

October 27, 2011



Mr. Timothy Reardon
Director
Montana Department of Transportation
2701 Prospect Avenue,
PO Box 201001
Helena, Montana, 59620-1001

Dear Mr. Reardon:

The National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) would like to take this opportunity to express its support for City of Shelby, Montana's National Infrastructure grant application submitted in response to the August 12, 2011 Federal Register Notice of Funding Availability for the Department of Transportation's National Infrastructure Investment under the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations, 2011, issued by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for the project listed below. This Notice announced of \$526.944 million to be awarded by USDOT for national infrastructure investment.

Amtrak's support relates to the following project:

Port of Northern Montana Multimodal Hub Center

It is our understanding that this project, upon completion, has the potential to improve intercity passenger rail service and benefit the Amtrak system. Based on the information made available to us regarding the project's/projects' eligibility, and subject to the development of such project-specific agreements as USDOT may require, we support this application as a potential candidate for funding.

The advancement of projects like this will not only significantly improve our nation's transportation infrastructure but also it will contribute to the economic competitiveness of the region, the State of Montana, and the United States in the future. We appreciate your leadership in filling this application and look forward to working with you on this and future opportunities to improve and integrate intercity passenger rail facilities into the national transportation infrastructure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patrick Merrill".

Patrick Merrill
Assistant Vice President
Policy and Development, West

cc: The Honorable Joseph C. Szabo, Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration

