

**RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE INITIATION OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE BETWEEN WEST
CENTRAL WISCONSIN AND THE TWIN CITIES**

WHEREAS, the economic and population growth in West Central Wisconsin and the Twin Cities corridor have 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, can promote improved quality of life through expanded employment, cultural, and educational opportunities, can enhance the tourism and recreational market, can improve transit and other connections in the effected cities, and may 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 Chippewa County Board of Supervisors does hereby express its support for this project's concept and goals, endeavors to stay informed of the progress of this initiative, and gives due consideration to relevant aspects of the project's development and cooperation 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.

54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chippewa County Board of Supervisors directs the
55 county clerk to forward this resolution to the Governor, the Secretary of the Wisconsin
56 Department of Transportation, State Legislators representing Chippewa County, and to the
57 Wisconsin Counties Association.

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59 Forwarded to the County Board by the Highway Committee.

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61 **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**
62 There is no fiscal impact to Chippewa County by passage of this resolution.

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65 History:
66 12/20/16 Highway Committee FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD

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Approved as to Form:

James B. Sherman 12/9/2016 Melissa J. Roach 12/9/2016
James B. Sherman, Corporation Counsel Melissa J. Roach, Finance Director

Frank R. Pascarella 12/9/2016
Frank R. Pascarella, County Administrator

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1st Reading 2/14/17 2nd Reading N/A
Board Action - Vote Required 5/3
For 11 Absent 1
Against 3 Abstain 0
Clerk Signature: Sandra L. Frison