

**Ann Arbor City Council Regular Session: January 17, 2017**  
**Email Redactions List Pursuant to Council Resolution R-09-386**

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	<u>Sent Time</u>	<u>Received Time</u>	<u>TO</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>CC</u>	<u>Redactions</u>	<u>Reason for Redaction</u>
2	10:55 PM		Julie Grand, Letitia Kunselman	Zach Ackerman		Address and email address	Privacy

## Alexa, Jennifer

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**From:** Ackerman, Zach  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 17, 2017 10:55 PM  
**To:** Grand, Julie; Letitia Kunselman  
**Subject:** RE: Train station

Hi Letitia,

I'm sorry that I couldn't get to this before our Council vote. I did support the grant match (~\$500,000 for ~\$2.5 million in federal match). The article today focused on the declining ridership in the last four years, and particularly in the last year. I encourage you to check out the Department of Energy's record of gas prices at the pump in that same time (even over the entire 1994-2016 time frame). The correlation is almost exact. Gas prices go up, ridership goes up. The immediate decline in ridership correlates exactly with our near-term oil price decreases -- a result of investment in unsustainable domestic oil.

So that's a direct response to the article itself. Overall though, I believe in a new station. I believe that people select their mode of transit for three core reasons: (1) Cost, (2) Reliability, and (3) Speed. Here are some thoughts on each:

(1) Gas will get expensive, very expensive.

(2) MDOT has completed its purchase of all the rail between Detroit and Chicago, giving priority to passengers. This has gotten the Ann Arbor to Chicago Amtrak trip to five hours flat.

(3) MDOT has also been making incremental improvements to the rail infrastructure itself. By the end of this year, the maximum speed of the Wolverine will increase from 80mph to 110pm, shaving off 30 min of travel time between Kalamazoo and Dearborn.

I hope this helps clarify my thought process and current thinking on the issue. As always, happy to hear thoughts going forward.

Best,  
Zach

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Zachary Ackerman

Ann Arbor City Council

Ward 3

(734) 883-8391

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From: Grand, Julie  
Sent: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 6:36 PM  
To: Letitia Kunselman  
Cc: Ackerman, Zach  
Subject: Re: Train station

Thank you for sharing your concerns, Letitia. I understand that the timeline for this decision is unusual and would personally prefer time for additional analysis. Acknowledging these constraints, it may also be fiscally imprudent to reject millions of dollars in federal infrastructure funding.

Julie

Julie Grand  
Ann Arbor City Council, Ward 3  
(734) 678-7567 (c)

> On Jan 17, 2017, at 11:42 AM, Letitia Kunselman [REDACTED] wrote:

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> Dear Zack and Julie,

> After reading the article in MLive about the train station and its costs, I would appreciate a more prudent use of our tax dollars. It seems to me our dollars could be better spent until ridership, or commuter rails, are actually built to support the building of a new train station; it seems building a new train station at this time is, to use an old colloquial phrase, "putting the cart before the horse."

> Thanks for your time.

> Sincerely,

> Letitia Kunselman

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