



VILLAGE OF DEERFIELD

November 14, 2016

Federal Railroad Administration
Andrea Martin
Environmental Protection Specialist
andrea.martin@dot.gov

Comment re: Environmental Assessment, Hiawatha Service – Chicago to Milwaukee

To Whom It May Concern:

Please be advised that this letter serves as official public comment from the Village of Deerfield regarding the proposed expansion of Amtrak Hiawatha service between Chicago and Milwaukee and the construction of infrastructure improvements to support the increase in train frequencies.

The Village of Deerfield has reviewed the Chicago-Milwaukee Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) that was released on October 6, 2016 and is of the position that additional time and further environmental documentation by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Railroad Administration, which is the lead agency for the project, is required prior to making a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The six new proposed Hiawatha service trips may adversely impact residents, businesses commuters and motorists. The EA provides inadequate supporting documentation on air quality, noise and other health and safety impacts. The Village strongly recommends that more consideration needs to be given to the health and human factors and calls for the completion of a more comprehensive Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Additionally, we strongly encourage the Federal Railroad Administration to seek more direct input from Metra, the Villages of Bannockburn, Deerfield, Glenview, Northbrook, and the City of Lake Forest on the proposal, prior to making a determination of FONSI.

Thank you for your consideration and we welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss our position on this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Harriet Rosenthal".

Harriet Rosenthal
Mayor, Village of Deerfield

cc: Board of Trustees, Village of Deerfield
Norm Carlson, Metra Chair
Village Presidents of Bannockburn, Northbrook Glenview, and Mayor of the City of Lake Forest
Elliot A. Ramos, Illinois Department of Transportation
Arun Rao, Wisconsin Department of Transportation