

NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION

525 West Van Buren Street, Chicago, IL 60607

March 11, 2009

Deborah Miller, Secretary  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
Dwight D. Eisenhower State Office Building  
700 S.W. Harrison Street  
Topeka, KS 66603-3754



Re: Transportation Enhancement funds application for the Lawrence Santa Fe/Amtrak station

Dear Secretary Miller:

As the nation's operator of intercity passenger rail service, the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) is pleased to support the application for Transportation Enhancement funds for restoration of the historic Lawrence Santa Fe Depot.

Amtrak has provided daily passenger train service to the depot since the corporation's inception in 1971. Station facilities are the front door to many of the 500 communities Amtrak serves. In Amtrak's experience, restored facilities bring pride to the communities where they are located and increase economic development in surrounding areas.

A community that takes pride of ownership in their station, as Lawrence has, reaps rewards through increased tourism and the benefits of easier access to local attractions.

As the nation re-orders its transportation priorities to mitigate the climate damage, provide more travel choices for consumers, and invest in existing places, we think it fitting that the City of Lawrence and state of Kansas prioritize investment in an existing asset in the heart of their community. We are committing our own resources with the installation of an eight foot informational kiosk and new signs.

We look forward to many more years of service to Lawrence. Serving the community at a restored, active depot that is fully accessible to the disabled, allows even more passengers to experience the safety and convenience of rail travel and access the business and educational resources of Lawrence.

Please don't hesitate to contact me at 312-880-5118 should you have any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Derrick James".

Derrick James  
Senior Officer, Government Affairs  
Amtrak