

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 13, 2026

The Honorable David Fink
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Fink,

We are writing to express our serious concerns regarding the recent decision by the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to undertake a review of the *Rhinecliff Station High Level Platform, Vertical Circulation and Interlocking Project*, and to request immediate transparency regarding the status and scope of the agency's review of this grant award. For years, local leaders, New York state, Amtrak, and USDOT have worked together to plan for the long-needed upgrades to the Rhinecliff Station, but abruptly cancelling those meetings and announcing this review with no explanation has rightly created major concern in the community and they deserve immediate answers. This decision is deeply concerning, not only for the residents and commuters who depend on this critical transportation hub but also for the broader goals of regional economic connectivity and accessibility that would be directly impacted if years of progress were derailed by delay.

The Rhinecliff Station project has long been recognized as a vital component of the Hudson Valley's transportation infrastructure. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) was awarded \$28 million through the FRA's Federal-State Partnership for State of Good Repair Program to fund replacement of the existing low-level platform with a longer high-level platform. The funding would also be used for track and signal upgrades, along with new accessibility features such as stairs, elevators, and a pedestrian bridge. These improvements will support expanded service on the Empire Corridor, increasing daily round trips between New York City and Albany.

The FRA's review of the \$28 million award at this juncture of the project risks undermining years of planning and investment. The Rhinecliff Station project was awarded through a competitive, merit-based process focused on rehabilitating our nation's aging rail infrastructure and improving passenger service. Further delay will jeopardize the much-needed repairs for this historic station that Hudson Valley commuters and visitors rely on.

Accordingly, we request that the FRA provide immediate responses to the following:

1. Who initiated this review and why is this review being conducted now
2. The specific process and procedures being used to review the grant award
3. A clear and definitive timeline for completion of this review
4. The criteria, standards, or concerns being applied in evaluating the project
5. If this kind of review is being done for similar projects and if so please specify where those projects are located

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. Given the serious community concerns, we request responses in writing no later than April 23, 2026 and look forward to your prompt action to keep this essential project on track.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress