



CITY OF MADISON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MADISON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
215 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BLVD., ROOM 312
MADISON, WI 53701

December 7, 2010

Mayor Dave Cieslewicz
Room 403, City-County Building
210 Martin Luther King Jr., Blvd
Madison, WI 53703

Dear Mayor Cieslewicz:

On behalf of Madison's Economic Development Committee (EDC), I am writing to you in support of your efforts to ensure the continuation of the high speed rail project connecting Madison to the region. Recognizing the importance of this project to Madison's economic growth and success, the EDC voted at its November 29th meeting to send you this letter.

In the EDC's opinion, this project represents one of the most significant infrastructure investments our community has had – or will have – in years, and it is an opportunity we simply cannot afford to miss. The choice is clear: Madison can either be part of the Midwest's High Speed Rail Network, with trains connecting us to Chicago and eventually Minneapolis, or we can be left out entirely and watch wistfully from the sidelines as other communities – and other states – grow and prosper along this dynamic, innovative, new transportation corridor.

The high speed rail project has the potential to connect Madison's businesses to the larger region, create jobs, and increase our competitiveness in a global economy. As well, the construction and location of a downtown Madison rail station will serve as a catalyst for broad and exciting redevelopment in our city's central core. The vocal support for this rail project by other local and regional business organizations such as the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Madison, Inc., and Thrive is indicative of the tremendous economic development potential presented by this opportunity. The Economic Development Committee stands with these groups as an ally on this issue.

Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We urge you to continue your aggressive and articulate effort to preserve this project's viability. Please let us know if we may be of assistance, and please share this letter as appropriate with other agencies or entities.

Sincerely,

Doug Nelson, Chair
Madison Economic Development Committee, on behalf of the committee