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1                                    AMENDMENT TO SENATE RESOLUTION 639

2            AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_. Amend Senate Resolution 639 by replacing  
3 everything after the heading with the following:

4            "WHEREAS, The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning is  
5 currently updating its GOTO2040 master plan as part of a  
6 federally-required mid-decade update; and

7            WHEREAS, A new initiative for first-class passenger rail  
8 service called Crossrail Chicago has emerged which would, for  
9 the first time, connect Metra route lines together, knitting  
10 together the Chicagoland region; and

11            WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago would allow for downstate  
12 Amtrak service to connect directly with O'Hare International  
13 Airport; and

14            WHEREAS, Metra currently runs 11 separate lines, each of

1 which terminates in downtown Chicago; these lines do not travel  
2 through downtown Chicago, which would be far more efficient;  
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Union Station has 2 tracks that travel through the  
5 station that are not currently used, but could be used for  
6 Metra or Amtrak service; and

7 WHEREAS, Northeast Illinois has long suffered from a  
8 jobs-housing mismatch, where tens of thousands of entry-level  
9 jobs in and around O'Hare airport and the northwest suburbs  
10 struggle to be filled, while tens of thousands of residents of  
11 the south side and south suburbs struggle to find employment;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, Current public transportation between the south  
14 suburbs and the south side of Chicago and the northwest suburbs  
15 is a long, laborious journey involving transfers between buses  
16 and rail, creating a greater barrier to full employment in the  
17 region; and

18 WHEREAS, This initiative is consistent with the long-term  
19 vision for northeastern Illinois set forth by the Chicago  
20 Metropolitan Agency for Planning; and

21 WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago could connect Rockford, Elgin,

1 Hoffman Estates, Schaumburg, Arlington Heights, and O'Hare  
2 through Union Station to McCormick Place, Hyde Park, Homewood,  
3 University Park, the south suburban airport, Kankakee, and  
4 Champaign-Urbana in one electrified track; and

5 WHEREAS, There is an opportunity to build a new train  
6 station at O'Hare Airport as part of the consolidated rental  
7 car facility currently out for bid that can connect to the  
8 extended people-mover and existing Metra service on the North  
9 Central District line; and

10 WHEREAS, The new electrified line of Crossrail Chicago  
11 would be located largely on publicly-owned rights-of-way and  
12 could bring tremendous economic benefits to the region and  
13 State; and

14 WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago would allow for a direct train  
15 ride between O'Hare Airport and McCormick Place, the  
16 continent's largest convention facility; and

17 WHEREAS, Metra service along the Metra Electric line from  
18 University Park to McCormick Place could be significantly  
19 improved through the Crossrail Chicago initiative; and

20 WHEREAS, Using existing elevated tracks along 16th Street  
21 could connect Metra Electric tracks, Metra Rock Island tracks,

1 and Union Station; and

2 WHEREAS, Crossrail Chicago can also serve as the trunk of a  
3 Midwest high-speed rail network, which would bring millions of  
4 people together into one stronger economic unit; therefore, be  
5 it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-EIGHTH GENERAL  
7 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we urge the Chicago  
8 Metropolitan Agency for Planning to include Crossrail Chicago  
9 in its list of fiscally constrained projects as consistent with  
10 the GOTO2040 vision, making the projects of Crossrail Chicago  
11 eligible for federal funds; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That we urge the Illinois Department of  
13 Transportation, Metra, the Chicago Transit Authority, and the  
14 Chicago Department of Aviation to support the inclusion of  
15 Crossrail Chicago as part of GOTO2040's mid-decade update as a  
16 project on the fiscally constrained list as consistent with the  
17 long-term plans of those agencies; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19 delivered to the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, the  
20 Illinois Department of Transportation, Metra, the Chicago  
21 Transit Authority, and the Chicago Department of Aviation."