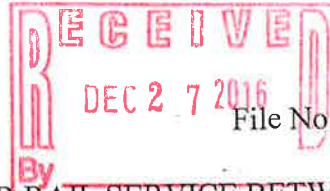


Enrolled No. R160-052

RESOLUTION



File No. 16-17/077

- SUPPORTING THE INITIATION OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN AND THE TWIN CITIES -

WHEREAS, the economic and population growth in this region has proven to be consistently and significantly robust and increasing steadily, to the extent that existing transportation options may become a limiting factor to future growth, and

WHEREAS, an advanced, attractive, and reliable passenger rail service can serve to retain essential business talent and an educated workforce in the area, promote improved quality of life through expanded employment, cultural, and educational opportunities, enhance the tourism and recreational market, improve transit and other connections in the effected cities, and spur economic development especially in the regularly served station areas and adjacent communities along the route; and

WHEREAS, all day, every day high frequency intercity passenger and commuter rail service linking at least six significant cities and station areas in this corridor appears to be an optimum service model that could generate sufficient ridership and revenue to offset the expected operating costs; and

WHEREAS, a group of private regional businesses, now known as the Organizing Council, came together in late 2015 to investigate the feasibility of initiating a self-sustaining passenger rail service between Eau Claire and the Twin Cities; and

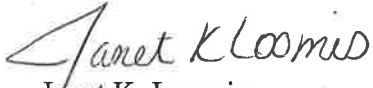
WHEREAS, the Organizing Council in association with the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition, a non-profit advocacy group supporting transit and passenger rail development since 1999, has since determined through extensive studies, the synthesis of relevant plans, the examples of other private and public passenger rail ventures across the country, and constructive contacts with the railroads and private providers who may be involved in the project, that the service is potentially feasible and sustainable as a private operation; and

WHEREAS, consolidated support for this project is a pre-requisite to the successful construction, start-up, and ongoing operation of this transportation service.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors express its support for this project's concept and goals, endeavor to stay informed of the progress of this initiative, and give due consideration to relevant aspects of the project's development and cooperate with the Organizing Council and the West Central Wisconsin Rail Coalition in advancing this initiative in all matters that are related to local and community interests, as appropriate and mutually beneficial.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Eau Claire County Board of Supervisors directs the county clerk to forward this resolution to the governor, assembly members and senators representing Eau Claire County and the Wisconsin Counties Association.

ADOPTED: December 20, 2016

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet K. Loomis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Janet K. Loomis
County Clerk