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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 Ames Intermodal Facility** project currently requesting federal reauthorization funding. This project will **benefit** the Ames community by:

- **Providing economic stimulus** with up to 375 construction, architecture and engineering jobs
- **Rejuvenating and spur economic development in an urban business district** in the heart of the Ames community
- **Enhancing mobility and safety** with a coordinated multi-modal network of intercity and urban transit system buses combined with a parking system
- **Reducing fuel consumption and carbon emissions** through fewer vehicles miles traveled by coordinated transit and parking systems (park and ride)
- **Promoting sustainability** through the design-goal of Gold LEED certification

The Ames Intermodal Facility will help spur economic development in the heart of the Ames community. Specifically, the intercity bus carrier will be relocated from an industrial area at the outskirts of Ames to this centrally located Intermodal Facility. This new intercity station will be combined with parking for its patrons, Iowa State University parking needs and a CyRide bus route to disburse individuals throughout ISU's campus and the Ames community allowing for a coordinated transportation network in the City of Ames and serving the larger Central Iowa region.

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

- **Two 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

Local funding for this project will be provided through a joint agreement between Iowa State University and the City of Ames for the 20% local match required to construct this project.

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,

John Joiner
Administrator
Ames Area Metropolitan Planning Organization