



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Railroad
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 11, 2021

Mr. Tom Crawford, City Administrator
Larcom City Hall, third floor
301 E. Huron St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
tcrawford@a2gov.org

Re: Ann Arbor Station

Dear Mr. Crawford:

As you are aware, in 2011 the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) provided Federal funding to the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) for Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation for the Ann Arbor Station project in Ann Arbor, Michigan under the High Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Grant Program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). MDOT partnered with the City of Ann Arbor (City) to develop an Environmental Assessment (EA) and preliminary engineering for the Ann Arbor Station. The ARRA funding for the grant expired on September 30, 2017. FRA closed out the grant in 2019.

In 2011, FRA, MDOT, and the City began developing the EA to evaluate an Ann Arbor Station in Ann Arbor, Michigan. FRA released the EA for public review in September 2017. FRA acknowledges and appreciates the effort the City has undertaken since that time to address the over 100 public comments received on the EA, as well as FRA's own questions regarding the project. However, as FRA previously informed the City, the cost estimate for the City's preferred project is an order of magnitude higher than other new intercity passenger rail and multimodal stations for which MDOT was awarded Federal funding by FRA to construct. The cost is high because the City's preferred location for the station is constrained and the City is proposing a substantial amount of parking, requiring the station to be located over the tracks. In addition, the City's preferred station design exceeds intercity passenger rail needs. Therefore, FRA is discontinuing the development of the EA and does not intend to complete the environmental process at this time.

If you have questions, please contact Ms. Melissa Hatcher, FRA Project Manager, at (202) 493-6075 or melissa.hatcher@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

Jamie Rennert
Director, Office of Infrastructure Investment
Federal Railroad Administration

cc: Peter Anastor, Michigan Department of Transportation
Jeff Martin, Michigan Department of Transportation
Eli Cooper, City of Ann Arbor