

From: Cooper, Eli
Sent: Mon 8/29/2011 12:57 PM
To: Briere, Sabra
Cc: Hieftje, John; Crawford, Tom; Higgins, Sara; Slotten, Cresson; Dykman, David; McCormick, Sue
Subject: RE: questions about Fuller Road

Council Member Briere,

The fact the FRA has funded the preliminary engineering and environmental documentation is the strongest evidence we have to date regarding the federal commitment to the Ann Arbor Station project. That funding is the first step in the development of a train station and includes all of the funding we have applied for to date.

Please note, to apply for final design and construction funding we would need to have completed preliminary engineering to have the information required in the application.

Please note, the federal government does not produce reports obligating future funding to future projects. What does exist is a long standing practice that once a federal investment is made in the preliminary phases of work, and the funded work is completed satisfactorily, future phase are generally awarded funding when applications are submitted. Once we have completed the preliminary engineering phase of work, staff will recommend we seek future federal assistance to build the project.

Might I suggest you and your constituents look to the FRA's High Speed Rail Program web site at <http://www.fra.dot.gov/rpd/passenger/31.shtml> to gain a better view of how important this high speed rail program is to the nation and the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative at <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/passengerrail/mwri/index.html> to gain a better understanding of the regional importance of these investments. As always, if you have any further questions do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Eli Cooper, AICP

Transportation Program Manager