



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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Jim Doyle
Governor

Frank J. Busalacchi
Secretary

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August 17, 2010

Mayor James Daley
City of Oconomowoc
174 East Wisconsin Avenue
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Dear Mayor Daley:

As you are aware, in January 2010, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) was awarded an \$810 million grant for development of its statewide high-speed intercity passenger rail service. This project is part of a larger Midwest Regional Rail Initiative that will eventually provide service between Chicago and Minneapolis/St. Paul, as well as provide connectivity to other Midwest cities including Detroit, St. Louis, Cleveland and Kansas City. The Milwaukee to Madison segment is the next step toward completion of the Chicago to Twin Cities corridor.

The City of Oconomowoc previously expressed a desire to have an intermediate rail station on this corridor. In 2000, WisDOT embarked on an extensive environmental review process to identify a rail corridor and proposed station locations for the Milwaukee to Madison segment. As a part of that process, the City of Oconomowoc expressed interest in having a station in its City, and provided support for the project (August 15, 2000, City Common Council Resolution). As a result, the 2004 Environmental Assessment – Finding of No Significant Impact identified a "proposed" intermediate station in Oconomowoc. None of the proposed intermediate station locations are necessary for the project and may be eliminated or modified to meet the needs of the rail corridor project.

Since 2009, my staff has been working with officials from the City of Oconomowoc focused towards project implementation issues especially in regards to development of a proposed station. On August 2, 2010, we conducted a Community Workshop in the city to provide information to residents on the project and proposed station.

In review of our discussions, you have indicated you no longer have interest in a station in the City of Oconomowoc. This is a change in viewpoint from when we began this process in 2000 and from the 2004 Environmental Assessment. Due to the lack of interest by the City, we are discontinuing further discussions on a proposed station in Oconomowoc. As the overall project moves forward, we will continue to work with the City and residents on rail crossing issues and a rail corridor management plan to ensure the train passes safely and swiftly through the City of Oconomowoc.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank J. Busalacchi".

Frank J. Busalacchi
Secretary