



Aaron Lawlor
County Board Chair

November 14, 2017

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The Honorable Charles W. Moorman
President and Chief Executive Officer
National Railroad Passenger Corporation, dba Amtrak
60 Massachusetts Avenue NE
Washington, DC 20002

The Honorable Randy Blankenhorn, Secretary
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 S. Dirksen Parkway
Springfield, IL 62764

The Honorable Dave Ross, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
4802 Sheboygan Avenue
Madison, WI 53705

Dear Messrs. Moorman, Blankenhorn and Ross,

I write in strong support of the City of Lake Forest's efforts to establish an Amtrak stop at the West Lake Forest Train Station located at 911 Telegraph. Bringing Amtrak's Hiawatha Service to Lake County will connect people and businesses, from Milwaukee to Chicago, with economic opportunity that strengthens our local and regional economies.

The Lake County Board's Public Works and Transportation Committee recently endorsed Lake Forest's request to bring Amtrak service to our area because of the enhanced mobility and economic opportunity that comes with expanded access to passenger rail.

The City of Lake Forest has demonstrated a strong commitment to the thoughtful planning and continued investment necessary to make this proposal a reality. They are making needed improvements to the station such as constructing a pedestrian tunnel to dramatically improve safety.

We are proud to join the growing coalition of corporate leaders, Members of Congress, state legislators, local officials and community members who support establishing an Amtrak stop at the West Lake Forest Station. Doing so will create an intermodal hub in Lake County that:

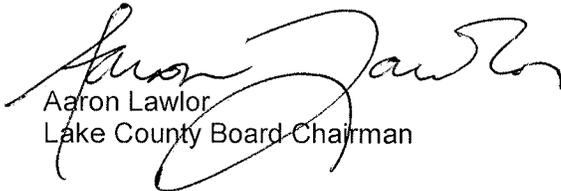
- Provides access to Metra commuter rail lines, Pace bus services, the Tri-State Tollway and US Route 41
- Enhances access to Milwaukee's General Mitchell Airport
- Connects a regional workforce with employment opportunities at Lake County's 12 Fortune 500 Headquarters and 30,000 businesses
- Drives tourism to popular Lake County destinations (including Six Flags Great America with nearly 3 million annual visitors), and drive Lake County residents to Chicago and Milwaukee destinations with enhanced rail access.
- Improves access to the Great Lakes Naval Base, where 40,000 recruits annually attend training at the Recruit Training Command, with 150,000 family members visiting the base from across the country each year to attend weekly graduation ceremonies, and an estimated 7,000 recruits on the installation at any time.

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Additionally, the station has substantial parking capacity and is located in an area where ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft are readily available.

Please note, that while the Lake County Public Works and Transportation Committee and I offer our strong support for a new Amtrak stop in Lake Forest, we are opposed to constructing additional sets of tracks or "rail siding" to hold freight trains in nearby residential areas along the Hiawatha corridor. It is our understanding that feasibility and environmental reviews are currently ongoing to further investigate the possibility of adding additional tracks. We encourage you to continue with these investigative efforts, and to diligently work with all stakeholders to find a solution that meets the needs of the railroad while being a good steward for the environment and the adjacent property owners.

Sincerely,



Aaron Lawlor
Lake County Board Chairman