

May 28, 2026

The Honorable Administrator Fink
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: City of Watertown Letter of Support – Hiawatha West Service Development Plan

Dear Administrator Fink:

On behalf of the City of Watertown, Wisconsin, I write to express the City's strong support for the Hiawatha West Service Development Plan and the proposed expansion of Amtrak intercity passenger rail service to Watertown.

The City of Watertown views the Hiawatha West corridor as a critical investment that will expand regional mobility, strengthen economic competitiveness, and provide residents, businesses, and visitors with safe, reliable, and environmentally sustainable transportation options. Direct intercity passenger rail service will significantly improve connectivity between Watertown and major employment, education, healthcare, and cultural destinations throughout southeastern Wisconsin and the broader Midwest.

The City of Watertown has taken proactive steps to advance readiness for Amtrak service, including identifying a preferred station location at 1998-South Site (3rd Street). This site has been reviewed by Amtrak for operational feasibility and rail compatibility, with no significant issues identified, representing an important milestone toward implementation. Concurrently, the City is coordinating with the property owner and key stakeholders to address station-area needs such as parking, access, circulation, and multimodal connectivity, ensuring a safe, convenient, and accessible passenger experience while positioning the area for future transit-oriented and economic development.

Watertown remains committed to continued coordination with Amtrak, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and the Federal Railroad Administration as planning progresses. The City stands ready to serve as a constructive and reliable partner to help advance the Hiawatha West corridor from planning through implementation.

We appreciate the Federal Railroad Administration's leadership in advancing passenger rail investments that strengthen communities and expand transportation choices nationwide. We respectfully urge continued federal support for the Hiawatha West Service Development Plan and future Amtrak service to Watertown.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not hesitate to contact the City should additional information be helpful.

Sincerely,

Robert Stocks
Mayor
City of Watertown

cc: Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Amtrak