

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-43

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF LAKE FOREST EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER THE
DESIGN ALTERNATIVES PROPOSED IN THE CHICAGO-MILWAUKEE INTERCITY PASSENGER RAIL CORRIDOR
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT RELEASED OCTOBER 6, 2016

WHEREAS, The City of Lake Forest (the "CITY") is a home rule municipality in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970;

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (the "WisDOT") and the Illinois Department of Transportation (the "IDOT"), in partnership with Amtrak, are proposing to increase passenger rail service between Chicago, Illinois and Milwaukee, Wisconsin on the existing Amtrak *Hiawatha Service* and construction of infrastructure improvements (the "Project") to support the increase in frequencies;

WHEREAS, the Chicago-Milwaukee Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor Draft Environmental Assessment (the "EA") was released October 6, 2016 and requires further environmental documentation by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration which is the lead federal agency for the Project prior to their consideration of a Finding of No Significant Impact (the "FONSI"), making the Project eligible for Federal funding;

WHEREAS, construction related to the Project is proposed along the rail line, commonly known as the Metra Milwaukee District North Line, within the corporate boundaries of the City;

WHEREAS, the Project includes six new proposed *Hiawatha Service* trips occurring during off-peak capacity times which adversely impacts freight traffic operating in the Project area and results in significant construction in the City attributed to the mitigation of the *Hiawatha Service* impacts on existing freight operations;

WHEREAS, the City and its residents have benefited over the years by having convenient access to Metra passenger rail service within the community and supports efforts to enhance the rail system to increase scheduling flexibility, improve safety and reduce congestion in the area which does not result in an increase in freight operations and/or increased speed of freight trains through the community;

WHEREAS, the proposed system improvements in the EA do not provide any direct benefit to the City as Amtrak service is not currently available in the City or the County of Lake;

WHEREAS, for the past five years the City and businesses located in Lake County have been meeting with representatives of WisDOT, IDOT, Amtrak and Metra to secure an Amtrak stop at the Lake Forest Telegraph Rd. Station which would enhance passenger rail service in the region;

WHEREAS, the City has reached out to Metra to discuss improved rail service along the Milwaukee District North Line ("MD-N"), including adding service during hours in the afternoon, reverse commuting options and express service to Lake Forest;

WHEREAS, the City and its consulting engineers Hanson Professional Services, Inc. have reviewed the EA and considered the impacts on the City of the proposed Project and the Design Alternatives carried forward in the EA and a copy of their findings is hereby attached as Exhibit A;

WHEREAS, the City has significant concerns relating to the need for the proposed Project, the resulting environmental health and safety impacts of the proposed Project on the residents of the City and the favored alternatives identified in the EA:

- The impact of increased train speeds and potential increased delays for vehicles at the Everett and Conway crossings,
- Environmental concerns and lack of supporting documentation on the impacts on wetlands, stormwater drainage and the residential development located in close proximity to Rondout Alternative 1,
- The absence of a noise and vibration evaluation to better understand any potential impact on residential properties that may be impacted by either Rondout Alternative 1 or 2,
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WHEREAS, the data in the EA does not support the need for the Hiawatha Service expansion based on the following:

- The EA provides little data or analysis associated with the cost-benefit of using state and/or federal funds for this Project;

WHEREAS, the EA provides no supporting documentation on air quality, noise, vibration and other health and safety impacts for residents living adjacent to the proposed Rondout Alternative 1 or 2 holding track, prompting the City's concerns and strong recommendation that more consideration needs to be given to health and human factors, which may result in adjustments to the proposed infrastructure and/or recommendation of other alternatives identified in the EA;

WHEREAS, the EA fails to identify fiscally responsible, long-range plans which recognize the potential for even more Metra and Amtrak passenger trains and their impact on infrastructure needs to alleviate passenger and rail congestion issues for the entire region;

WHEREAS, it is the conclusion of the corporate authorities that the EA has not presented clear and convincing evidence for the need to expand the Hiawatha Service as proposed in the Project, does not fully satisfy the long range purpose of the Project, and would have an adverse impact on the character of the adjacent residential neighborhoods and on the public health, safety and welfare of its residents in said area;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and City Council of The City of Lake Forest, Lake County, Illinois as follows:

Section 1: The facts and statements contained in the preamble to this Resolution are found to be true and correct and are hereby adopted as part of this Resolution.

Section 1: That, for the reasons set forth herein, the Mayor and City Council of The City Of Lake Forest, Lake County, Illinois, do hereby raise considerable concerns about the project and protest the findings of the draft EA; and that significant impacts would result from the proposed Project due to the EA lacking the necessary evidence for consideration of a FONSI.

Section 2: That the City Clerk be and is hereby authorized and directed to send certified copies of this Resolution to WisDOT, IDOT, and the Federal Railway Administration, as well as a formal letter to each detailing the objections, along with requests for additional information and suggested remedies which could resolve the concerns and a formal request to extend the EA comment period an additional sixty (60) days to permit the proper review of requested additional data.

Section 3: That the Mayor and City Manager are hereby directed to contact representatives of WisDOT, IDOT, Amtrak, Metra and Quandel Consultants, LLC and request a meeting with the City of Lake Forest and Villages of Glenview, Northbrook, Deerfield and Bannockburn to discuss the EA and alternative designs and infrastructure improvements that support the regional effort to enhance passenger rail service.

Section 4: That this Resolution shall be in full effect from and after its passage and approval.

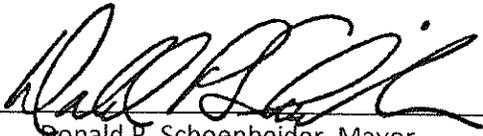
PASSED this 7th day of November, 2016.

AYES: (8) Alderman Waldeck, Beidler, Pandaleon, Newman, Tack, Reisenberg, Adelman and Moreno

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (0)

APPROVED by me this 7th day of November, 2016.



Donald P. Schoenheider, Mayor
The City of Lake Forest, Lake County, IL

ATTESTED and FILED in my office the
7th day of November, 2016.

