



SR0241

LRB103 32123 LAW 61151 r

1

SENATE RESOLUTION

2

WHEREAS, Passenger rail service is increasingly being recognized as a critical asset for small and medium-sized communities, providing reasonably priced, safe, and accessible transportation to complement the highway network; and

3

4

5

6

WHEREAS, Fast and frequent passenger trains will help our region to remain globally competitive by lowering travel costs, bypassing highway congestion, and improving access to jobs and education; and

7

8

9

10

WHEREAS, The State has an excellent mix of universities and colleges that have long been supported by trains to Chicago and will become more attractive with improved service; and

11

12

13

14

WHEREAS, Improved access to O'Hare International Airport will make the airport more attractive for airlines to offer international flights, which will give communities throughout Illinois better access to global markets; and

15

16

17

18

WHEREAS, Illinois has a long history of investing in passenger trains, including Amtrak, Metra, and the South Shore Line; and

19

20

1 WHEREAS, Amtrak and Metra are jointly developing a group
2 of projects to improve rail infrastructure in Chicago,
3 including a direct link between O'Hare International Airport,
4 Chicago Union Station, and McCormick Place; and

5 WHEREAS, Metra has committed to converting to Regional
6 Rail, where trains operate on "memory schedules", defined as
7 arrivals and departures at the same time each hour they appear
8 on the schedule, to provide quality service to people
9 traveling for many purposes and between many destinations
10 throughout the day; and

11 WHEREAS, Downstate communities will also benefit from
12 Regional Rail, as use of frequent trains on memory schedules
13 provides the opportunity to serve many types of passenger
14 trips; and

15 WHEREAS, Regional Rail is the foundation for a future
16 high-speed line operating at 220 mph; and

17 WHEREAS, The State Rail Plan, the Statewide Public
18 Transportation Plan, and Metra's strategic plan call for a
19 robust web of trains and buses that could create new
20 connectivity throughout the entire State, but projects are
21 currently considered in isolation, with a focus on trips to
22 Chicago; many travel markets and constituencies that would use

1 a well-connected system are missing from the analysis; and

2 WHEREAS, A unified approach would expedite planning and
3 construction, reduce capital expenses, and create statewide
4 benefits more quickly; and

5 WHEREAS, Federal funds are now available to expand and
6 upgrade the State's rail network; however, to make the most of
7 these opportunities, the State must act; and

8 WHEREAS, The Illinois High Speed Rail Commission is
9 developing a vision for an integrated rail plan that would
10 combine high-speed rail and regional rail to link the entire
11 State; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Illinois
14 Department of Transportation and the High Speed Railroad
15 Commission to move expeditiously in preparing a Statewide
16 Integrated Network Plan, including the identification of
17 desired service points and key transfer stations, the
18 construction of a theoretical rail and bus schedule with timed
19 transfers, the creation of a ridership and revenue model for
20 the desired network, the estimation of needed infrastructure
21 investments, and the development of a phased implementation
22 plan; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 delivered to the Secretary of the Illinois Department of
3 Transportation.