



HR0675

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority is proposing a
3 5.3-mile extension of the Red Line from the existing 95th
4 Street Terminal to the vicinity of 130th Street; and

5 WHEREAS, The proposed extension would include 4 new
6 stations near 103rd Street, 111th Street, Michigan Avenue, and
7 130th Street; each new station would include bus and parking
8 facilities; and

9 WHEREAS, Following the Red Line Extension Project open
10 house meeting during the summer of 2011, the agency began work
11 on a technical analysis of the project and a Draft
12 Environmental Impact Statement on behalf of the Federal Transit
13 Administration, which serves as the federal lead agency for the
14 project; and

15 WHEREAS, The Red Line Extension Project would reduce travel
16 times to jobs for far South Side and South Suburban residents
17 and improve the performance of the existing Red Line 95th
18 Street Station terminal; the project would also support current
19 and future economic development initiatives; and

20 WHEREAS, The Red Line Extension Project is needed for many
21 reasons, including the lack of Park and Ride and passenger drop

1 off and poor pedestrian facilities, which limit access to the
2 existing 95th Street terminal of the Red Line; lengthy delays
3 experienced by customers who access the existing terminal
4 facility by bus, caused by the poor performance of surrounding
5 arterial intersections, insufficient space for bus loading and
6 unloading, and insufficient space for bus layovers; congested
7 bus and passenger conditions at the existing terminal station
8 and bus facility, which result in safety issues and diminish
9 the attractiveness of transit as an alternative to other travel
10 modes; the adverse impact of narrow arterial streets and
11 frequent at-grade freight rail crossings on roadway
12 performance in the study area; and the nature of transit
13 dependence of minority and low-income populations in the study
14 area; and

15 WHEREAS, Discussion of a Red Line Extension has been going
16 on since Mayor Richard J. Daley proposed it and many other
17 infrastructure improvement plans for the Chicago area in April
18 of 1967; planners and community groups have discussed the
19 necessity and benefits of the extension in the intervening
20 years, but have received no tangible information as to its
21 construction; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2007, the Regional Equity Subcommittee of the
23 Illinois House of Representatives' Mass Transit Committee held
24 a comprehensive subject matter hearing on transportation

1 equity in the south suburbs of Chicago; the hearing shone a
2 light on the Red Line Extension and other transportation
3 projects and issues where, seemingly, resources were spent in
4 areas other than the south side and southern suburbs; and

5 WHEREAS, It has been the policy and priority of many
6 General Assembly members in the affected areas to call into
7 question the Chicago Transit Authority's commitment to this
8 long overdue project and have not seen any funding allocated to
9 the Red Line extension in the Chicago Transit Authority's 2014
10 budget; many elected officials and members of the community
11 have shown patience, but now want financial, planning, and
12 programmatic commitments from the Chicago Transit Authority to
13 make the Red Line Extension a top priority; and

14 WHEREAS, While Chicago Transit Authority officials say the
15 extension is a top priority, the agency has not established a
16 timeline for building the 5.3 miles of new track or any of the
17 proposed 4 new stations; and

18 WHEREAS, By making firm financial commitments and setting
19 specific dates, the Chicago Transit Authority would see
20 increased credibility in the project area and would provide
21 hope and confidence to taxpayers on the South Side and in the
22 south suburbs that the Chicago Transit Authority is indeed
23 concerned about all of the citizens in its service area;

1 therefore, be it

2 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
3 NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
4 we urge the Chicago Transit Authority to prioritize and
5 expedite the planning and construction of the Red Line
6 Extension Project in order to provide far South Side and South
7 Suburban residents with the transportation and economic
8 development benefits expected from the completion of this
9 project; and be it further

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