



**A Resolution
of the
Board of Commissioners Cook County, Illinois**

Sponsored by
**THE HONORABLE STANLEY MOORE, JOHN P. DALEY, JESÚS G. GARCÍA,
JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, DEBORAH SIMS AND JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI,
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

SUPPORTING THE ILLINOIS CREATE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The Chicago Region Environmental and Transportation Efficiency Program (CREATE) is an innovative intergovernmental partnership between The United States Department of Transportation, the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, Metra, Amtrak, and the Association of American Railroads that will significantly increase the efficiency of freight and passenger rail service and improve the quality of life throughout the Northeast Illinois region; and

WHEREAS, Northeastern Illinois is the principal rail hub of the United States with one quarter of the nation's freight rail volume traveling through the Chicago region on a daily basis; and

WHEREAS, The current constructed rail infrastructure in Northeastern Illinois region requires additional capacity and efficiency to accommodate the volume of freight, intercity, and commuter rail services; according to a forecast by the Federal Highway Administration's Freight Analysis Framework, over the next 30 years, demand for rail services in the Northeastern Illinois region is expected to double; and

WHEREAS, The CREATE Program's ability to meet the growing need for rail service and achieve its intended objectives to reduce freight rail delays, decrease traffic congestion, reduce air pollution, improve passenger rail service, and enhance public safety is critical to Cook County and will have a significant impact on increasing economic development; and

WHEREAS, The CREATE Program includes 70 critically needed rail and highway infrastructure projects totaling a cost of \$3.8 billion; and

WHEREAS, As of May 2015, 22 CREATE projects have been completed, 10 projects are under construction, 4 projects are in final design phase, 14 projects are in environmental review, and 20 projects are awaiting funding; and

WHEREAS, \$1.2 billion has been received for the CREATE Program and \$2.6 billion in additional funding is needed; and

WHEREAS, The benefits of the CREATE Program is estimated at \$28.3 billion over 30 years after full project completion; and

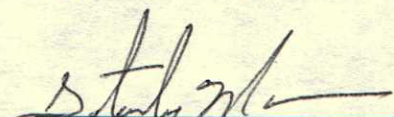
WHEREAS, Funding the outstanding CREATE Program projects and completing its full implementation will provide short and long term benefits to Cook County that will allow it to strengthen its regional and national economic competitiveness, increase its international trade opportunities, and improve the quality of life of its residents, and

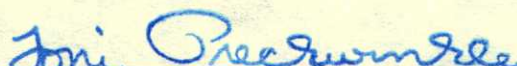
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Cook County urges the U.S. Congress and the State of Illinois to pass long term sustainable funding bills to continue the critical CREATE Program and provide much needed improvement to Cook County's rail infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The President and Board of Commissioners of Cook County affirms its support of the CREATE Partnership's Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) VII application for the B-9 and EW-1 projects which encompass projects in Bedford Park, Bridgeview, and Summit, IL; and additionally supports the completion and funding of remaining projects in Chicago, Dolton, Evergreen Park, and Maywood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Cook County supports the CREATE Program mission to complete all the necessary improvements included in the 70 projects that comprise the CREATE Program to achieve national and regional benefits.

Approved and adopted this 10th day of June, 2015.


STANLEY/MOORE
Commissioner, 4th District


TONI PRECKWINKLE, President
Cook County Board of Commissioners