

Ann Arbor-Detroit Commuter Rail Project
Progress Report
September 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 and MDOT. The analysis identifies the capital projects needed to allow the commuter rail alternatives to be run safely and with no negative impacts to existing and future freight rail service. The report is being reviewed by MDOT and SEMCOG.
2. Amtrak has completed the fare and ridership analysis and has submitted it to SEMCOG and MDOT for review. This work identifies additional capital costs and the operating costs for various alternatives. It has been reviewed by SEMCOG and MDOT and comments have been transmitted to AMTRAK.
3. SEMCOG and MDOT have received a response from the Canadian National (CN) Railroad indicating that they have found capacity on their system to allow for an additional two round trips a day if an improvement is made at West Detroit Junction to build an additional mile of track and a pocket track.

SEMCOG and MDOT have asked CN to clarify their position regarding the additional two round trips and have restated the need for a minimum of four round trips to run the proposed service. The governor's office is also involved in the discussions. We are waiting for a response from CN.

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. Field analysis of the NS and Conrail portions of the route has begun as part of developing the environmental document for the project.
6. The RFP for the final engineering for the West Detroit Connection Track is completed and has been sent out. MDOT is awaiting consultant bids.
7. SEMCOG and MDOT have developed rail car specifications to allow us to begin the process of acquiring rail cars for the project.