



**CITY OF ALTON
ILLINOIS**

OFFICE OF MAYOR
TOM HOECHST

101 E. THIRD ST.
ALTON, IL 62002

September 29, 2011

Mr. Michael R. Garcia
Bureau Chief
Bureau of High Speed and Passenger Rail
Room 339 Hanley Building
2300 South Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

Re: City of Alton High Speed Rail Passenger Facility

Dear Mr. Garcia:

I represent the City of Alton, Illinois, which has passenger rail service. The Chicago–St. Louis rail corridor has been an integral part of the U.S. passenger rail network, and the State of Illinois has supported the operation and improvement of rail service as well as the enhancement of the physical aspects of the Chicago-St. Louis corridor for over 40 years. In 2010, the Federal Railroad Administration selected Illinois for award of up to \$1.1 billion in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding to provide high speed passenger rail service along the Corridor

Part of the Grant funds will be used toward the rehabilitation and renewal of passenger rail stations along the Chicago-St. Louis corridor, including the station located at the City of Alton. The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) conducted a condition assessment (dated December 20, 2010) and created a programming study (dated June 29, 2011) for the Alton station and presented Alton with concept plans of potential station locations.

The City of Alton supports Conceptual Station Plan 2 presented by IDOT and is willing to work in conjunction with the State of Illinois to further develop that concept station plan to reach design level, and to produce mutually agreeable plans and specifications for the construction of a new high speed rail passenger facility for Alton, Illinois.

If you have any questions on this matter, please contact my office at 618-463-3500, Extension 3.

Sincerely,

Tom Hoechst, Mayor
City of Alton, Illinois