved train reliability, passenger boarding, on-time performance, and ADA accessibility. (Phase I & II)
- Additional train service at Rensselaer Station *possible*. (Phase II)
- Amtrak operations benefits by increased platform track capacity and relief of buildings responsibility. (Phase I & II)

Rensselaer Station Capacity Improvements Phase II includes the installation of a fourth passenger track at the eastern high-level platform and signal changes to affect operational efficiencies at the station. After completion of the Phase I (CDTA) platform and canopy extensions currently underway, construction of the 4<sup>th</sup> platform track (AMTRAK) and signal modification (CSX) may proceed that will provide additional train capacity and operational flexibility at the existing Rensselaer Station.

As this project’s cost estimates are still being defined, it is likely the cost will be more, and the STATE will cover any shortfall (from leftover HSR monies).

### **Project Description for proposed CDTC TIP Amendment:**

**Rensselaer Station Capacity Improvements Phase II (PIN 1935.71.301) includes the installation of a fourth passenger track at the eastern high-level platform and signal changes to affect operational efficiencies at the station -- consisting of Preliminary Engineering, grading and site work, track construction/realignment, eight new switches and new signals (CP 142 & CP 143). NYSDOT will coordinate this work with Amtrak and CSX who will be responsible for progressing the design and construction on their respective facilities. This specific scopes and railroad force account agreements for this phase are currently under development.**

### **TIP/STIP funding proposed:**

<b>PE</b>	<b>\$0.500 M State</b> (From State High Speed Rail)
<b>CONST</b>	<b>\$4.500 M State</b> “
	<b>\$5.000 M FRA</b> (Application for 'new' FRA funds; first instanced with State funds)
<b>EST. TOTAL</b>	<b>\$10.000 M estimated total Phase II</b>