I saw that Amtrak has submitted plans to connect Louisville to Nashville, Chicago, and Cincinnati. I think this is great and support this initiative with some additions to the wish list. When I lived in Columbus, Ohio, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Nashville, Tennessee I often wished for an alternative to frequent drive-alone trips between those regional cities and my hometown of Louisville. It is too close to fly, and too far for the train times dictated by Amtrak. Amtrak's promise of future automated vehicle-to-vehicle travel was, are, and should be still true in the future. Trains are the optimal solution for these types of trips. Just do it already.

When looking at the map and the unique economic advantage Louisville offers particularly in logistics, I think a strong rail connection immensely boosts our region's competitiveness. There is a reason UPS selected this City. And with UPS presence, many others have followed. For me, Louisville is the X marks the spot. We are between Chicago and Atlanta, Houston and New York, and from those hubs the rest of the nation. Each of those are busy and congested hubs and connectors to the world. Amazing places to go and do business. Why not think of Louisville, too, as a spot, but where it all comes together?

5. Could Amtrak bring back the Auto-Train from Louisville to Central Florida? [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TM28oC4z8r]

6. Could Amtrak partner with freight carriers to increase service between regional cities? The passenger demand alone might not be there for the frequencies I would like to see. Hybrid model linking people and small parcels. Imagine linking up with Amazon in Northern Kentucky to UPS in Louisville to FedEx in Memphis.

We can't be cut out of traffic congestion between Louisville, Indianapolis, or Cincinnati with more and more times. It is expensive. Let's go in on rail to move people and parcels at high speeds and volumes. Having options is the smart way to travel.
I am a Council Representative for the National Association of Rail Passengers and a Louisville resident. I would like to express my support for all three routes that are on the Amtrak map for potential service to/from Louisville, those to Indianapolis and Chicago, to Cincinnati and to Nashville.

The one to Chicago is of particular interest, since Metro Louisville apparently is submitting an application for a grant to study this route and it ties into numerous other routes at the Chicago hub for Amtrak.

With regard to the other two routes, I have contacted and received positive responses from officials in the Bowling Green and Carrolton areas, both of which would likely have stops along the respective routes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ron Schneider, Council Representative
National Association of Rail Passengers (NARP)