



AMENDED BY THE COUNTY BOARD

RESOLUTION # 69-12/10

TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM # 12/29

BOARD ACTION

Adopted:
For: 27
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: 8
Vote Req: MAJORITY
Other Action: Amended

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION

Adopted:
For: 9
Against: -
Abstain: -
Abs/Excd: -

RE: SUPPORT OF INCREASED FREQUENCY OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE ON THE CURRENT EMPIRE BUILDER ROUTE (CHICAGO, IL TO TWIN CITIES, MN)

WHEREAS, the City and County of La Crosse have long supported the Midwest Rail Initiative, which calls for higher speed and more frequent train service between Chicago and the Twin Cities via La Crosse, and has actively supported the Empire Builder High Speed Rail Coalition; and

WHEREAS, at the request of the coalition, the UW-L Business School conducted a scientific survey of area business leaders, that found an overwhelming 83% interest by respondents in increased frequency and higher speed service for business travel to cities along the planned route, including service to Madison, and also indicated a willingness to pay fares as much as 30% higher than current Amtrak rates to establish this enhanced level of frequency and higher speed service as an alternative to current modes of transportation; and

WHEREAS, based on the results of the survey of local businesses, there will be positive economic benefits for our business community if the frequency of Amtrak service is increased; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County Minnesota is advocating for an additional Amtrak train per day at current conventional speeds to serve all the current stops from Chicago, IL to St. Paul, MN which could receive funding support from a \$10 million match by the State of Minnesota and a \$40 million federal TIGER grant that has been awarded to Ramsey County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the La Crosse County Board calls upon Governor Walker and the Legislature to work with Ramsey County and the State of Minnesota to establish more frequent passenger train service to communities along the existing Amtrak-Empire Builder route by adding an additional train each way per day at conventional speeds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be sent to Governor Walker, area Federal and State legislators as well as the Empire Builder High Speed Rail Coalition, the Midwest Rail Initiative, the Wisconsin DOT, the Minnesota DOT, On Board Midwest, and the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission.

FISCAL NOTE: There is no direct impact requiring the expenditure of La Crosse County funding.

Date: 12-20-10
[Signature]
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: 12/20/10
[Signature]
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended	
Co. Admin.	_____	<u>SO</u>	_____	Requested By: Steve O'Malley Date Requested: December 2010 Drafted By: Steve O'Malley, County Administrator
Fin. Director	_____	<u>GI</u>	_____	
Corp. Counsel	<u>WAS</u>	_____	_____	
Board Chair	<u>SD/MN</u>	_____	_____	

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 16TH Day of DECEMBER, 2010

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STATE OF WISCONSIN
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE

I, Linda A. Stone, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 16th day of December, 2010.

[Signature]
Linda A. Stone, La Crosse County Clerk