



April 5, 2009

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

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 written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and "S".

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



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February 4, 2010

The Honorable Raymond LaHood
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We understand the Cities of Troy and Birmingham, Michigan are applying for a Section 5309 Bus and Bus Facilities Livability Initiative Program grant for the Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center. This regional, multi-modal transit hub will connect existing Amtrak rail service on the Wolverine Corridor with local SMART bus services and taxi/sedan connections.

This project is specifically listed in **Direction2035**: The Regional Transportation Plan for Southeast Michigan and is consistent with the region’s transit plan. Both cities have committed local matching funds and have broad community support for the project.

This transit center will result in immediate job creation and sustained economic stimulus and development. It will also reduce fossil fuel emissions and total energy use while increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of the transportation system through the integration of multiple modes of existing transportation infrastructure in the Southeast Michigan region. This project will also maximize regional transportation goals, including increased access and mobility for citizens. This is clearly a priority for the region and we therefore support the application for funding.

Please contact me at 313-324-3314 or palombo@semcog.org if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Carmine Palombo, P.E.
Director
Transportation Programs



To Whom It May Concern:

Re: Letter of Support for the Transportation Center at Maple/Coolidge

The Detroit metro area continues to suffer from a lack of reliable public transportation. This issue needs to be addressed as energy prices continue to climb, environmental concerns continue to grow, and current generations look to public transportation as a necessity.

As we look to the future, we need to address this issue in order to compete in the global marketplace. While the City of Troy has an option to develop the land at Maple and Coolidge into a transportation center, it has not been developed. With the upcoming sunset on the City of Troy's rights to develop this land, it is imperative that we act. We have a competitive advantage for the city and for our campus waiting for development; the time to capitalize on this advantage is now.

Each of our institutions draws students from the entire metro-Detroit area. All of them are faced with excessive traffic while coming to our campuses. In addition, gas prices continue to rise causing economic strain on our students. With the vast majority of our students working fulltime, attending classes in the evening, additional stress from increased gas prices does not help their already high stress levels.

On the behalf of our students, faculty, and staff our institution supports the development of land at Maple and Coolidge for the purpose of providing a transportation center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Bechill".

Cynthia Bechill, SPHR
President



Operating Engineers Local 324
LABOR-MANAGEMENT EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 12, 2009

The Honorable Stuart Lee Sherman
Mayor
City of Birmingham
151 Martin Street, P.O. Box 3001
Birmingham, MI 48012

Dear Mayor Sherman:

I am contacting you on behalf of the Operating Engineers Local 324 LMEC and we want to express our strong support for the Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center (Center). This Center will bring needed jobs to the region, provide solutions to the region's transportation problems, redevelop brownfield property with a focus on long-term transit-oriented development and as an outcome bring regional economic growth.

Too much is at stake and we can not let this project fail for lack of funding. Two special facts drive our interests. The fact that rail ridership is expected to double over the next ten years and for every \$1 invested in transit \$7 to \$8 is returned. Please exercise all options available to the City of Birmingham to make this project a reality.

This "shovel ready" project could be a catalyst to the region's economic vitality and you have our total backing. A solution needs to be found long before the property owners imposed deadline of June 2010.

We join other organizations within the construction industry and groups such as the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit Regional Mass Transit, Wayne County, ITT Technical Institute and the University of Michigan – Urban Land Institute in supporting the Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center as the project moves closer to construction.

Sincerely,

Donald C. O'Connell
Executive Director

cc: IUOE Local 324 LMEC Board of Trustees





Robert A. Ficano
County Executive

Wayne County Building
600 Randolph - Suite 349
Detroit, Michigan 48226
(313) 224-0286
Fax (313) 967-6558

December 11, 2008

Michele Hodges
President
Troy Chamber of Commerce
4555 Investment Drive, Suite 300
Troy, MI 48098

RE: Troy-Birmingham Intermodal Transit Center

Dear Ms. Hodges:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you today to express my support for the proposed Troy & Birmingham Intermodal Transit Center at Maple and Coolidge Roads. Wayne County applauds the efforts of the cities of Troy and Birmingham to work collaboratively on a project that not only provides value to these cities, but to the entire Southeast Michigan Region.

As a long-time advocate for regional cooperation, I know and appreciate how difficult it can be to establish new ways of doing business. To see your two communities come together around the recognition of our intense need for improved transit services is commendable. As you are aware, I have been very focused on supporting a regional mass transit plan through the Regional Transportation Coordinating Council. Your efforts tie in exceptionally well to that important initiative. I am pleased to say that the RTCC plan was approved this week and we now have a regional mass transit plan for the first time in over fifty years.

In addition, as we move forward in Southeast Michigan to embrace the opportunities for business attraction, transportation, and growth around Detroit Metro and Willow Run Airports, through the Aerotropolis, I am confident that even more collaborative initiatives will emerge. Studies show that every dollar invested in transit yields \$7 to \$8 dollars of additional economic impact. To be competitive in a global economy, retain young talent and provide mobility options for our aging population, we must look at new economic development models that revolve around transit-oriented design and development.

