

VILLAGE OF BANNOCKBURN

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-R-62

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Bannockburn (the "Village") is a home rule municipality in accordance with the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970; and

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; and

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; and

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

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 in the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village and its residents have benefited over the years by having convenient access to Metra passenger rail service within the area 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; and

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

WHEREAS, the Village in conjunction with other municipalities 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 nearby stations; and

WHEREAS, the Village in conjunction with other municipalities have had consulting engineers Hanson Professional Services, Inc. reviewed the EA and considered the impacts of the proposed Project and the Design Alternatives carried forward in the EA upon the communities near the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village 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 Village and the favored alternatives identified in the EA:

- The impact of increased train speeds and potential increased delays for vehicles at crossings of the rail lines,
- 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; and

WHEREAS, the data in the EA does not support the need for the Hiawatha Service expansion because the EA provides little data or analysis associated with the cost-benefit of using state and/or federal funds for this Project; and

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 Village'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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, it is the conclusion of the corporate authorities of the Village 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 President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Bannockburn, Lake County, Illinois as follows:

Section 1: The recitals to this Resolution are hereby adopted as the findings of the Village Board and are made a part of this Resolution.

Section 2: That, for the reasons set forth herein, the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Bannockburn 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 3: That the Village Manager 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 4: That the Village President and Village Manager are hereby directed to contact representatives of WisDOT, IDOT, Amtrak, Metra and Quandt Consultants, LLC and request a meeting with the Village, The City of Lake Forest, and Villages of Glenview, Northbrook, and Deerfield to discuss the EA and alternative designs and infrastructure improvements that support the regional effort to enhance passenger rail service.

Section 5: That this Resolution shall be in full effect from and after its passage and approval.


PASSED this 14th day of November, 2016.

AYES: *Ansani, Boyle, Korner, Herrmann, Martin*

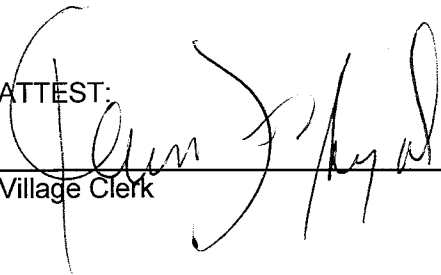
NAYS: *None*

ABSENT: *Lackner*

APPROVED this 14th day of November, 2016.



Village President

ATTEST:


Village Clerk

