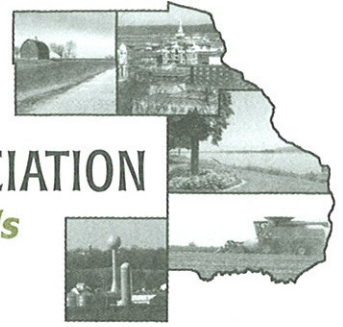


EAST CENTRAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ASSOCIATION

A Regional Response to Local Needs



February 2, 2009

7600 Commerce Park
Dubuque, IA 52002

Tammy Nicholson – Director
Iowa Department of Transportation
Office of Rail Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Ms. Nicholson:

Dubuque Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (DMATS) board respectfully requests your support to establish a sustainable funding source dedicated to the expansion of passenger rail services for Iowans. The DMATS is not currently served by passenger rail. Our leaders have long supported the development of passenger rail service between Chicago and the City of Dubuque.

Recently, the Illinois DOT programmed \$ 60 Million in their five year program to implement passenger rail service between Chicago and the Dubuque. Supporting the legislation will help Iowa to complete the project between Chicago and Dubuque in timely fashion.

DMATS leaders recognize the need to lay a framework to improve rail service and we believe legislation to establish a sustainable funding source, will provide the state a source for establishing a matching grant program for federal dollars to improving rail infrastructure. Passenger rail service will improve business along the entire corridor and provide access to higher education facilities like Loras College, Clark College and University of Dubuque located in the Dubuque and University of Wisconsin in Platteville. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Kelley Deutmeyer
Executive Director