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April 17, 2009

Honorable Tom Latham
House of Representatives
2447 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Reauthorization Letter of Support

Dear Representative Latham:

The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (AAMPO), the planning agency for the Ames urban area, **supports the Transit Facility Expansion** project currently requesting federal reauthorization funding. This project will **benefit** the Ames community by:

- **Providing economic stimulus** with up to 90 construction, architecture and engineering jobs
- **Enhancing mobility and safety** throughout Ames with well maintained vehicles
- **Providing adequate maintenance/storage space for federally funded buses** with a facility large enough to accommodate a growing transit fleet
- **Providing a critical component to a coordinated, energy-efficient transportation network** within one facility
- **Furthering sustainability** through the design of a LEED certified facility

Additionally, this Transit Facility Expansion is essential in continuing to meet the needs of Ames residents. With over a 15% ridership increase in the last two years, the transit system's current facility is unable to accommodate additional buses and maintenance functions into the future. Additional space is needed to maintain and accommodate fleet expansion as well as integrating hybrid bus technology for our growing community of transit riders. This facility would be designed to LEED "Gold" building standards.

This project has been part of a series of public conversations about transportation improvements within the Ames community over the past two years. Included in this **public input process** are discussions at:

- **Eight Ames Transit Agency (CyRide) Board of Trustees Meetings**
- **Two City of Ames Council Meetings** (televised)

- **Four Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization meetings and two public hearings** on the Transportation Improvement Plan (televised)
- **Five Passenger Transportation Development Plan meetings** with human service agencies in Ames
- **Two State of Iowa public hearings** on the State Transportation Improvement Plan

Funding for this project will be provided by the Ames Transit Agency who has developed a multi-year Financial Plan that will provide not only funding for the 20% **local match** to construct the Transit Facility Expansion project, but also to provide local funds for additional capital purchases such as buses. This funding will be obtained **through the transit agencies three-party funding agreement between the City of Ames (property tax), Iowa State University (annual budget) and Iowa State University's Government of the Student Body (student fees).**

The Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Agency (AAMPO) appreciates your consideration of this project for funding under the Transportation Reauthorization bill. If you need anything further from the planning agency, please feel free to give me a call at (515) 239-5165.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Joiner', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Joiner
Administrator
Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization