

Michigan Department of Transportation
Progress Report – Holland to Detroit Rail Passenger Feasibility Study
PA 252 of 2014 Section 712
April 30, 2015

In accordance with Section 712 of 2014 PA252, a study is being conducted to determine the demand for new intercity passenger rail transportation capacity and accessibility between Michigan's east and west coasts, focusing on the major population centers of Detroit, Lansing, Grand Rapids and Holland.

Sec. 712. From the funds appropriated in part 1, the department shall conduct a study of the feasibility of rail passenger service on the rail corridor between Holland and Detroit, via Grand Rapids and Lansing. The study shall include ridership projections within the corridor, estimated rail passenger service capital and operating costs, and revenue estimates. The department shall complete and submit the report to the state budget director, the house and senate appropriations subcommittees on transportation, and the house and senate fiscal agencies on or before May 1, 2015.

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority (AAATA) was awarded a Federal Service Development and New Technology (SDNT) grant to conduct the study. The \$80,000 grant is passed through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and is supplemented with a \$20,000 local match contributed by various local organizations across the state. AAATA contracted with the Michigan Environmental Council (MEC) for management oversight. MEC will coordinate the study in partnership with MDOT, AAATA, Michigan by Rail, and regional planning agencies throughout the corridor.

AAATA sought competitive proposals from consultant firms to undertake the study. The successful proposal was submitted by Transportation Economics and Management Systems, Inc. (TEMS). The contract with TEMS was awarded in March and the firm has begun its work. Concurrently, the Michigan by Rail team, with coordination provided by MEC, will organize and conduct the public engagement portion of this study, which will include multiple meetings at locations along the proposed corridor.

A final report is anticipated by December of 2015 and will be submitted upon completion.