

September 2, 2009

U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this letter as Iowa State University's endorsement for the Ames Intermodal Facility under consideration. This facility would bring many benefits to the City of Ames and to the university.

There is a long history of cooperation between the city and the university in many areas. We have jointly developed a public ice arena facility and a joint aquatic center is scheduled to open in 2010. One of the best examples of this cooperation is the development of the CyRide transportation system, which provides more than 5 million rides to Ames residents and ISU students annually.

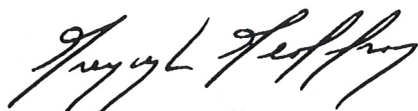
Specifically, for Iowa State University, the facility will improve our students' ability to move within the community as well as travel outside the community as this facility would provide them with regional and national connections. This is particularly important to our large international student population. Another important aspect of the facility is its ability to spur the economic redevelopment of the Campustown district in Ames, which is adjacent to the university and is an important commercial center of the city. An improved Campustown enhances the overall image of the city, which helps the university recruit students.

Iowa State is donating the land where the facility will be located with a value of more than \$2 million as well as committing \$567,000 in direct matching funds to support the project. Improving public transportation is a high priority for the region, the community and the university and its students. This project will also contribute to the university's sustainability efforts and reduce carbon emissions.

In summary, we urge the Department of Transportation to consider and approve funding for this project as it will positively impact mobility in Ames and the region, and it will be the catalyst that is needed, as documented in the Campustown Study, to spur significant economic development in Iowa.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Gregory L. Geoffroy
President