We look forward to working with public and private sector leaders in advancing initiatives like transit that create jobs and encourage long-term, regional partnership. I applaud you and your partners for your work with the Troy and Birmingham Transit Center and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,


Robert A. Ficano
Wayne County Executive



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JOHN PAPPAGEORGE
MICHIGAN SENATE

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COMMUNITY HEALTH
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AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES
MEMBER - SENATE FISCAL AGENCY
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

December 8, 2008

Kirk T. Steudle, Director
Michigan Department of Transportation
State Transportation Building
425 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Director Steudle:

As you prepare to meet with members of Congress regarding important transportation needs for our state, I would like to ask for a very deserving project in southeast Michigan — the Troy/Birmingham Transit Center.

The Troy/Birmingham Transit Center would serve as a much needed central hub for a variety of southeast Michigan transit, including Amtrak's Wolverine rail line between Pontiac and Chicago, SMART and Greyhound bus routes and Detroit Metro airport transportation. It would also stand ready to accommodate light and commuter rail, should such transportation modes be made available.

Under your leadership, the Michigan Department of Transportation has previously made a commitment to this project by securing \$350,000 in funding for the development and design of the center. Those efforts are sincerely appreciated.

As you know, however, the success of this project is in jeopardy. The land that was donated to the city was done so with the stipulation that construction must begin by 2010 or the land will revert back to its original owner. It is critical that we secure funding now so that construction can begin before the 2010 deadline.

The economic as well as social benefits of this project are undeniable. I respectfully request that you promote this project during your visit to the nation's capitol. Please do not hesitate to reach me if there is anything I can do to assist in this process.

Sincerely,

John Pappageorge
State Senator
13th District

cc: City of Troy, City of Birmingham, Troy Chamber of Commerce, Bloomfield Birmingham Chamber of Commerce



Michele Hodges
Troy Chamber of Commerce, 3rd floor-Suite 300
4555 Investment Dr.
Troy, MI 48098-6338

Dear Ms. Hodges:

This letter is written to show our strong support of the Transit Center proposed for Maple and Coolidge roads in Troy, MI.

The proposal clearly provides an increased benefit to the transit infrastructure within the City of Troy, benefiting residents and businesses alike. The proposal also addresses a need that has been expressed by the student body at ITT Technical Institute, Troy, in gaining access to their post-secondary education.

This type of center will allow our students to gain access to our facility without having to juggle multiple bus lines, combined with a substantial walk to attend classes. Given the current situation, the SMART bus routes really stop short of where our students need to be accommodated. Our students attend classes that run during time frames that span Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m., and Saturday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Our current student population is 1,021 per quarter. The majority of these students come by bus, car pool, walk, or bike here. Unfortunately, it is truly the minority of our student population that has their own car. We strongly feel that this transit center will fill a void in affording some of our students an opportunity to better themselves, their family, and the community.

In a broader perspective, this project reaffirms the commitment to community that the City of Troy consistently demonstrates. This is one of the reasons that ITT Technical Institute chose the City of Troy as a preferred location for our Southeast Michigan campus. The city leaders' strong devotion to wellness and cultural diversity allows the City of Troy to remain vibrant and enjoy the benefits of continued progress and success. We attempt to mirror that spirit and instill in our students the belief that Troy is a great place to live, work, learn and play. The transit center is another tool that demonstrates those core values in the City of Troy.

ITT Technical Institute, Troy, strongly supports the proposed transit center, and we are pleased to continue our relationship in developing Troy as a thriving and vibrant city. If there is anything we can do to help ensure that this project is approved please don't hesitate to contact us. We are ready and willing to do what we can to bring this project to fruition.

Sincerely,

Kevin Chandler
Associate Dean
ITT Technical Institute
(248) 524-1800



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April 29, 2009

Jana Ecker, planning director
City of Birmingham
P.O. Box 3001
Birmingham, Michigan 48012-3001

RE: Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center

Dear Jana:

I am writing to express my strong support for the Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center (Center). This Center will be welcomed by both communities as a central link in a growing regional transit system and for redeveloping an underused brownfield property. The project is located on the ninth busiest passenger rail corridor in the United States and has been a community priority for a number of years, and one of the few "shovel ready" projects across the state.

It was projected that passenger ridership is expected to double over the next 10 years. The Transit Center will be located in brownfields-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 additional transportation opportunities for patrons of the Oakland/Troy Executive Airport.

Studies have shown that every \$1 invested in transit yields \$7 to \$8 in related economic benefits. Without swift funding action, however, there is the danger that this project might not proceed due to the expiration of public development option on land that provisionally donated to advance this project by 2010. If sufficient funding is not secured, the land will revert to private ownership.

I hope that you will join Frank Rewold and Son Inc. and other organizations such as the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit Regional Mass Transit, Wayne County, ITT Technical Institute, and the University of Michigan – Urban Land Institute in supporting full funding of the Troy/Birmingham Multi-Modal Transit Center.

Sincerely,

Frank Rewold
President

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