

Ann Arbor-Detroit Commuter Rail Project
February, 2008 Update

SEMCOG continues to move forward on key elements of the Detroit-Ann Arbor Regional Rail project. Progress made in the last month includes:

1. Rail Car Procurement

- MDOT is setting up a meeting with Great Lakes Central RR to discuss cost and timing of refurbishing rail cars. Estimated cost is \$500,000 per car.

2. Airport Station Analysis

- There are currently four options for the Metro Airport Station:
 1. City of Inkster – two potential locations;
 2. Wayne County owned building at the corner of Henry Ruff and Michigan;
 3. Ford owned property at the corner of Merriman and Michigan Avenue; and
 4. City of Wayne.
- SEMCOG is setting up a meeting with AMTRAK to discuss, inspect sites and compare travel time from each potential site to Metro Airport.
- SEMCOG is waiting for a formal response from Wayne County on the potential use of the Henry Ruff property.
- Develop criteria needed to make a final decision on the location of a station to serve the airport.

3. Maintenance Facility Location

- AMTRAK has identified a location in Ann Arbor that would allow them to build a new maintenance facility.
- An alternative location has been submitted that AMTRAK officials indicate may also be adequate to site a maintenance facility.
- Possibility to use existing facility owned by Great Lakes Central RR.
- Other locations.
- MDOT is setting up a meeting with AMTRAK and Great Lakes Central RR to explore and make a final decision.

4. Environmental Document

- SEMCOG has written a first draft of the document.
- SEMCOG is working with MDOT Environmental staff to assess impacts associated with the project.

5. Public Information

- SEMCOG has begun the process to hire a consultant to develop a public involvement video of proposed service.
- SEMCOG is developing public brochure defining the project, the route, stops, and number of trains, fares, costs, and schedule.

6. Funding

- SEMCOG has begun to develop a financial plan.
- SEMCOG has submitted a request to Senator Stabenow for additional earmarked funds for FY 2009.
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- SEMCOG has discussed new Federal Rail Administration (FRA) funding opportunity with MDOT and AMTRAK.

7. Infrastructure Improvements

- Norfolk Southern (NS) is conducting a capacity study to evaluate needs and costs on the NS route.
- AMTRAK is setting up a meeting with the Canadian National (CN) to further discuss the MDOT commitment to make improvements at West Detroit and the MDOT request for CN to analyze and cost 8 round trips (16 trains) per day.
- SEMCOG setting up meeting with NS in early March to discuss the initial output of the capacity study.

8. AMTRAK Ridership and Fare Study

- SEMCOG has sent data to Amtrak's consultant to conduct a fare and ridership study in the corridor.

9. Feeder Bus Service to/from Stations

- SEMCOG has had initial discussion with DDOT, SMART and AATA about additional service that may be needed to support commuter rail.