Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers, Inc.
33373 Hampshire Road · Livonia, MI 48154-2952 · www.marp.org

March 4, 2026

To: House Appropriations Subcommittee on State and Local Transportation

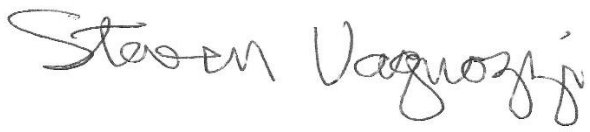
Re: Remarks on Passenger Rail for Today's Committee Hearing

The Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers (MARP) supports matching State funding for MDOT to submit grant applications to the various Federal rail grant programs. This will allow current studies to expand passenger rail including Metro Detroit to Grand Rapids service to move forward. It will also allow projects to increase frequencies on the three current routes to progress. Successful matching grant applications will help fund the planning and startup costs for additional passenger rail service in Michigan.

The current shortage of available passenger rail equipment for the three existing services is having a negative effect on service quality and capacity. MARP encourages this committee to provide funding for a fast track acquisition of additional passenger cars compatible with the existing "Venture" fleet. These cars can be used on the existing trains in the short term and then reassigned to new frequencies in the future. The State of Wisconsin has already taken this step.

Feel free to contact me for further details supporting our request.

Sincerely,



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