

June 2, 2026

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

RE: Funding Commitment Letter of Support for FRA CRISI Grant Application –Hiawatha West Project

Dear Administrator Fink,

On behalf of the City of Watertown, I am pleased to offer our strong support for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's application to the Federal Railroad Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) program for the Hiawatha West Project.

The proposed extension of Amtrak Hiawatha Service to Pewaukee, Watertown, and Madison represents an important investment in regional mobility, economic development, and transportation safety. The City of Watertown strongly supports this effort and the critical improvements to passenger rail and freight infrastructure that this project will deliver.

As a community that stands to benefit directly from this expanded service, Watertown recognizes the importance of reliable, efficient passenger rail in enhancing access to employment centers, expanding workforce opportunities, and supporting long-term economic vitality. The Hiawatha West Project will strengthen connections between communities in southeastern Wisconsin and the greater Chicago region, benefiting residents, businesses, and visitors alike.

The City of Watertown, in consultation with Amtrak, has worked to identify a location for the Amtrak station that works for the host railroad CPKC, Amtrak, and our community. This station will provide a strategic and accessible rail connection for our residents and surrounding areas, foster economic growth, and integrate rail service with our local and regional transportation network.

To demonstrate our commitment to this project, the City of Watertown pledges a **\$65,000 local match**, which will be directed toward the **improvements in Watertown**. This investment reflects

our strong belief in the long-term value of the Hiawatha West Project and our willingness to partner in delivering critical infrastructure improvements.

The project also advances key transportation priorities by improving safety at grade crossings, reducing roadway congestion, and offering a safe and reliable travel option. These benefits align with the City's commitment to regional connectivity and economic opportunity.

We respectfully request the Federal Railroad Administration support the Hiawatha West Project through the CRISI program. This investment will deliver lasting benefits to Watertown and the broader region.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Sincerely,

Robert Stocks
Mayor
City of Watertown

cc: Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Amtrak