

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS



Michael P. Lewis
Director

Department of Transportation
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
Two Capitol Hill
Providence, R.I. 02903-1124

OFFICE (401) 222-2481
FAX (401) 222-2086
TDD (401) 222-4971

November 11, 2009

The Honorable James E. Doyle
Mayor
City Hall
137 Roosevelt Ave
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Re: **Pawtucket/Central Falls Commuter Rail Station
New Start Funding**

Dear Mayor Doyle:

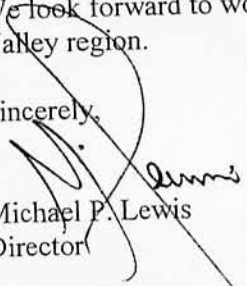
We have reviewed your letter of October 20, 2009 regarding the next phase for development of the Pawtucket/Central Falls Commuter Rail Station project. We are extremely pleased and appreciate the City's commitment of providing \$360,000.00 of local funds to be applied towards the 20% match necessary to access the \$1.9 million of federal funds.

RIDOT is prepared to move this project forward. The local and regional support expressed at the October 26, 2009 Transportation Breakfast was overwhelming. The next phase will need to include a fresh look at the new site, specifically in terms of railroad operations considering what we know about Amtrak and MBTA requirements. As such, I have directed my Intermodal Planning Office to begin preparing a project agreement with the City for project management oversight of this next phase, to include these railroad operational issues.

In addition, my staff is working with you Planning staff, Statewide Planning Office, and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) to ensure all of FTA's requirements including a project finance plan, have been addressed in order for RIDOT to formally request approval to enter preliminary engineering phase. We hope to have this process completed within the next few weeks. Once FTA has approved our request we can initiate the grant application process for the funds.

We look forward to working closely together on this project and future passenger rail projects in the Blackstone Valley region.

Sincerely,


Michael P. Lewis
Director

cc: The Honorable Charles D. Moreau, Mayor, Central Falls, Arthur Hanson, Central Falls Planning
Michael Cassidy, Pawtucket Planning, Thomas Mann, Pawtucket Foundation
Jared Rhodes, Statewide Planning, Robert A. Shawver, RIDOT, Stephen A. Devine, RIDOT