

RESOLUTION 1-1

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN TO FILE A LAWSUIT OR TAKE OTHER APPROPRIATE ACTION TO OPPOSE THE IDOT AND UNION PACIFIC PLANS FOR EXPANDED USE OF THE 3RD STREET RAIL CORRIDOR AND TO REQUIRE CONSIDERATION OF AND CONSOLIDATION ON THE 10TH STREET CORRIDOR

WHEREAS, the County and the City of Springfield and many other community organizations and groups have encouraged the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) to analyze and consolidate rail traffic on the 10th Street Corridor for the proposed freight rail expansion and high speed rail usage in Springfield; and

WHEREAS, IDOT and the UP are unwilling to take the time to even analyze the possible use of the 10th Street Corridor instead of the 3rd Street route; and

WHEREAS, IDOT has indicated that on October 2, 2009, it intends to apply for \$92.6 million in federal grant funds from the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to fund rehabilitation of the UP rail lines between Dwight, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri, including the 3rd Street route, based on a 2003 environmental impact statement (EIS) previously performed by IDOT; and

WHEREAS, IDOT has told the County and the City of Springfield that, if its application for \$92.6 million in federal grant funds is approved, IDOT and the UP intend to unlawfully proceed with construction and rehabilitation of the UP single track between Dwight and St. Louis, and later evaluate the environmental impacts associated with double tracking the UP lines between Chicago and St. Louis, with high speed rail service to commence only after double tracking construction occurs; and

WHEREAS, use of the 3rd Street route for the dramatically increased freight and high speed rail traffic will have a devastating impact on the City of Springfield and the County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Members of the Sangamon County Board:

Section 1: That the County Board authorizes and directs the County Board Chairman to file a lawsuit as soon as necessary, and to take such other action as he deems appropriate to require IDOT and the UP to abide by applicable environmental laws and do a meaningful comparative analysis of the environmental impacts of the entire project on the 3rd Street route and the 10th Street Corridor before proceeding with construction.

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Sangamon County Clerk

Section 2: That the County Board authorizes and directs the County Board Chairman to advise the FRA of the reasons why approving the IDOT application would be unlawful and of the deficiencies in the forthcoming IDOT application, or to take such other action as the County Board Chairman deems appropriate to ensure that IDOT's unlawful federal grant application is not approved.

Section 3: That the County Board appropriates the initial sum of \$50,000 to pay legal fees and expenses incurred in opposing the proposed unlawful conduct of IDOT and the UP, and directs the County Board Chairman to solicit additional funds for that purpose from other concerned organizations and groups.

Section 5: That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

Rosemarie Long

Lynette Clark

Paul A. Johnson

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