



November 7, 2017

Mr. Robert R. Kiely, Jr.
City Manager, City of Lake Forest
220 East Deerpath
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

Dear Mr. Kiely:

The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), in partnership with Amtrak and in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), are in the process of completing an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Service Development Plan (SDP) studying the increase in Amtrak's *Hiawatha Service* frequencies to 10 round trips per day between Chicago, IL and Milwaukee, WI.

In our last project update in February 2017, we summarized the comments that were received during the public comment period. We also told you that we heard your concerns regarding noise and vibration and air quality impacts, and that the project team would be doing additional analyses to further quantify the potential impacts resulting from the increase in *Hiawatha Service*.

Since February, the project team has been busy performing a capacity analysis of the Metra-portion of the corridor between Chicago and Green Oaks, IL. Metra is Chicago's commuter railroad and owns the track that the *Hiawatha Service* operates over in that segment of the Amtrak corridor. The purpose of the analysis is to evaluate several design alternatives and validate that the identified infrastructure improvements will mitigate the impact of adding 3 round trips per day to the Metra corridor. The analysis will allow for more quantitative noise and vibration and air quality analyses for future conditions, which will be included in the Final EA.

The capacity analysis is expected to be complete in December 2017. Then, any changes to the infrastructure improvements will be evaluated for environmental impact. All final infrastructure improvements will be evaluated for impact to noise and vibration, air quality, wetlands, water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, and others. A meeting will be held with agencies, municipal leaders, and state legislators to communicate the results of the analyses in early 2018. Comments will be solicited from the meeting participants and incorporated into the Final EA and SDP. These final documents will be released to the public in spring 2018. The public will be able to review the Final EA and submit comments to the project team. All comments received after the Final EA is released will be incorporated into the Decision Document.

Future project updates will be posted to the project websites: chi-milwtrailstudy.wi.gov and illinoisrail.org. A project update email will also be sent to the project's email list in the coming weeks.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact WisDOT's Project Manager, Arun Rao, at (608) 266-3015 or IDOT's Project Manager, Elliot Ramos, at (312) 793-0478.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arun Rao".

Arun D. Rao, AICP
Passenger Rail Implementation Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
Rails and Harbors Section

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elliot A. Ramos".

Elliot A. Ramos, P.E.
Rail Project Engineer
Illinois Department of Transportation
Office of Intermodal Project Implementation