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April 24, 2015

The Honorable Armond Budish
Cuyahoga County Executive
2079 East Ninth Street
Cleveland, OH 44115

Dear Executive Budish,

Thank you for your participation in and support for the national Stand Up For Transportation Day on April 9. Your remarks were well received by us at All Aboard Ohio; we have advocated for improved public transit for more than 40 years.

I am writing to request the support of Cuyahoga County for a catalytic project emerging in downtown Cleveland. The City of Cleveland and GCRTA recently entered into an interagency agreement to evaluate a lakefront site for an intermodal transportation center.

Combining the individually small services of Amtrak, Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority (GCRTA), Greyhound and possibly other public transportation, bike/pedestrian, car-share, convention/charter buses and other services into a busy intermodal center would create an economic engine. The improved connectivity between modes would also likely enhance ridership and access to jobs. However, funding remains elusive for developing a intermodal center.

Thus, we are inquiring about the possibility of using any unspent convention hotel contingency funds (originally \$38 million total) upon conclusion of that project for planning and construction of the intermodal center. Unused hotel contingency funds when combined with the \$25 million for lakefront walkway along with any funding pledged by Amtrak could be used to construct a very attractive intermodal transportation center. If these funds were used as a local match to leverage federal funds on a 50/50 basis, a truly big-city transportation center could be provided.

We believe this is a unique opportunity in our region's history when different transportation modes and projects could be united and strengthened under your leadership and into a well-designed intermodal transportation center that's worthy of a big city like Cleveland and a populous county like Cuyahoga. With your leadership, it can happen.

Sincerely,

Ken Prendergast
Executive Director