



STATEMENT OF BOSTON MAYOR THOMAS M. MENINO,  
PRESIDENT, U.S. CONFERENCE OF MAYORS,  
ON POTENTIAL SHUTDOWN OF AMTRAK SERVICE

June 25, 2002

“While I am encouraged by Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta’s pledge last night that the nation’s passenger rail system will not be shut down on Wednesday, it does not offer a solution to Amtrak’s immediate financial concerns by not finding an agreement on the loan guarantee or appropriation. Secretary Mineta’s pledge only delays a shutdown that will cripple the nation’s transportation infrastructure and the economy.

“On Friday, June 21, I sent a letter to President Bush on behalf of the nation’s mayors urging him to take the necessary steps to approve Amtrak’s requested \$200 million loan guarantee that ensures uninterrupted passenger rail and local commuter line service through the end of FY 2002.

“Furthermore, I asked the President to strongly reconsider the national passenger rail policy position proposed by Secretary Mineta on June 20 that includes a full rejection of Amtrak’s \$1.2 billion funding request and proposes a privately contracted service or even a complete elimination of selected routes.

“Mayors nationwide from both political parties believe that our national economy depends on an effective, multi-faceted system of transportation and overwhelmingly support Amtrak’s request for a \$200 million loan and \$1.2 billion funding for FY 2003.”

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*The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today. Each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. The primary roles of the Conference of Mayors are to promote the development of effective national urban/suburban policy; strengthen federal-city relationships; ensure that federal policy meets urban needs; provide mayors with leadership and management tools; and create a forum in which mayors can share ideas and information. More information about the Conference is available at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).*

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