

CITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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City and University Announce Decision to Halt Fuller Road Station Plan

The City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan announced today that the Fuller Road Station with parking facilities as presently designed will not move forward. While reaffirming their commitment to support multi-modal transportation, both parties have decided to wait until federal funding sources for track sidings and station construction are more imminent before redesigning and restructuring any potential joint agreement.

“After months of fruitful discussions, we received new information from the Federal Rail Administration regarding the eligibility of monies for the local match. This information altered project timing such that we could no longer finalize a proposal under the current Memorandum of Understanding,” said John Hieftje, Mayor of Ann Arbor.

“We are optimistic the city’s drive to win additional federal and state dollars for Fuller Road Station will be successful,” said Jim Kosteva the University’s Director of Community Relations “When the time comes, we stand ready to reengage.”

“Rail service and the interconnections with bus transit at that location is a vital component in our goal of providing sustainable transportation options at the University,” said Kosteva. “We look forward to cooperating with the city in its ongoing efforts to bring interstate and intercity rail service to the Fuller Road site.

“With the State’s purchase of the Norfolk-Southern tracks, the construction of a multi-modal transit center at Fuller Road becomes deeply important to the future of Ann Arbor and critical to the success of both commuter and higher-speed AMTRAK service on the east-west corridor,” said Mayor Hieftje. “The award of \$2.8M from the Federal Rail Administration to perform design and environmental assessment work for Fuller Road Station gives us confidence that the remaining dollars for the full build out will follow.”

While long term planning for the Fuller Road Station will continue, it is acknowledged that the University will need to move forward with building a parking structure, in a yet to be determined location, near the Medical Campus to address the expected demand as employment and patient activity continues to grow.

Pursuit of an intermodal station on Fuller Road is an excellent example of intergovernmental cooperation. A broad based partnership is coalescing among AMTRAK, the Michigan Department of Transportation, the Federal Rail Administration, Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, the University of Michigan, and the City of Ann Arbor.

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Ann Arbor has 114,000 residents, spans 27.7 square miles, and is frequently recognized as a foremost place to live, learn, work, thrive and visit (www.a2gov.org/news). To keep up with City of Ann Arbor information, subscribe for e-mail updates (www.a2gov.org/subscribe), follow us on Twitter (<http://twitter.com/a2gov>) or become a city fan on Facebook (www.facebook.com/thecityofannarbor). The city's mission statement reads: The city of Ann Arbor is committed to providing excellent municipal services that enhance the quality of life for all through the intelligent use of resources while valuing an open environment that fosters fair, sensitive and respectful treatment of all employees and the community we serve.

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