



July 1, 2011

Mayor John Hieftje
City of Ann Arbor
Larcom City Hall
301 East Huron Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48107

Dear Mayor Hieftje:

In response to your request, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is pleased to send this letter in support of the City of Ann Arbor's continuing efforts to construct a new multi-modal station facility. This would replace the existing Amtrak station facility at Ann Arbor for intercity passenger rail service.

Amtrak's formal support for this initiative dates back to mid-2010. On August 2, 2010, we issued a letter of support to Mr. Al Johnson of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and, on the same date, entered into an "Agreement in Principle" with MDOT covering preliminary engineering and environmental work for the proposed new Ann Arbor station facility under the FY2010 PRIIA Grant Program. Again on March 31, 2011, Amtrak issued a letter of support for MDOT's grant application covering PE/NEPA work for the proposed new multi-modal station facility. Copies of these three documents are enclosed for ready reference.

In summary, a new station facility at Ann Arbor would represent a significant improvement for the Chicago-Detroit-Pontiac high speed corridor, where Amtrak train ridership has shown a steady and significant growth over the past several years. Such a facility would certainly complement other track and station improvements planned or under way on the corridor, and we look forward to working with you to bring your project to fruition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael W. Franke".

Michael W. Franke
Assistant Vice President, Policy & Development
(Central)

MWF/yb
Enclosures
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