



HJ0029

LRB098 11336 GRL 42875 r

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Public transportation in urban areas is essential
3 for the quality of life of residents; and

4 WHEREAS, The neighborhoods of Little Village, McKinley
5 Park, Armour Square, Bridgeport, the Town of Cicero, South
6 Loop, and Bronzeville within the City of Chicago are without a
7 standard east-west bus route (from Cicero to the Lake Front)
8 through their densely-populated communities, as there is no bus
9 route between Cermak Avenue (22nd Street) and 47th Street,
10 which leaves a 3 1/4-mile gap between east-west bus routes; and

11 WHEREAS, This 3 1/4-mile gap in service is particularly
12 problematic because these neighborhoods have a very high
13 percentage of residents who do not have automobiles; and

14 WHEREAS, There are approximately 300,000 people in this
15 "bus desert" area without any east-west bus service; and

16 WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority cut the 31st Street
17 bus route in 1997, citing relatively low ridership on the bus
18 route; and

19 WHEREAS, The population within a one-half mile zone of the
20 31st street proposed bus route between Cicero Avenue and the

1 lakefront has grown to 201,047 people; and

2 WHEREAS, Since 1997, the population in these neighborhoods
3 has risen dramatically and several new anchor institutions have
4 been built, including the Little Village High School and the
5 New 31st Street Harbor, to join existing anchor institutions,
6 including U.S. Cellular Field, the Illinois Institute of
7 Technology, the De La Salle Institute, Arturo Velasquez West
8 Side Tech, McCormick Place, Hyatt Hotel-McCormick Place,
9 Soldier Field, the Field Museum, the Aquarium, the Planetarium,
10 12th St. Beach, and Northerly Island; these new developments
11 would make the 31st Street bus a successful route; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2009, the CTA, through the Regional
13 Transportation Authority (RTA), successfully applied for and
14 received \$1,067,659 in Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Funds
15 through the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) to
16 operate the bus route for 3 years to assist Chicago area
17 residents to find and get to jobs, but, to date, has not
18 matched the entire federal grant with \$1,067,659 of its own
19 funds to operate the bus for 3 years; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
21 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE
22 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we call upon the Chicago Transit
23 Authority to relaunch the 31st Street bus from Cicero to the

1 Lake Front for 3 years to serve the people of the Chicago
2 neighborhoods of Little Village, McKinley Park, Armour Square,
3 Bridgeport, the Town of Cicero, South Loop, and Bronzeville;
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
6 presented to the Chicago Transit Authority.