



GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL

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A Resolution Supporting the City of New Buffalo's USDOT 2012 TIGER Grant Application to Improve Intercity Passenger Rail Service on the Pere Marquette Rail Corridor

WHEREAS, the Pere Marquette passenger rail corridor operates along a corridor that includes the cities of Grand Rapids, Holland, Bangor and St. Joseph, Michigan and continues on to Chicago; and,

WHEREAS, the Pere Marquette service provides one round trip daily between these Michigan communities and Chicago posting both record ridership and revenue in 2011; and,

WHEREAS, the Pere Marquette runs on a different corridor just outside New Buffalo; and,

WHEREAS, New Buffalo is serviced by the Wolverine passenger rail corridor which is on the federally designated Chicago Hub (Chicago-Detroit/Pontiac) High Speed Rail Corridor and recently was approved by the Federal Railroad Administration for passenger speeds up to 110 mph on Amtrak's ownership; and,

WHEREAS, New Buffalo has submitted a TIGER grant application to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) to study a connection of the Pere Marquette passenger rail service to the Wolverine line just east of the city of New Buffalo; and,

WHEREAS, this study will ultimately provide design plans for the construction of a connection between the Pere Marquette and the Wolverine rail lines; and,

WHEREAS, this connection will provide improvements that will aid both current and future service reliability and access to higher speeds on the Pere Marquette corridor southwest of New Buffalo; and,

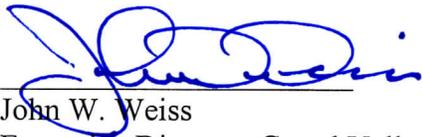
WHEREAS, this project will improve the Pere Marquette corridor's infrastructure, and also contribute to the region's economic development and competitiveness; and,

WHEREAS, the New Buffalo TIGER grant application also calls for adding additional track, known as double tracking, to eliminate conflicts between freight and passenger rail. This will increase the efficiency of potential future passenger rail between Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo; and,

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Transportation has assured the Grand Valley Metropolitan Council that this project will enhance and promote the future development of the Grand Rapids to Kalamazoo passenger rail corridor, which is part of the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative and Michigan's State Rail Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GRAND VALLEY METROPOLITAN COUNCIL:

The Grand Valley Metro Council endorses and supports New Buffalo's Application for a 2012 TIGER Grant from the United States Department of Transportation.



John W. Weiss

Executive Director, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council

3/1/2012

Date