

RESOLUTION URGING THE OHIO KENTUCKY INDIANA REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS TO FUND FEASIBILITY STUDY AND CORRIDOR ANALYSIS OF A CINCINNATI TO CHICAGO HIGHER SPEED RAIL CONNECTION AND THE LOCAL TRANSPORTATION BENEFITS TO THE OHIO AND INDIANA COUNTIES AND COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE OKI REGION THAT WOULD BE DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY SUCH AN IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

BY THE BOARD:

WHEREAS, the Midwest Regional Rail Initiative, an eight state and eleven city transportation program connecting major metropolitan regions in the Midwest together with a series of interstate and inter-city rail connections is being advanced in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri, and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the MRRI is currently being actively pursued with Ohio connections to Toledo, Cleveland and Columbus; and

WHEREAS, the Ohio Department of Transportation has already approved grant funding to the MRRI program and its connections to Toledo, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Planning Organization [“MPO”] for the greater Columbus region, the Midwest Ohio Regional Planning Commission [MORPC], is actively involved in assessing and pursuing a ten community transit corridor in the MRRI from Columbus, Ohio through Northern Indiana into Gary Indiana and Chicago [see attached Memorandum Agreement and attached article from “*Ohio Passenger Rail News*”]; and

WHEREAS, other transit corridors are active or are being pursued within the states and cities that comprise the MRRI including:

- Chicago to Indianapolis; and
- Chicago to Detroit; and
- Chicago to Milwaukee; and
- Chicago to Minneapolis; and
- Chicago to St. Louis; and
- Cleveland to Chicago; and
- Columbus to Chicago; and
- Quad Cities, IA to Chicago and

WHEREAS, **All Aboard Ohio**, a nonprofit rail advocacy group that promotes the expansion of passenger rail improvements and connections throughout the state of Ohio has identified multiple potential funding sources and “business case” opportunities that arise as a consequence of implementing higher speed rail service between Cincinnati and Chicago [see attached]; and

WHEREAS, **All Aboard Ohio** made a presentation to the Hamilton County Transportation Improvement District on Monday September 22, 2014, and urged the TID to commence action aimed at pursuing an active passenger rail link between Cincinnati and Chicago that provides for daily service between both metropolitan regions; and

WHEREAS, Hamilton County has previously adopted policy in support of this initiative including in the December 3, 2008 Amended Resolution creating the local transit authority, SORTA [attached]; and

WHEREAS, following the presentation and Board discussion about the same by the TID Board [whose voting Members consist of: 1.) the Board of County Commissioners **Chris Monzel, Greg Hartmann and Todd Portune**, the County Engineer **Ted Hubbard** and the Mayor of Cincinnati **John Cranley**], the TID developed consensus around pursuing the issue in the form of engaging OKI to become formally involved in pursuing and assessing the concept and the project for the benefit of the OKI region and to enhance existing transit options and modalities, that include without limitation, pursuing local passenger commuter rail service from Cincinnati to Lawrenceburg Indiana, and/or Cincinnati north to Oxford and Hamilton, Ohio.

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Hamilton County Board of County Commissioners, that on and after this 24th day of September, 2014, Hamilton County shall, via the duly authorized actions of the Board of County Commissioners and by extension, through, the Hamilton County Engineer and the Hamilton County TID, all as necessary and/or as directed by the Board, that:

1. Hamilton County, the Hamilton County Engineer and the Hamilton County TID commit to reaching out to all such communities and Metropolitan Planning Organizations as are situated between Cincinnati and Chicago for the purpose of developing a collaborative working arrangement, memorialized in a manner similar to that Memorandum of Agreement that is attached hereto; and
2. To formally engage the City of Cincinnati, its Mayor John Cranley and Chair of Transportation Committee Amy Murray, for the purpose of collaborating about next steps that may be jointly taken by both in pursuit of this opportunity; and
3. To become a sponsoring agency on behalf of this initiative for the purpose of formally requesting that OKI perform feasibility analysis and benefits study on

the MRRI and specifically the Chicago to Cincinnati higher speed rail connection and local passenger commuter service to OKI region communities.

ADOPTED at a regularly adjourned meeting of the Board of County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Ohio the 24th day of September, 2014.

Monzel _____

Hartmann _____

Portune _____

1CERTIFICATE OF CLERK

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the foregoing is a true and correct transcript of a resolution adopted by this Board of County Commissioners in session the 24th day of September, 2014.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the official seal of the Office of the County Commissioners, Hamilton County, Ohio, this 24th day of September, 2014.

Jacqueline Panioto, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Hamilton County, Ohio