

## **Ann Arbor – Detroit Regional Rail Project Update April 2009**

- Project is moving forward positively and in accordance with the detailed work plan and project timeline. The project is scheduled to begin operating by October 2010.
- Canadian National Railroad contacting us within the week with regard to how many trains we will be able to run on their track and associated capital improvements. Once this occurs, we will be able to run a final analysis of the whole line and optimize train schedules to best meet rider needs.
- Specific project components
  - MDOT has posted a request for proposals (RFP) for the leasing and refurbishing rail cars. The first trainset is expected to be delivered in the early fall of 2009 with the remainder being delivered in mid-2010 for safety and performance testing prior to beginning service.
  - The city of Ypsilanti is close to making a decision on the specific location of its station in Depot Town.
  - MDOT/SEMCOG have selected a consultant team to manage day-to-day issues associated with the detailed schedule and to ensure the system is operational on schedule. The consultant is expected to be under contract in mid-May 2009.
- MDOT and SEMCOG are working on strategy to fund needed capital projects using appropriate components of the high speed rail, transit, and discretionary components of the federal stimulus package.
- MDOT and SEMCOG continue developing environmental clearance documents.
- Continue development of an agreement with an operating entity.
- Highlights of the key next steps:
  - Determine needed Canadian National improvements and incorporate with other two host railroads to finalize all necessary improvements.
  - Finalize train schedules and further develop feeder route service.

- Conduct a meeting in corridor with all community and additional stakeholder representatives.
- Finalize capital and operating costs.
- Develop and implement funding strategy.
- Develop operating and construction agreements with host railroads.
- Begin branding and marketing process.
- Arrange train runs to special events this fall to demonstrate the service (e.g., Michigan football game, Tiger baseball game, or a Henry Ford event).