

RESOLUTION

ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Sutterlin
INITIATOR



10/2/2024
DATE SUBMITTED

SPONSOR

Seeking Support from the State of Wisconsin in the Next Biennial Budget for a Commuter and/or Passenger Rail Study with a Designated Corridor to Include Rock County

1 **WHEREAS**, the Rock County Board of Supervisors, through a series of related Resolutions (R-2022-
2 82, R-2023-189 and R-2024-397), has authorized the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee on Passenger
3 Rail Development (Ad Hoc Committee) to investigate and explore various commuter and/or passenger
4 rail related opportunities; and,
5

6 **WHEREAS**, since its formation the Ad Hoc Committee has regularly met, researched and engaged with
7 individuals and groups that have provided valuable information and insights concerning the possible
8 paths forward to establishing connectivity(s) to said regional Amtrak and/or Metra service opportunities;
9 and,
10

11 **WHEREAS**, this due diligence has identified various potential funding avenues for the development of
12 commuter and/or passenger rail planning efforts and their related implementation activities; and,
13

14 **WHEREAS**, any planning and implementation funding applications will be highly competitive and will
15 require strong support from a diverse coalition of communities, elected officials, regional stakeholders
16 and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation; and,
17

18 **WHEREAS**, any successful funding application will rely heavily on current and quantifiable data (i.e. a
19 rail study) so support said rail service; and,
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21 **WHEREAS**, a series of commuter transportation studies, that originally focused on the feasibility of
22 providing commuter and/or passenger rail service into Rock County are either outdated and/or not
23 detailed enough to meet the needs of said funding sources; and,
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25 **WHEREAS**, absent a current and detailed rail study, it will be extremely challenging to receive the
26 appropriate level of recognition from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation's Rail Plan – which
27 serves as the key budgeting, infrastructure and planning investment roadmap for commuter and/or
28 passenger rail services throughout Wisconsin.
29

30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly
31 assembled this 10th day of October 2024, does hereby grant the authority to the County Administrator or
32 its designee to formally request support from Governor Evers' 2025-2027 Biennial Budget to fund an
33 updated and detailed rail study that will assist with positioning and planning Rock County for future
34 commuter and/or passenger rail service; and,
35

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County Administration and/or its designee is also authorized to
37 seek support for this request from other applicable public and/or private sector stakeholders.

FISCAL NOTE:

There is no direct fiscal impact to Rock County to authorize the County Administrator or designee to formally request funding from Governor Evers in the 2025-2027 budget. The intent of the resolution is to request the state include funding for a study in their biennial budget, which will benefit Rock County and the communities within it.

Kristin Vander Kooi
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to §§ 59.01 & 59.51, Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.

Josh Smith
County Administrator

Committee Action

Planning & Development Committee

Planning & Development Committee recommended this resolution for approval by a vote of 4-1. One "Nay" noted from Supervisor Cullen.

