

Subject: Fwd: Letter to FRA Regarding the AA Train Station Project

From: "Eaton, Jack" <JEaton@a2gov.org>

Date: 5/26/2017 5:49 PM

To: Vivienne Armentrout <vnarmentrout@sbcglobal.net>, Rita Mitchell <ritalmitchell@gmail.com>

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Lazarus, Howard" <HLazarus@a2gov.org>

Date: May 26, 2017 at 3:54:34 PM EDT

To: "*City Council Members (All)" <CityCouncilMembersAll@a2gov.org>

Cc: "Postema, Stephen" <SPostema@a2gov.org>, "Frost, Christopher" <CFrost@a2gov.org>, "Hupy, Craig" <CHupy@a2gov.org>, "Slotten, Cresson" <CSlotten@a2gov.org>, "Cooper, Eli" <ECooper@a2gov.org>

Subject: Letter to FRA Regarding the AA Train Station Project

Council Members:

I am forwarding a copy of a letter I sent earlier today to Ms. Melissa Hatcher, Midwest Regional Manager for the Federal Railroad Administration, concerning the Ann Arbor Railroad Station Project. The letter expresses the City's determination to complete the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Preliminary Engineering (PE) as required under the grant agreement with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT). As you are aware, the project is primarily funded by federal funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARAR). These funds expire at the end of the current federal fiscal year (September 30th), and FRA has expressed some concern over the City's ability to complete the work within the grant funding period. To that end, FRA has authorized a "tapered match" approach, in which the City can access the federal funds first. Staff believes under this structure, we can advance the majority of the PE effort before the end of July. Council should note that the FRA cannot guarantee that invoices sent to them after June 30th will be processed prior to their mid-September cut-off for FY17 funds disbursements.

It is important for Council to read the letter in the context that staff is requesting approval of a modification to increase the funding authorization for the AECOM contract. This modification is scheduled on the June 5th agenda for Council consideration. AECOM is the consultant responsible for preparing the EA. If Council does not approve the authorization, the City will have no choice other than to stop work, and request that FRA cancel the grant. This action would put the work performed to date at risk, and would place the City at a competitive disadvantage for future federal rail funding opportunities.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or if you would like to discuss this matter further.

HOWARD S. LAZARUS

City Administrator
City of Ann Arbor
301 E. Huron Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
T: 734-794-6110 ext41102

E: hlazarus@a2gov.org
www.a2gov.org

— image001.jpg —



EVERYWHERE • EVERYONE • EVERY DAY.
a2gov.org/A2BeSafe

— ATT00001.htm —

— ATT00002.htm —

— Attachments: —

image001.jpg	5.0 KB
ATT00001.htm	480 bytes
17.05.26 FRA letter regarding Ann Arbor Train Station Project.pdf	133 KB
ATT00002.htm	168 bytes