



March 16, 2024

Scott Decker
Mayor
City of Dickinson, ND
38 1st St W
Dickinson, ND 58601

Dear Mayor Decker,

The United States recently put billions of dollars into new passenger-train service, with further investments on the horizon.

What does this mean for the community you lead? The answer depends on what we can accomplish together, to build a national network that serves communities of every size.

You can bring the benefits of great trains to your community, via the High Speed Rail Alliance.

Will City of Dickinson, ND join as an Alliance member now?

Recent developments like these are really exciting:

- In December, the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded new Corridor ID grants for scoping work on 69 projects in 44 states. This unprecedented effort sets the stage for a network of great trains all over the country.
- Alongside Corridor ID scoping, the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has already put nearly \$24 billion into projects that were ready to go in Alaska, California, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and along the Northeast Corridor.
- The Federal Railroad Administration proposed adding 15 long-distance routes in February, which would serve 61 more metropolitan areas and create a true national passenger-train network.

Further investment that could benefit your community is also starting to take shape.

On March 11, Rep. Seth Moulton of Massachusetts and Rep. Suzan DelBene of Washington State introduced the American High Speed Rail Act of 2024. Their bill already has over 25 co-sponsors, and it would devote \$205 billion for construction of high-speed rail (186+ mph) and higher-speed rail (110-186 mph) over five years. This

bill can play an important role in shaping the next transportation reauthorization.

As part of the Alliance, you will:

- provide information and resources for your staff and peer leaders in other cities;
- promote alternatives to highway and airport development;
- raise your voice with peers at a pivotal time, to demand a high level of service.

It is especially important for leaders like you to speak with one voice on this issue *now*. That is because DOTs in the 44 states that received Corridor ID funding are making plans for the next decade—and unfortunately, they are probably aiming too low.

After years of uncertain funding and limited staff capacity for developing new train service, it is understandable that state departments of transportation are proceeding cautiously. We can't expect them to plan the kind of service we want unless we tell them—and win funding that makes it possible for them to provide it.

Whether you lead a small town or a big city, we need to work together for state railway programs that guide and fund the scoping and planning work that is getting underway. We also need a federal railway program to shape and support multi-state projects.

No one community, and no single state, can create a regional or national network of great trains—but together we can.

Join the Alliance to shape emerging plans and bring the benefits of fast, frequent, and affordable trains to your community.

Adding your voice as an elected leader is critical. Please see the enclosed municipal membership form to join.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact me at Rick@HSRail.org or 773-334-6758.

Sincerely,

Rick Harnish
Executive Director