

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-37

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AN ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS IN THE WEST SHORE CORRIDOR FOR IMPROVED REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

WHEREAS, residents of West Shore communities envision improved public transportation services as an opportunity to improve the region's economic development opportunities and the quality of life for all Northeast Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, higher quality public transportation services linking the West Shore communities with Downtown Cleveland will reduce high transportation costs and stimulate developments in transit station-area districts; and

WHEREAS, the alternatives for developing higher quality transit service in the West Shore Corridor are varied and the impacts of these alternatives on the natural and built environments must be better understood; and

WHEREAS, an Alternatives Analysis in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) New Starts regulations requires significant public participation so a locally preferred alternative can be selected and adopted by the region; and

WHEREAS, the Lorain-Cleveland Commuter Rail project, a highly-ranked element of NOACA's 2001 NEORAIL Commuter Rail Study, is authorized in the federal surface transportation law entitled Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) and that an appropriation is needed to fund the Alternatives Analysis under Section 5339 of SAFETEA-LU.


NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority, Cuyahoga County, Ohio:

Section 1. That the Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority supports an Alternatives Analysis investigating the benefits, costs and environmental impacts of various transportation improvement alternatives in the West Shore Corridor in accordance with NEPA and the FTA requirements.

Section 2. That the General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to request the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency (NOACA) to secure a federal transportation appropriation of approximately \$1.5 million in each of the next two federal fiscal years for an Alternatives Analysis of potential transportation improvements in the West Shore Corridor.

Section 3. That this resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

Adopted: February 20, 2007



President

Attest: 

CEO, General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer



Greater Cleveland Regional Transit Authority
STAFF SUMMARY AND COMMENTS

TITLE/DESCRIPTION: EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR AN ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS IN THE WEST SHORE CORRIDOR FOR IMPROVED REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	Resolution No.: 2007- 37
	Date: February 15, 2007
	Initiator: Executive Dept.
ACTION REQUEST: <input type="checkbox"/> Approval <input type="checkbox"/> Review/Comment <input type="checkbox"/> Information Only <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

- 1.0 **PURPOSE/SCOPE:** This action will indicate the Board's endorsement of the West Shore Corridor stakeholders' request to support an Alternative Analysis for the Lorain-Cleveland Commuter Rail Project.
- 2.0 **DESCRIPTION/JUSTIFICATION:** The Committee of the Whole Board of the GCRTA Board of Trustees viewed a presentation at its January 16, 2007 meeting by All Aboard Ohio on the initiative to bring commuter rail from Lorain County through the western suburbs into Downtown Cleveland. The presentation outlined the benefits envisioned from improved regional public transportation services in the West Shore Corridor, which is a high ranked region of NOACA's 2001 NEORAIL Commuter Rail Study because of its low start-up costs, potential feasibility and early political support in Lorain County.
- 3.0 **PROCUREMENT BACKGROUND:** Does not apply.
- 4.0 **DBE/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION BACKGROUND:** Does not apply.
- 5.0 **POLICY IMPACT:** This endorsement is consistent with the Board policy goal to provide community benefits.
- 6.0 **ECONOMIC IMPACT:** A West Shore Corridor commuter rail service will improve the region's economic development opportunities and the quality of life for all Northeast Ohioans by reducing high transportation costs due to the region's over-dependency on private vehicles; improve job access and increase labor pools for businesses; improve property values with station quiet zones; stimulate developments in transit station-area districts; and reduce the need for large swaths of parking lots in Downtown Cleveland the Central Business Districts.
- 7.0 **ALTERNATIVES:** Not adopt the action. Without GCRTA support this project might not secure federal funding through the Northeast Ohio Coordinating Agency (NOACA) for an Alternatives Analysis.
- 8.0 **RECOMMENDATION:** The Committee of the Whole recommended a resolution of support be prepared for approval.
- 9.0 **ATTACHMENTS:** None

Recommended and certified as appropriate to the availability of funds, legal form and conformance with the Procurement requirements.

General Manager/Secretary-Treasurer