



DETROIT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
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April 2, 2009

Matthew Welbes  
Executive Director  
Federal Transit Administration  
1200 New Jersey SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Welbes:

My staff and I have reviewed FTA's comments from the February 6, 2009 e-mail from Brian Jackson on the results of our Alternatives Analysis (AA) – the Detroit Transit Options for Growth Study (DTOGS). This report documents how we developed the Locally Preferred Alternative (LPA) to move forward with light rail transit service on Woodward Avenue from downtown Detroit to the State Fairgrounds near Eight Mile Road. The LPA report has been revised based on these comments and is being submitted with this correspondence. I have also attached a table that describes each of FTA's comments and summarizes what we have done to address the comment.

Since July 2008, when the LPA report was submitted to FTA, DDOT has taken a number of significant steps to advance this project:

- The LPA has been incorporated into the region's Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Long Range Transportation Plan (LRP).
- Preparation of an application to FTA to enter Preliminary Engineering (PE) and a submission to enter FTA's New Starts' program have begun.
- Discussions with local civic leaders about a unique private funding approach for the "local" share of the project have been held.

At this time our most pressing milestone is to file a Notice of Intent (NOI) so that we can continue with our DEIS and satisfy the NEPA requirements for this project. Your staff has indicated that prior to the FTA publication of the NOI, the FTA comments on the DTOGS LPA Report must be satisfactorily addressed. As noted above, the revised LPA Report is being resubmitted with this correspondence.

Considering the critical role that this project has in strengthening the economic vitality of Southeast Michigan, I request that FTA publish the NOI immediately. As you may know, the FTA published an Early Scoping Notice on July 17, 2007 and DDOT held public and agency scoping meetings between July 25 and 28, 2007. Additionally, DDOT submitted a draft NOI to FTA on December 19, 2008.

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Not only will publication of the NOI allow us to move forward with this project, but it will also allow us to further refine the DTOGS LPA No-Build, Baseline, and Build Alternatives as your staff has requested through formal project scoping meetings.

Thank you for your continued support of our efforts to bring light rail service to Woodward Avenue. Please feel free to contact me at (313) 833-7670 with any follow-up questions or discussions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Norman L. White".

Norman L. White  
Director

Cc: Brian Jackson, FTA Office of Planning & Environment  
Stewart McKenzie, FTA Region V