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September 19, 2005

ALDERMAN MICHAEL D'AMATO
MILWAUKEE COMMON COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON ZONING, NEIGHBORHOODS AND
DEVELOPMENT
200 E WELLS STREET, ROOM 205
MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-3570

Dear Alderman D'Amato and Committee Members:

On behalf of Governor Jim Doyle, Transportation Secretary Frank Busalacchi and myself, I am writing to support the city of Milwaukee's creation of a Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) district to aid the Milwaukee downtown Amtrak station project. We also support the zoning changes necessary for full operations of the station and to permit Greyhound Bus service to operate as part of the new intermodal facility.

Governor Doyle and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are fully committed to investing in projects that support a strong intermodal transportation system in order to build our state economy and create opportunities for job growth. The Governor and WisDOT also understand the importance of supporting Milwaukee and our state's urban communities that represent the core of the statewide economy.


WisDOT's project to renovate the downtown Amtrak station is a tangible example of the state's commitment to both of these goals. The department welcomes the participation of the city of Milwaukee, along with the Milwaukee Transportation Partners and its subsidiaries in this effort. With support from Senator Herb Kohl and Representative Gwendolynne Moore, this project represents a landmark partnership between federal, state, local and private agencies.

The department is excited about the visionary design and development opportunities afforded by the Amtrak station project. Already, Amtrak's *Hiawatha Service* is proving to be a popular transportation option in the Chicago-Milwaukee corridor. Nearly 52,000 passengers used the trains the past month alone, and the service is well on its way to attracting record ridership of more than half a million for the year. With gas prices remaining high, with the attractive new station design and with easy Greyhound Bus connections, train ridership could skyrocket into the future. WisDOT will continue its commitment to supporting and enhancing this service as a way to support commerce and tourism in downtown Milwaukee.

The Amtrak station renovation project will be an exciting project for both Milwaukee and the state transportation system. Governor Doyle, Secretary Busalacchi and I support the Milwaukee City Council and its committees in their efforts to approve the TIF

funding and relevant zoning changes for this project. Thank you for your partnership and for the opportunity to participate in this city process.

Sincerely,


Ruben L. Anthony, Jr.
Deputy Secretary

cc: Governor Jim Doyle
Secretary Frank Busalacchi
Mayor Tom Barrett
Scott Mayer, Milwaukee Intermodal Partners



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Jim Doyle
Governor

Frank Busalacchi
Secretary

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FAX COVER SHEET

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From: Daniel Yeh, WisDOT
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REMARKS: Urgent For your review Reply ASAP Please comment

Attached, please find a letter from WisDOT Deputy Secretary Ruben Anthony addressing the Amtrak Station renovation project. Please include this in the testimony before tomorrow's hearing of the City Council Committee on Zoning, Neighborhoods and Development.

A hard copy will be sent to you via U.S. Mail today as well.

Thank you for your work on this project.

If you did not receive all of the pages or if any page is illegible, please call our office.
(608) 266-3581 7:45 - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday