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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Public transportation in urban areas is essential  
3 for the quality of life of residents; and

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WHEREAS, The neighborhoods of Bronzeville, Bridgeport,  
5 Armour Square, McKinley Park, and Little Village within the  
6 City of Chicago are without a standard east-west bus route  
7 (from Cicero to the Lake Front) through their densely-populated  
8 communities, as there is no bus route between Cermak Avenue  
9 (22nd Street) and 47th Street, which leaves a 3 1/4-mile gap  
10 between east-west bus routes; and

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WHEREAS, This 3 1/4-mile gap in service is particularly  
12 problematic because these neighborhoods have a very high  
13 percentage of residents who do not have automobiles; and

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WHEREAS, There are approximately 300,000 people in this  
15 "bus desert" area without any east-west bus service; and

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WHEREAS, The Little Village Lawndale High School is the  
17 only Chicago public high school without Chicago Transit  
18 Authority Bus Services within 3 blocks of the school; and

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WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority cut the 31st Street  
20 bus route in 1997, citing relatively low ridership on the bus

1 route; and

2 WHEREAS, Since 1997, the population in these neighborhoods  
3 has risen dramatically and several new anchor institutions have  
4 been built, including the Little Village High School and the  
5 New 31st Street Harbor, to join existing anchor institutions,  
6 including U.S. Cellular Field, the Illinois Institute of  
7 Technology, the De La Salle Institute, Arturo Velasquez West  
8 Side Tech, McCormick Place, Hyatt Hotel McCormick Place,  
9 Soldier Field, the Field Museum, the Aquarium, the Planetarium,  
10 12th St. Beach, and Northerly Island; these new developments  
11 would make the 31st Street bus a successful route; and

12 WHEREAS, In 2009, the CTA, through the Regional  
13 Transportation Authority (RTA), successfully applied for and  
14 received \$1,067,659 in Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) Funds  
15 through the Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) to  
16 operate the bus route for 3 years to assist Chicago area  
17 residents to find and get to jobs, but, to date, has not  
18 matched the federal grant with \$1,067,659 of its own funds to  
19 operate the bus; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL  
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we call upon the  
22 Chicago Transit Authority to prioritize the \$1,067,659 of  
23 annual operating funds to relaunch the 31st Street bus from

1 Cicero to the Lake Front for 3 years to serve the people of the  
2 Chicago neighborhoods of Little Village, McKinley Park, Armour  
3 Square, Bridgeport, the Town of Cicero, and Bronzeville; and be  
4 it further

5 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
6 delivered to the Chicago Transit Authority.