



February 2010

Ann Arbor – Detroit Regional Rail Project Update

The project team continues to make progress on critical activities. Below are some of the major activities that have taken place since the last update.

Project Funding

The awards for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) High Speed rail funding applications were announced in February 2010. Michigan was awarded \$40 million of the \$833 million requested. The \$40 million will be used for new stations in Dearborn and Birmingham/Troy, and station improvements in Battle Creek.

The Congressional Delegation and the Michigan Department of Transportation are working to identify additional funding opportunities for the project corridor.

SEMCOG applied for \$5 million in fiscal year 2011 appropriations through Senator Stabenow's office to cover both capital and operating needs of the project.

Locomotive RFPs

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has submitted a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the purchase/lease of locomotives. All submissions must be received by March 5, 2010.

Operator and Maintenance RFPs

The RFPs for a service operator and maintenance contractor are in draft review and will be posted this spring.

Cab Car/Coach Refurbishment Contract

Rolling stock contracts will be executed in March.

Woodside Capacity Analysis

The Woodside Consulting Group is using a model to finalize capital improvement needs and develop the best service schedules for the commuter trains. These schedules should be available in May 2010. At that time, feeder bus schedules will be developed to meet all commuter trains and deliver passengers to their final destinations.

Environmental Clearance

Any federally-funded projects will require National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance. Categorical Exclusions are being sought for all projects in the AA-Detroit corridor to expedite service implementation. SEMCOG and MDOT Environmental Section staff continues to advance the environmental work.

Stations

The project team plans to utilize design-build contracts to expedite construction of new stations at Ypsilanti and Henry Ruff Road. The strategy will be to develop a core station design paid for by MDOT/SEMCOG with the station communities contributing funds for any additional amenities. Core items include platform, shelter, and lighting.

SEMCOG is the only organization in Southeast Michigan that brings together all governments to solve regional challenges and enhance the quality of life for the seven-county region's 4.7 million people.

