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LOCAL 324

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March 18, 2009

The Honorable Louise E. Schilling
Mayor, City of Troy
Troy City Hall
500 West Big Beaver
Troy, MI 48084

Dear Mayor Schilling:

I am contacting you to express my strong support for the Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center (Center). This Center will be a panacea for the local communities by providing solutions to the region's transportation problems, by creating jobs, and by re-developing brownfield space with a focus on long-term transit oriented development.

As you may already know, this project has been a local priority for a number of years and is one of the few "shovel ready" projects across the state. The project is located on the ninth busiest passenger rail corridor in the United States, making the project truly critical when one considers that passenger rail ridership is expected to double over the next 10 years.

The Center will be located in a brownsfield-designated area of Maple and Coolidge Roads in the communities of Troy and Birmingham. The Center will utilize existing Amtrak rail infrastructure while providing a transfer point to SMART bus services, taxi and sedan connections within the Detroit Regional Mass Transit Plan. It will also create more transportation opportunities for patrons of the Oakland/Troy airport.



The Center is intended to improve the attractiveness, reliability, safety and economic efficiency of rail passenger service in the Metropolitan Detroit region. Studies have shown that every \$1 invested in transit yields \$7 to \$8 in return. However, there is the danger that this project may not go forward due to lack of investment. The donated land will return to private ownership in June 2010 if sufficient funding has not been obligated for the purpose of constructing a transit center at the specified location.

Again, I stress my support and applaud the many jobs that will be created by this worthy project

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John M. Hamilton'.

John M. Hamilton
Business Manager and General Vice President

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