

New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority

New Hampshire Department of Transportation, PO Box 483, Concord, NH 03302



January 30, 2014

Charles D. Hunter, Asst Vice President
Genesee & Wyoming Railroad Services, Inc.
2 Federal Street, Suite 201
St. Albans, Vermont 05478

Re: Train Hotel

Dear Mr. Hunter:

Thank you for attending the NH Rail Transit Authority Board's January 24th meeting. Your participation in our discussion of Train Hotel proposal was timely and helpful to the Board's deliberations.

As you know, the NH Rail Transit Authority was established to develop and provide commuter and passenger rail and related public rail transportation services in New Hampshire. Since its creation in 2007, it has been working diligently to assist in developing a truly multimodal transportation system in New Hampshire. Our goals are to develop and implement comprehensive, coordinated and prioritized project and funding plans for passenger rail services that enhance transportation options and provide New Hampshire citizens:

1. Commuter rail services to in-state and out-of-state employment centers,
2. Tourist services to recreation areas,
3. Easy access to regional inter-city passenger rail services and other multi-modal transportation systems.

The Authority feels that this passenger rail proposal will further our goals.

This letter is confirmation of the action taken by the NH Rail Transit Authority to support the concept for the Train Hotel service from Montreal, Quebec through Coos County and eventually to Portland, Maine. The Authority further encourages the parties to work cooperatively to resolve the outstanding issues associated with the initiation of this service.

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I have attached the excerpt from the meeting minutes dealing with this matter. You may also view the video of the meeting at <https://vimeo.com/85000548>.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via e-mail tjmahon@comcast.net or phone 603-494-2579.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Mahon
Chairman

Att: as

Cc: Francois Rebello
North Country Council
Governor Margaret Hassan
Sen. Jim Rausch
Sen. Peggy Gilmore
Rep. Candace Bouchard
Rep. Sherman Packard
Senator Jeanne Shaheen
Senator Kelly Ayotte
Congresswoman Annie Kuster
Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter

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Minutes (Excerpt), Page 2, NHRTA Board, January 24, 2014

I. Old Business:

- a. Letter of Support – Train Hotel: Izbicki raised concerns regarding the pricing issue as being premature. Herlihy stated that the siding issue is Federal Rail Administration jurisdiction and the NHDOT has no position. Mahon clarified that this is just a letter indicating our support and the gaps in information clearly will be need to be resolved as the project moves forward. Baia asked for input from the St. Lawrence & Atlantic Rail Road. Mr. Hunter stated that they have been in discussions with the Hotel Rail Road. They have requested additional information which has not been forthcoming at this point. Their main goal is safety. Introducing passenger rail introduces additional opportunities for safety concerns. He stated that the sidings are in full compliance with FRA regulations.

Richard Cane made a motion seconded by Kelly to write a letter supporting the concept for this service and encourage people to work cooperatively to resolve the outstanding issues.

The motion passed 19-1.

The letter will be distributed to Mr. Hunter, Mr. Rebello and NHDOT. Taylor requested a copy be sent to the North Country Council.