

Governor asks Amtrak to study Ohio passenger line

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COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Gov. Ted Strickland says the nation's passenger rail operator should take a look at restoring lines to Ohio cities that have been without them for decades.

Strickland asks Amtrak in a letter to evaluate how practical it would be to restore passenger rail to line Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati, with stops in some of the other cities along the route.

According to an announcement Thursday, the governor wants Amtrak to work with the Ohio Rail Development Commission on the study. He says adding passenger service would help Ohio's cities create jobs and attract new business.

Passenger lines once were a major transportation source in Ohio but fell out of favor with the rise in air travel and the opening of interstate highways.