

May 28, 2026

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

RE: 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 the City's 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 extension of Amtrak Hiawatha Service from Chicago and Milwaukee to Watertown and Madison, and grade crossing safety and freight improvements, represent a significant investment in regional mobility, economic growth, safety, and connectivity across southeastern Wisconsin.

The City of Watertown recognizes the importance of reliable passenger and freight rail service in supporting economic activity. This project will improve access to major employment centers, expand workforce opportunities, and support business growth and new investment in our region. For local manufacturers, small businesses, healthcare providers, and educational institutions, enhanced connectivity will reduce barriers and strengthen our ability to attract talent and compete.

Passenger rail will also support Watertown's growing tourism and visitor economy. As a community located between Milwaukee and Madison, we are well positioned to benefit from increased visitation and stronger regional connections. Improved rail access will make it easier for residents and visitors to travel efficiently and complimentary to our highway system.

In addition, the project advances broader transportation goals by providing a safe, reliable travel option, mitigating congestion along key corridors, and supporting long-term sustainability efforts.

The Hiawatha West Project is a meaningful investment that will deliver lasting benefits for our community and the region.

The City of Watertown respectfully urges the Federal Railroad Administration to support this project through the CRISI program.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Stocks
Mayor
City of Watertown

cc: Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Amtrak