

Joe McHugh  
Vice President, State Supported Services  
Business Development



November 30, 2017

The Honorable Robert T.E. Lansing  
Mayor, City of Lake Forest  
220 East Deerpath  
Lake Forest, IL 60045

Dear Mayor Lansing:

On behalf of Amtrak, I am writing today to express Amtrak's support for adding a station stop in Lake Forest, Illinois, to the *Hiawatha* Service. I also want to thank you for your recent visit with us in Washington, DC and for your November 6 correspondence.

Under Federal legislation passed in 2008, services outside the Northeast Corridor of less than 750 miles, such as the *Hiawathas*, must be primarily funded at the State or local level. In the case of the *Hiawathas*, this funding comes from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Both of these agencies have been in contact with us in recent years on this subject, and per their instructions, we have developed potential schedules and forecasts of ridership and revenue associated with a new stop in Lake Forest. Our forecasting to date has shown that a stop in Lake Forest is expected to bring in close to 40,000 new riders to the *Hiawathas* per year.

At this point, the only obstacle preventing us from beginning service is the lack of a pedestrian underpass at the Lake Forest station that would allow passengers to move safely from one side of the tracks to the other. Given the large number of passenger and freight trains operating on this segment of the railway, there is strong consensus that a pedestrian underpass is essential to ensuring everyone's safety.

The *Hiawatha* Service has the highest number of frequencies of any train outside the east and west coasts, with additional frequencies in the planning process, due in large part to the leadership of WisDOT and IDOT. We share the vision that adding a stop in Lake Forest will leverage the route's current success and make it an even more valuable transportation option for the region.



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I encourage you to continue working with the Amtrak team in Chicago to finalize the plans for the underpass and begin construction, and I look forward to the day when we inaugurate service to Lake Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe McHugh". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned over the typed name and title.

Joe McHugh  
*Vice President, State Supported Services –  
Business Development*