

SEMCOG Information

Ann Arbor-Detroit Commuter Rail Project Progress Report December, 2008

The following summarizes the current status of activities related to the Ann Arbor-Detroit Commuter Rail Project:

1. SEMCOG announced the location of the station that will serve Metro Airport for the initial project. The station will be on Wayne County owned property at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Henry Ruff.
2. SEMCOG has begun discussions with representatives of the City of Ypsilanti and the Downtown Development Authority on the location of the station in Ypsilanti.
3. Field analysis of the Norfolk Southern and Conrail portions of the route continues as part of developing the environmental document for the project.
4. A consultant has been selected by MDOT for the West Detroit Connection Track project.
5. SEMCOG and MDOT have begun the process of securing locomotives and rail cars for the project.
6. SEMCOG and MDOT are pursuing funding options from the recent AMTRAK and Federal Rail Administration (FRA) programs. In addition, certain components of the project (i.e. cars and locomotives) have been submitted for funding as part of a possible federal economic stimulus package.
7. MDOT has hired a consultant to review our progress to date, identify work that needs to be completed and develop a project timeline to help keep the project on schedule for an October, 2010 target to begin service. A contract between MDOT and Quandel Consultants was executed on November 18, 2008.
8. SEMCOG and MDOT continue to wait for a response from the Canadian National (CN) Railroad indicating that they have found capacity on their system to allow for four commuter round trips a day if improvements are made at West Detroit Junction. In addition, a letter was sent from Governor Granholm's policy director to Canadian National officials inquiring as to CN's plans in Michigan and reemphasizing the Governor's desire for commuter rail service between Ann Arbor and Detroit to commence by October 2010. A follow up e-mail was sent to CN officials inquiring on the status of our request.