

Resolution R - 2007 - 10

Village of Shorewood Hills, Dane County, Wisconsin

SUPPORTING THE EXPANSION OF MULTI-MODAL PUBLIC TRANSIT IN THE MADISON METROPOLITAN AREA AND STATE LEGISLATION THAT ENABLES THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Madison Metropolitan Area has experienced marked population growth in recent years, estimated at 23 percent since 1990 by the U.S. Census Bureau, putting increased pressure on the region's transportation network on many travel corridors and in the Village of Shorewood Hills, University Avenue in particular; and

WHEREAS, efficient transportation is essential if the Village of Shorewood Hills and Dane County are to meet their community and economic development goals and maintain the region's high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, traffic congestion affects thousands of commuters from the Village of Shorewood Hills, City of Madison, and other Dane County communities who must travel to and from work and other destinations; and

WHEREAS, the travel corridor on University Avenue through Shorewood Hills has experienced increasing traffic congestion, safety problems, and pedestrian and bicycle challenges; and

WHEREAS, continuing and anticipated redevelopment on University Avenue is creating or will create more pressures on transportation; and

WHEREAS, almost two-thirds of the county's population lives in the area being studied by Transport 2020, 80 percent work there, and the study area also includes many of the region's largest cultural and special events destinations; and

WHEREAS, roadway expansion on University Avenue is not feasible due to costs, impacts, and neighborhood concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Shorewood Hills, Dane County, and area communities have been working cooperatively for several years on regional transportation issues; and

WHEREAS, Transport 2020 has been investigating options for improving transportation for all people who use this important regional travel corridor, including combinations of commuter buses, commuter rail, and park-and-ride lots, and the first phase of Transport 2020 recommended a "locally preferred alternative" comprised of commuter rail, expanded regional bus service, park-and-ride lots, and electric streetcars; and

WHEREAS, an initial route has been designated for commuter rail running from Middleton through Shorewood Hills to Reiner Road in the Town of Sun Prairie; and

WHEREAS, the City of Madison is studying other transportation alternatives, such as the use of streetcars; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Shorewood Hills, area communities and the County have cooperated for many years in the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is the designated policy body responsible for cooperative, comprehensive regional transportation planning and decision making for the Madison Metropolitan Area; and

WHEREAS, current problems with the existing structure for providing transit service include: integration of public mass transit services provided by different municipalities; coordination of city paratransit and county specialized transportation services; and coordination of Metro fixed route and shared ride taxi services; and

WHEREAS, because of the inter-relationships of many of these key transportation issues, the need to carry out planning at a regional level, and the need to develop adequate funding sources on a broader level, the Madison Metropolitan Area needs to create a regional transportation entity; and

WHEREAS, other communities around the state also seek to have new tools for regional transit, and the Alliance of Cities and the Wisconsin Counties Association, among others, are supporting efforts for enabling legislation for local areas; and

WHEREAS, many outstanding matters need to be agreed upon by the Village including, but not limited to, rail stops, locations, safety considerations and funding mechanisms, however in order to move forward with transportation planning, enabling legislation is needed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village of Shorewood Hills hereby generally supports the work of the Transport 2020 Implementation Task Force and urges Transport 2020 to move forward with its work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Shorewood Hills, by way of this resolution, hereby reaffirms our commitment to legislation at the state level that would enable the formation of Regional Transportation Authorities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Village of Shorewood Hills recognizes that to fully serve the transit needs of the Madison Metropolitan Area, any local Regional Transportation Authority should include participation by the Village of Shorewood Hills, City of Madison, Dane County, other local municipalities, and community partners including the University of Wisconsin and the Madison Area Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be sent to Governor Jim Doyle, Senator Fred Risser, Rep. Spencer Black, Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin, and U.S. Senators Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl.

The foregoing resolution was duly adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Shorewood Hills at a legal meeting on the 16th day of July 2007.

APPROVED: _____
Mark Sundquist, President

Attest: _____
Colleen Albrecht, Village Clerk