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LEAVENWORTH BUSINESSES AND PHILANTHROPISTS LEVERAGE GOVERNMENT
FUNDING TO CLOSE GAP ON ICICLE STATION

*Plan to provide economical, environmentally friendly Amtrak passenger rail service
receives official green light*

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The City of Leavenworth announced today that the "Icicle Station" project is a go. City leaders, working with HNTB, Amtrak, and BNSF, have developed a unique station design and obtained site plan approval from BNSF Railway officials last week. Leavenworth is now poised to welcome visitors from communities between Seattle, Chicago and beyond aboard the *Empire Builder*, Amtrak's most heavily patronized long distance train.

Leavenworth Mayor Rob Eaton initiated the project 5 years ago and has spearheaded it since. "I'm thrilled that we were able to find a formula for success. This is an incredible opportunity for the city and for Washington State tourism," said Eaton.

The City will now launch a capital campaign to raise \$150,000 to combine with the \$850,000 already committed by various partners. The project gained support through appropriations sponsored by State Senators Linda Evans Parlette and Mary Margaret Haugen, along with U.S. Senator Patty Murray. "This project will provide a direct positive impact to Leavenworth and Chelan County, attracting visitors from the Puget Sound and across the *Empire Builder* line. The City of Leavenworth has built a great base of support for this project, and I am proud to provide assistance from the federal level," said Murray. The Port of Chelan and Chelan County also committed funds to the project. Harriett Bullitt is among local supporters of the capital campaign. "The need for a Leavenworth train stop to serve the Upper Valley is more urgent than ever since it was discontinued years ago, considering the price of gasoline and challenges with crossing the pass during the winter. The eight-mile Cascade tunnel is such a restful ride under the snowy mountain highway. Congratulations to our city civic leaders for the years of relentless work to finally make possible this safe, sustainable, and pleasant means of travel," said Bullitt.

HNTB, Inc. of Bellevue was selected as the design firm for the Icicle Station. Groundbreaking will commence in the spring of 2009 with daily train service projected to begin in the fall.