

Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board

Volunteer board members advising agencies of the state on policies, programs, and facilities for bicycles and pedestrians.

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October 4, 2013

Joseph H. Boardman
President and CEO, Amtrak
National Railroad Passenger Corporation
60 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear President Boardman,

Recently the Connecticut Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board (CBPAB) wrote to request that Amtrak change its bicycle policy to allow roll-on, unboxed standard bicycles onto Amtrak trains without fees or permits. (see attached letters)

Your response highlighted the difficulties such a policy would cause Amtrak. The CBPAB understands and appreciates these difficulties.

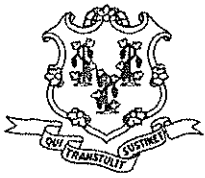
But it also seems that Amtrak and the CBPAB have a mutuality of purpose. We might achieve common goals by acting with common purpose. The Complete Streets law of Connecticut, passed in 2009, mandates that transit, bicycles and pedestrians be accommodated on the public ways of the state.

The bicycle and pedestrian communities in Connecticut have been further heartened by the movement toward transit oriented design. This require robust bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities with corresponding intermodality.

We also are encouraged that Amtrak recognizes national trends by moving toward greater access on several routes nationally. This is excellent; being able to bring a bicycle to provide local transportation in destination cities is a recognized plus.

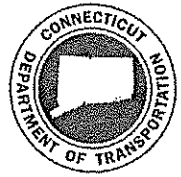
In Amtrak's response to our request you cited several constraints including the lack of proper platforms for loading, the lack of modified rolling stock and funding.

Our Board may be able to help. We communicate directly to the Governor and to the Transportation Committee of the Legislature as well as the DOT. By law our annual report cites issues that interfere with the State's achievement of Complete Streets. We will include a comment in this report on the desirability of bikes on trains and will be recognizing the difficulties in this transition.



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If Amtrak will help us with specific needs or comments we will be pleased to include these in our report. We believe that if we work together we can move toward a solution that works for both parties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Neil S. Pade".

Neil S. Pade
Board Chair