

defining technology.



April 5, 2009

Mr. Kirk Steudle, Director
Michigan Department of Transportation
Murray D. Van Wagoner Building
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

RECEIVED

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CITY OF TROY
CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Dear Mr. Steudle,

I am contacting you today on behalf of the Automation Alley Coordinating Council, the advisory board of the Automation Alley SmartZone™. The Council is a partnership between the cities of Rochester Hills, Southfield and Troy, Lawrence Technological University, Oakland University, Oakland County and Automation Alley, which promotes the growth of the technology industry in our region. The Council has passed a Resolution in support of the Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center (Center). This Center will play an important role in the region by providing a comprehensive regional transportation system that also will generate new jobs.

As our unique partnership works to diversify the region, we strive to grow clusters of technology companies within two state-designated certified technology parks and to provide a transparent bridge between our educational institutions and the private sector. Transportation is a critical element to the success of our mission.

The Center will be located in a brownfield-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 Automation Alley SmartZone™ Coordinating Council envisions a transportation "bridge" anchored by Lawrence Technological University to the south and Oakland University to the north, with bus lines providing a direct connection between them and the Transit Center. In this manner, students and the workforce will be directly connected to our educational and employment centers.

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. If critical funding and investment is not secured by June 2010, however, the project would be jeopardized as land donated for the Center will be returned to private ownership.

I hope that you will join the Council and other organizations, including the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit Regional Mass Transit, Wayne County, ITT Technical Institute and the University of Michigan in supporting the Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center as the project moves closer to construction ahead of the June 2010 deadline.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas J. Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Douglas" being more prominent than the last name "Smith".

Douglas J. Smith
Chairman, Automation Alley SmartZone Coordinating Council

DJS/mg

cc: Paul Tait, Executive Director, SEMCOG
L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive
Tom Markus, City Manager, City of Birmingham
Louis Schilling, Mayor, City of Troy