



March 16, 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) required to increase the Amtrak *Hiawatha Service* from 7 to 10 round trips per day between Chicago, IL and Milwaukee, WI.

A Draft of the EA was made available to the public on October 6, 2016 with a public comment period open through January 15, 2017. The project sponsors received the letter dated November 14, 2016 containing the Resolution passed by the City of Lake Forest on November 7, 2016 and specific comments on the Draft EA made by Hanson Professional Services Inc. on behalf of the City. The project sponsors have thoroughly reviewed the comments made by the City and are undertaking additional analyses to further quantify the potential impacts resulting from the increase in *Hiawatha Service*. The analyses will include further evaluation of infrastructure investment projects, including the Rondout Third Main Track Design Alternative 2; construction impacts; and impacts to noise and vibration, air quality, socioeconomics, grade crossings, and threatened and endangered species. Updates to the purpose and need, alternatives analysis, and environmental review sections of the EA will be made.

Once the additional analyses are complete, an agency coordination webinar and meetings with municipal leaders will be held to present the results of the analyses. Following this coordination, a final EA and SDP will be completed reflecting the additional analyses. The completion of the EA and SDP is anticipated to occur during the second half of 2017.

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