

## RESOLUTION 2/2009

### AUTHORIZATION FOR AATA TO SERVE AS THE DESIGNATED AUTHORITY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF WALLY AS AN INTER-COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL SYSTEM

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes Central Railroad, operating as a private enterprise on a rail line owned by the State of Michigan, is interested in cooperating with the public sector to provide public mass transportation services between Washtenaw and Livingston Counties via a project that has come to be known as "WALLY"; and

**WHEREAS**, a broad based coalition of community, government, and business leaders, and other similarly interested parties, has been working toward moving WALLY from an idea to a publicly governed and fully operating inter-county commuter rail service; and

**WHEREAS**, the formation of WALLY has reached the stage where its continued development requires a more formalized and organized structure so that the project may:

- Pursue funding and support from local sources toward the development and operation of a commuter rail system;
- Complete environmental clearance documents necessary to fulfill federal and state regulations;
- Qualify for, and pursue funding from federal and state government sources for the development and operation of a commuter rail system; and
- Enter into agreements and partnerships necessary for the development and operation of a commuter rail system; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority (AATA) has been in existence as a provider of public transportation services within the Greater Ann Arbor Area since 1969; and

**WHEREAS**, AATA has received a letter from the Honorable John Hieftje, Mayor of the City of Ann Arbor, expressing support for AATA to engage the proper staff to further develop the WALLY project and to explore the opportunity for AATA to serve as the official sponsor and Authority of Record for WALLY; and


**WHEREAS**, AATA has received a letter from the Honorable Jeff Irwin, Chair of the Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners, supporting AATA using its resources to help lead WALLY to its eventual success; and

**WHEREAS**, AATA has received a letter jointly from the Honorable Steve Manor, Mayor Pro Tem of the City of Howell, and from Mr. Shea Charles, Manager of the City of Howell, expressing support for AATA to serve as the authority for WALLY, to oversee its development, and to move the entire project forward; and

**WHEREAS**, AATA has received a letter from Ms. Gretchen Driskell, Chair of the Washtenaw Area Transportation Study Policy Committee, expressing support for AATA to provide staff resources to be used toward the WALLY project, to reorganize itself as a Public Act 196 Authority, and to eventually operate the WALLY service; now

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

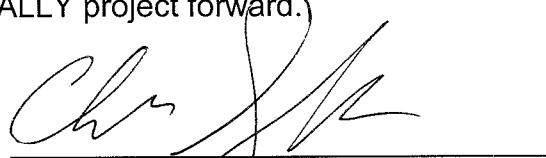
- The Ann Arbor Transportation Authority Board of Directors hereby agrees to serve as the designated Authority for the development of WALLY as an inter-county commuter rail system; and
- The Board of Directors hereby authorizes the use of appropriate AATA staff and resources to work toward moving the WALLY project forward.)



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David Nacht, Chair

October 28, 2008



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Charles Griffith, Secretary

October 28, 2008