



# PRESS RELEASE

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**For Immediate Release**

## **City of Mt. Pleasant to host presentation on potential Ann Arbor to Traverse City passenger rail service**

**Mt. Pleasant, Mich.** - On Monday, Nov. 23 at 6 p.m., Jim Bruckbauer of the Groundwork Center for Resilient Communities will lead a community presentation at Mt. Pleasant City Hall on the Groundwork Center's plans to explore a potential passenger train connection between Ann Arbor and Traverse City with Mt. Pleasant as a prospective stop along the route.

The Groundwork Center believes that bringing passenger rail service back to northern Michigan is possible in less than a decade with a focused campaign of public engagement, technical analysis and adequate support from a cross section of community, state and federal agencies.

Bruckbauer will provide the public with an understanding of where this project stands today and what steps are needed in the future for the project to reach completion.

### **Why Traverse City to Ann Arbor?**

- The track is still in place and owned by the state. Often the most expensive part of a transportation project is the cost of buying land and laying new tracks.
- The tracks are in fairly good condition. Ninety percent of the tracks are ready for passenger service, and more than half allows passenger trains to travel nearly 60 mph. Only small sections require investment.
- There's overwhelming enthusiasm and support from the public for this idea. A statewide rail planning process in 2011 revealed a passenger connection to Traverse City was a top priority. In fact, more people attended the Traverse City forum than anywhere else in the state.

Re-establishing passenger rail service between two of Michigan's most vibrant cities—Ann Arbor and Traverse City—will link the resource-rich tourist destinations in the northwest and the economic and population centers in the southeast. This investment will solidify Michigan as a leader in a new era of modern train travel while boosting economic development along the corridor.

For more information about the presentation, contact Downtown Development Director Michelle Sponseller at (989) 779-5348 or [msponseller@mt-pleasant.org](mailto:msponseller@mt-pleasant.org).

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