



The Village of
Glenview

NEWS RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Lynne Stiefel
Communications Manager
Village of Glenview
(847) 904-4371
lstiefel@glenview.il.us

IDOT LETTER SAYS AGENCY WILL NOT AGREE TO HOLDING TRACKS IN AMTRAK HIAWATHA EXPANSION PROJECT

May 10, 2019 – The Village of Glenview recently received a copy of a letter from Illinois Department of Transportation Acting Secretary Omer Osman to Senators Laura Fine and Julie Morrison that eliminates a proposed 2-mile long Holding Track next to the existing Union Pacific tracks through west Glenview and a 3-mile Holding Track through Lake Forest. These Holding Tracks were part of a larger \$200+ million project to expand Amtrak Hiawatha service between Chicago and Milwaukee from seven to 10 daily roundtrips.

Osman stated “IDOT will not agree to freight train holding tracks in either Glenview or Lake Forest” as part of this project. The letter further states, “You have my commitment that IDOT will not be moving forward seeking federal support for this project.”

The Village of Glenview has commenced making plans to host a public forum in June to update its residents on the Amtrak Hiawatha Expansion Project.

“The Holding Tracks that were initially proposed would have created significant environmental and other impacts in our community as outlined at the March 2018 public forum attended by almost 2,000 concerned residents,” Village President James R. Patterson, Jr. stated. “Thousands of community residents formed and participated in the Glenview ACTION Committee to communicate concerns and assist Glenview in pushing for change. We are grateful for their efforts which led to this positive outcome.”

The Glenview Village Board of Trustees opposed the Holding Track and committed funds to eliminate it from the project. Thousands of residents attended public meetings, signed petitions and submitted numerous objections and concerns. Grassroots organizations were instrumental in raising public awareness about the potential significant impacts, including diesel emissions, noise and vibration, traffic and other environmental issues.

“Everyone initially said we couldn’t get the Holding Tracks removed from the project since the railroads have so much power and authority,” said Chuck Balling, member of the Glenview ACTION Committee. He added, “Through grassroots efforts, communication and collaboration, we were able to mobilize our residents and work with our community and our legislators to get the job done. Thank you to Governor Pritzker, Acting Secretary Osman, leadership in our Village and on the ACTION Committee, and our state and federal legislators, especially Senators Fine and Morrison.”

While the Village of Glenview’s focus has been to eliminate the Holding Tracks from the project, Glenview continues to support passenger rail efficiencies and improvements in our region.

A copy of IDOT Acting Secretary Omer Osman’s letter and extensive background on the expansion project can be found online at: <https://glenview.il.us/Pages/hiawatha.aspx>

The public forum is tentatively planned for June 2019 at the Glenbrook South High School auditorium, 4000 W. Lake Avenue, Glenview. An exact date will be announced soon.

###