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July 31, 2009

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING
KANSAS DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION

Ms. Deb Miller
Secretary
Kansas Department of Transportation
Eisenhower State Office Building
700 SW Harrison
Topeka, KS 66603-3754

RE: Support for KDOT Passenger Rail Investments

Dear Ms. Miller,

The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), serving as Greater Kansas City's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), strongly supports the Kansas Department of Transportation's (KDOT) efforts to secure funding for improved passenger rail service through the federal High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail Program.

As identified in the region's long range transportation plan, *Transportation Outlook 2030 Update*, MARC and the Kansas City region recognize the need to continue expanding and enhancing travel alternatives within and between existing communities as a means to improve the movement of both people and goods. The Southwest Chief Corridor which is proposed to be upgraded, in addition to potential connections to Oklahoma City and beyond, represent real opportunities to foster economic growth and prosperity in the Midwest and will work to enhance and build on Kansas City's history and role in supporting national freight and passenger rail service.

MARC applauds your efforts in working to improve passenger rail viability, reliability, and service, and strongly supports your efforts and funding proposal to build on President Obama's vision for High-Speed Rail in America. Please let us know if there is anything we can do now or in the future to help make this vision a reality.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Warm", written over a horizontal line.

David A. Warm
Executive Director

cc: John Maddox

Joel Skelley

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