



December 23, 2011

Ms. Jacqueline Beaudry
Ann Arbor City Clerk
301 E. Huron St., Second Floor
Ann Arbor, MI 48107

Dear Clerk Beaudry:

I write to inform the Ann Arbor City Council that the Ann Arbor/Ypsilanti (A2Y) Regional Chamber wholeheartedly supports the intermodal transportation facility being proposed for our community. Our support for this project, known as the Fuller Road Station, stems from the many significant benefits which it will provide to our community. They are outlined below. We ask The Council to vote in support of this project. We also look forward to working with them during the remaining course of the project's development.

Economic:

The University of Michigan Health System (UMHS) is a major economic driver in our region. The 500 high paying skilled jobs that accompanied the recently opened University of Michigan C.S. Mott Children's Hospital and Von Voigtlander Women's Hospital highlight this factor. Each year UMHS treats over one and a half million outpatients and provides at least 43,000 visits. Thousands of people travel to the immediate area that is to be served by the Fuller Road Station each day. Easing their access to the hospitals, university and businesses in that area can only be an asset to all involved.

In addition, the new station will make travelling from Ann Arbor easier and more convenient, making it a more attractive place to live. Also, modern transportation centers in and of themselves attract economic activity of many sorts, and that activity – in addition to what is generated by the mere construction aspect of the project – creates jobs today and into the future. The Fuller Road Station will be a major transportation hub for those within our community, as well as for those wanting to come to our community. It will become one of our economic infrastructure's major assets, and it will surely increase the property values of the area.

Environmental:

The Fuller Road Station will also promote greater use of train, public and other alternative modes of transit. This will ease congestion both within and outside of our community, and make commuting by such means more attractive and feasible. These outcomes will not only reduce pollution, it will lessen the need to dedicate land for parking. Further, the project's design will also serve to significantly mitigate storm water runoff into the Huron River,

which will result in improved water quality. The environment will also benefit through reduced road construction where lanes may be added to address employment growth and desired capacity

Intergovernmental Cooperation:

This project also is a great example of cooperation between units of government. It has brought together the City of Ann Arbor, the University of Michigan, the US Department of Transportation, the Michigan Department of Transportation, and the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority. It reflects a joint effort to address a set of community needs in a comprehensive and cost-effective manner. The level of this intergovernmental cooperation is unprecedented and commendable, and will serve as a template for these and other local governmental units to create similar synergies for future partnerships. This cooperation is consistent with the A2Y Chamber's long held position regarding the need for governmental entities to cooperate and even consolidate when beneficial, and to generally work in a manner that provides better service while using fewer resources.

For these reasons, we ask the Ann Arbor City Council to vote in support of the Fuller Road Project. If you have any questions, or if we can be of any assistance on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (734) 214-0101.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diane Keller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Keller, President & CEO
Ann Arbor / Ypsilanti Regional Chamber

CC: Steve Powers, Ann Arbor City Administrator