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ferndale-mi.com



GOOD
NEIGHBORS

DATE: 5/11/2005

TRANSMIT TO: JUSTIN SUTTON

INTERSTATE TRAVELER

TELECOPIER # 734-449-4486

FROM: TOM BARWIN

COMMENTS: ONCE YOU HAVE HAD A CHANCE TO REVIEW THE FOLLOWING,
WE NEED TO TALK

THIS TRANSMITTAL CONSISTS OF 3 PAGE(S), INCLUDING COVER SHEET

IF DOCUMENT WAS NOT COMPLETELY RECEIVED,
PLEASE CALL 248-546-2360

FAX NO. 248-546-2369



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

GLORIA J. JEFF
DIRECTOR

April 12, 2005

Mr. Thomas W. Barwin, City Manager
City of Ferndale
300 East Nine Mile Road
Ferndale, Michigan 48220-1797

Dear Mr. Barwin:

Thank you for providing the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) with a copy of the Interstate Traveler Woodward Avenue demonstration project resolution, which was passed by the Ferndale City Council on February 14, 2005.

MDOT believes that improved public transportation, including rapid transit, will play a role in Michigan's future. In southeast Michigan, we have been working with the Detroit Area Regional Transportation Authority (DARTA), whose role is to develop a plan for regional coordination. The initial choices that will need to be made to bring rapid transit to southeast Michigan will begin with DARTA and with communities like yours across the region.

MDOT definitely agrees that more of the federal transit funding should be returned to Michigan. We have been strong advocates for transportation funding equity between the states. This concept is especially important when there is a need for expanded transit service. We continue to pursue transit equity in Washington.

The City Council's resolution requests that MDOT be a partner with the proposed demonstration project, including making the Woodward Avenue right-of-way available. We would like to learn more about Ferndale's intentions for an Interstate Traveler Woodward Avenue demonstration project and specific development testing and steps being undertaken by Interstate Traveler to prove the concept. The next steps in the process should include development of a business plan for the project. The business plan would include a detailed breakdown of the capital costs and the annual operating and maintenance costs for the demonstration phase of the project and initial calculations for full-scale implementation. Information about proposed station stops, time schedules and projected ridership for the demonstration should also be included in the business plan. The plan should also address likely issues with full scale implementation.

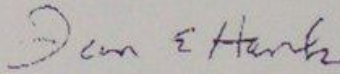
State law requires that businesses or private parties and utility companies wishing to use the highway right-of-way for operations other than normal vehicular or pedestrian travel are required to obtain a permit from MDOT.

Mr. Thomas W. Barwin
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The city and its private partner should begin taking steps needed to submit a permit application to MDOT for use of the Woodward Avenue right-of-way. The permit application includes a form as well as a drawing or plan of the proposed project with its location and dimensions shown. You can find information about our permit requirements on our website at <http://www.michigan.gov/mdot> or you can contact Mr. Paul C. Ajegba, Oakland County Transportation Service Center Manager at 2300 Dixie Highway, Waterford, Michigan 48328 or at (248) 451-0001. In addition, your business plan should be sent to Mr. Rob Abent, Director of the Multi-Modal Transportation Services Bureau, at 425 W. Ottawa, P.O. Box 30050, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Once we have more specific information, we will be happy to work with city and regional leaders at DARTA to help move evaluation of the project proposal forward, in concert with the regional plan.

Sincerely,



Kirk T. Steudle, P.E.
Chief Deputy Director

cc: Mr. Derrick Miller, Co-Chair, DARTA Board
Mr. Gregory Pitoniak, Co-Chair, DARTA Board
Mr. Rob Abent, MDOT

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APR 19 2005

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