

SEMCOG Information

Ann Arbor-Detroit Commuter Rail Project Progress Report July 11, 2008

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

1. The Norfolk Southern (NS) Railroad completed the capacity analysis identifying the impacts of 4, 8, and 15 commuter rail round trips on their rail line and presented them to SEMCOG in early June. They are completing some additional analysis requested by MDOT and SEMCOG and will finalize the report in mid August. The analysis identifies the capital projects needed to allow the commuter rail alternatives to be run with no negative impact to existing and future freight rail service.
2. Amtrak has completed the fare and ridership analysis and is in the process of submitting it to SEMCOG and MDOT for review.
3. SEMCOG and MDOT are waiting for a response from the Canadian National (CN) Railroad on the impacts of running four commuter trains a day on their tracks with a new connection at West Detroit Junction to build an additional mile of track and a pocket track. The project will relieve some of the existing traffic and delay that exists in this area. The Canadian National Railway supports the improvement as it will help relieve some of the existing congestion on this section of track and should improve the prospects for increased passenger trains in this congested area. Construction of the improvement would begin in 2009 and be completed in 2010.
4. SEMCOG, MDOT, and AMTRAK have completed their analysis of the proposed locations for the Metro Airport stop. The analysis and recommendation on the preferred site are being reviewed prior to the communities being notified of the results.
5. A short video of the corridor was completed. The video provides a virtual tour of the corridor from the perspective of the rider. It emphasizes the station location, connectivity to places of work, school, and entertainment venues. The video is available on the SEMCOG Web site at:
http://www.semcog.org/uploadedFiles/Programs_and_Projects/Planning/Corridor_Studies/AAtoDetroit.mov.
6. We have begun field analysis of the NS and Conrail portions of the route as part of developing the environmental document for the project.