

**COMMUTER RAIL BOARD**  
**RESOLUTION MET 15-12**  
**SOUTHEAST SERVICE CORRIDOR EXPANSION**

**WHEREAS**, public transportation is essential to keeping the economy of Northeastern Illinois healthy, productive, and prosperous, and a recent report by the American Public Transportation Association demonstrates that investment in public transportation will lead to 50,700 jobs per \$1 billion invested and will provide an economic return of \$4 for every \$1 invested;

**WHEREAS**, there is growing demand for safe, convenient, and dependable public transportation service in Northeastern Illinois;

**WHEREAS**, public transportation depends heavily upon federal, state, and local partnerships for capital investments;

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Commuter Rail Transit District (District) was created to advance the proposed SouthEast Service (SES), which would run 33 miles over tracks owned by four railroads, Metra, Chicago Rail Link, Union Pacific, and CSX from LaSalle Street Station to Balmoral Park in Crete, Illinois;

**WHEREAS**, new commuter rail service will encourage and supplement other economic development in the southeastern suburbs of Chicago;

**WHEREAS**, Metra completed an Alternatives Analysis (AA) study on this corridor in 2011, identifying commuter rail as the locally preferred alternative for this corridor;

**WHEREAS**, during the AA study, locations for potential stations were identified and some communities attempted to plan for those sites through developing station area plans, modifying zoning codes, and/or acquiring sites for potential stations and commuter parking;

**WHEREAS**, system expansion projects such as the SES are still attractive because they offer safe, convenient, and dependable public transportation, Metra's Board of Directors continues to prioritize its state of good repair needs; and

**WHEREAS**, success in system expansion depends upon individual municipalities funding and engaging in protective acquisition of local land for potential stations and parking along the SES corridor.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that due to limited funding resources, Metra is not able to move this project into any other development stage at this time, but it nonetheless remains as one of Metra's New Start Initiatives;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Metra reaffirms its position that the SES be included as a transportation solution for the Southeast corridor and be included in all regional transportation plans;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Board applauds the efforts of the local District and its surrounding communities in advocating for additional funding for commuter rail projects and for taking actions to protect the corridor through acquisitions where feasible;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that considering the ever growing limited funding sources available, this Board encourages the District to study alternative funding sources, the need for railroad trackage separate from the existing freight railroad trackage in the suburban area, and alternate railroad routes through Chicago; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Board will continue to work with the District to determine what possibilities there are for bringing the SES to fruition.

September 21, 2015