

DOUGLASS TOWNSHIP
EAST COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
LOWER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
NEW HANOVER TOWNSHIP
NORTH COVENTRY TOWNSHIP
POTTSTOWN BOROUGH
UPPER POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP
WEST POTTS GROVE TOWNSHIP

POTTSTOWN METROPOLITAN REGIONAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

855 Ellis Woods Road • Pottstown, Pennsylvania 19465

February 22, 2012

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written in support of the reuse of the Colebrookdale Railroad as a passenger operation on behalf of the Pottstown Metropolitan Regional Planning Committee (PMRPC). The PMRPC is the regional planning entity for Pottstown Borough and the Townships of Douglass, Lower Pottsgrove, New Hanover, Upper Pottsgrove and West Pottsgrove in Montgomery County and East Coventry and North Coventry in Chester County. The central purpose of the PMRPC is to direct growth in older urban communities and designated growth areas (including Pottstown Borough) to spur revitalization, maximize public infrastructure and preserve rural areas.

On January 25, 2012, the PMRPC heard a very impressive presentation on the re-use of the Colebrookdale Railroad as a tourist operation. A rail line extending a distance of 8.6 miles from milepost 0.0 at Pottstown to milepost 8.6 at Boyertown, it dates from the mid-nineteenth century and is an under-utilized historic resource. The re-use of the Colebrookdale Railroad as a passenger rail may build on existing and anticipated tourist attractions in the Region, such as Pottsgrove Manor and the Carousel; it may also catalyze additional heritage and recreational tourism activity and other development in Pottstown and Boyertown. According to the proponent's presentation, passenger operation of the Colebrookdale Railroad will create jobs in Pottstown and Boyertown both directly and indirectly.

Other benefits of the Colebrookdale Railroad include the opportunity to share the culture and heritage of Pottstown, Boyertown, and Southeastern Pennsylvania through educational programming; the opportunity to tell the story of the early American ironmaking, milling, lumber, and transportation industries central to the growth of the nation; and, the opportunity to view natural and architectural beauty otherwise unavailable to the general public.

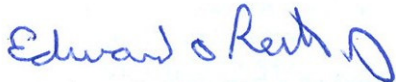
While tourism was not specifically addressed in the PMRPC's Regional Comprehensive Plan, a tourist railroad with operations in Pottstown is consistent with a number of goals of the Plan, including:

- Promote new economic opportunities and jobs.
- Promote revitalization of downtown Pottstown as a regional destination.
- Create active and passive recreation opportunities.

- Emphasize opportunities that preserve natural linkages, environmental resources, and views.

With this letter, the PMRPC offers its support to the creation of a dedicated tourist railroad on the Colebrookdale Railroad for the benefit and enjoyment of citizens, visitors, students, and the business communities of our region. We support the efforts of the project proponents to secure funding to facilitate tourist passenger service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward O. Reitz, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Edward O. Reitz, Jr., Chair
Pottstown Region Metropolitan Planning Committee