



TOWN OF HOPEDALE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Town Administrator
Diana M. Schindler

July 13, 2020

Secretary & Chief Executive Officer Stephanie Pollack
Massachusetts Department of Transportation
10 Park Plaza, Suite 4160, Boston, MA 02116

Secretary Mike Kennealy
Housing and Economic Development
1 Ashburton Place, Room 2101, Boston, MA 02108

RE: FY2020 Industrial Rail Access Program (IRAP)

Dear Secretary & CEO Pollack and Secretary Kennealy:

The Hopedale Board of Selectmen and Grafton and Upton Railroad (GU) have worked collaboratively over the last decade creating a successful and respected Public Private Partnership (PPP). GU works closely to assist Hopedale when the town does not have the resources or equipment to address critical issues of concern. We were disappointed that GU's application from last round was deferred action on November 14, 2019 based on lack of clear information regarding the public benefits the project is expected to achieve; we expect this letter will address your concern as well as GU's application in detail.

Last year, GU purchased a 90,000 SF building on fifteen (15) acres, properly zoned Industrial, and has made significant investments in their property and building including creating new manufacturing jobs for the site, some of which have gone to Hopedale residents. In addition, GU is now proposing a 60,000 SF addition for additional rail centric development to further revitalize the industrial area that was part of the former Draper complex to spur job generation and tax revenue for the Town. Their IRAP application for Transloading Railyard Expansion, tracks #3, #4, #5, and #8 that include modification to #1, #2, and #7 will allow the State of Massachusetts to assist GU manufacturing customers growth demand and continues our PPP.

We are excited to hear GU and their transloading customers will be the northeast distributor of the essential components to manufacture hand-sanitizer that is necessary to fight COVID-19, transporting over a quarter million gallons per week that will increase supply and reduce cost to consumers; this IRAP will assist in that necessary initiative. Further, the efforts of GU's support of the manufacturing processes of their customers, including the effective recycling of glass and aluminum by 2M Resources, saving waste from the overburdened Massachusetts landfills, and creating manufacturing opportunities for companies like Charah Solutions, the distributor of fly ash, a recycled component required by MassDOT in concrete production to manufacture a stronger

material with recyclable products, are realized not only in industrial growth, tax revenue and reduction of waste, but also in job creation and long-term partnerships with the town while being a more environmentally-friendly option.

This IRAP project will provide for a safer and consistent rail service while lessening the impacts to our town residents, as GU, due to their rapid growth is forced to store loaded/empty railcars on their mainline given current railyard small size. On behalf of the Town of Hopedale, we respectfully request your favorable support for this project as expeditiously as possible. The work is ready to begin in September before winter.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,



Diana M. Schindler
Town Administrator

cc: Governor Charlie Baker
Lt. Governor Karyn Polito
Senator Ryan C. Fattman
Representative Brian Murray
Astrid Glynn, Rail Administrator
Michael Milanoski, GU President