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4 **A NONBINDING RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE**  
5 **NORTHERN INDIANA PASSENGER RAIL ASSOCIATION (NIPRA) AND**  
6 **THEIR ADVOCATION FOR THE RETURN OF PASSENGER RAIL SERVICE**  
7 **TO FORT WAYNE, INDIANA.**  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the Northern Indiana Passenger Rail Association (NIPRA), is a  
10 legally recognized not for profit organization in the State of Indiana and is made up  
11 entirely of volunteer board members and general supporters; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, NIPRA has long advocated for the return of passenger rail service  
14 to Fort Wayne, commencing at the Baker Street Train Station downtown; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, based on a Business Plan and Feasibility Study, there is great  
17 potential to serve thousands of citizens with train travel to Chicago and other cities; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the Midwest Rail Initiative identifies Chicago to Fort Wayne and  
20 Columbus, Ohio a key link in providing passenger rail service to millions of citizens; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Midwest Rail Initiative and NIPRA identifies potential  
23 passenger rail stops in Fort Wayne, Warsaw, Plymouth, Valparaiso, and the Gary  
24 Regional Airport, as a key economic development project that would continue to  
25 revitalize the aforementioned cities, and Northern Indiana; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the Business Plan and Feasibility Study prepared by the firm of  
28 Transportation Economic and Management Systems (TEMS) identifies that thousands of  
29 construction jobs could be created with making this rail connection, and that 27,000  
30 permanent jobs could be created in Northern Indiana and Ohio over a period of 30 years  
31 with the addition of this passenger rail line; and  
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33 **WHEREAS**, federal funding for this Northern Indiana route will yield a return of  
34 \$1.71 for every dollar invested in the line, not to mention various benefits to freight train  
35 service that currently uses this line; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, the Whitley County Steel Dynamics plant is a large producer of rail  
38 for passenger and freight lines, and, there are many railroad suppliers in Indiana and Ohio  
39 that will benefit from supplying rolling stock, rail, and parts for this project; and  
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1           **WHEREAS**, Amtrak has expressed repeated interest in the Chicago to Fort  
2 Wayne to Columbus route and has a parts and repair center located in Beech Grove,  
3 Indiana; and

4           **WHEREAS**, with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of  
5 2021, there is some \$36 billion in federal money to be utilized with a state match (similar  
6 to President Eisenhower’s Interstate Highway Act of 1956), of probably 80% to 20%  
7 state; and

8           **WHEREAS**, Mayor Tom Henry visited with Governor Eric Holcomb, and the  
9 governor expressed interest in this plan with a state match; and

10           **WHEREAS**, NIPRA board members Jack Daniel, Fred Lanahan, and Geoff  
11 Paddock met with Mike Smith, the Commissioner of the Indiana Department of  
12 Transportation on July 7 to ask INDOT to apply for these federal funds for this route; and

13           **WHEREAS**, a Tier I Environmental Impact Study and a partial Tier II  
14 Preliminary Engineering Study have been conducted at the direction of NIPRA, which  
15 is a requirement of the Federal Railroad Administration; and

16           **WHEREAS**, the Fort Wayne City Council voted in November 2014, 9 – 0, to  
17 support a bill authored by Councilman Geoff Paddock to put \$200,000 to begin work on  
18 the aforementioned studies, and that Allen County government contributed \$50,000, and  
19 then other public and private money was raised for this cause; and

20           **WHEREAS**, there are significant benefits to passenger rail travel, including  
21 reducing air pollution by ensuring fewer automobiles on the roads; and

22           **WHEREAS**, Councilman Geoff Paddock has personally spoken with a  
23 representative in the office of U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg regarding this  
24 project, and the U.S. Department of Transportation is interested in working with INDOT.

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27           **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL  
28 OF THE CITY OF FORT WAYNE:**

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31           **Section 1.** Respectfully requests that Commissioner Smith and the Indiana Department of  
32 Transportation work with Secretary Buttigieg and the U. S. Department of Transportation  
33 to apply for 80% of the proposed amount of money needed to make infrastructure  
34 improvements across 150 miles in Northern Indiana, or about \$750 to \$800 million. This  
35 amount being a portion of the approximate \$36 Billion available for passenger rail  
36 upgrades across the United States through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of  
37 2021.  
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Geoff Paddock, Council Member

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joseph G. Bonahoom, Attorney for City Council

**BILL NO. R-22-07-45**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON REGULATIO**

**August 2, 2022**


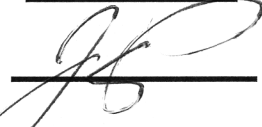
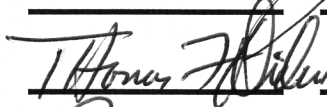
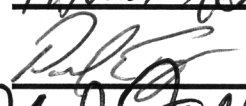
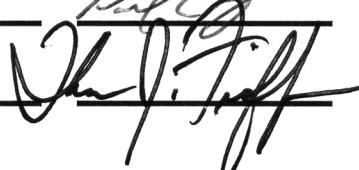
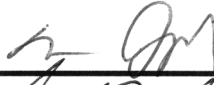
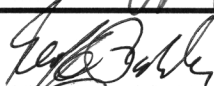
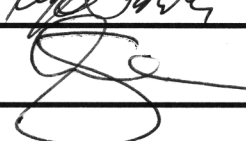
**Paul Ensley Chair**

**Tom Freistroffer Co-Chair**

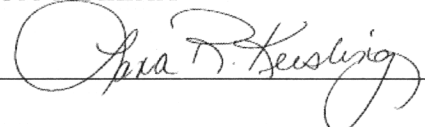
**All Council Members**

A Nonbinding Resolution in support of the Northern Indiana Passenger Rail Association (NIPRA) and their advocacy for the return of Passenger Rail Service to Fort Wayne, Indiana

COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS HAVE HAD SAID Ordinance under consideration and beg leave to report back to the Common Council that said Ordinance

<u>COUNCIL MEMBER</u>	<u>DO PASS</u>	<u>DO NOT PASS</u>	<u>ABSTAIN</u>
ARP			
CHAMBERS			
DIDIER			
ENSLEY			
FREISTROFFER			
HINES			
JEHL			
PADDOCK			
TUCKER			

**LANA R. KEESLING  
CITY CLERK**



Public Hearing Date: N/A

Read the first time in full and on motion by Councilperson Ensley.

Read the second time by title and referred to the Regulations Committee.

Read the third time in full and on motion by Councilperson Ensley, placed on passage by the following vote:

<u>TOTAL VOTES</u>	<u>AYES</u>	<u>NAYS</u>	<u>ABSTAINED</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
ARP	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CHAMBERS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DIDIER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENSLEY	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
FREISTROFFER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HINES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
JEHL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
PADDOCK	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
TUCKER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>


DATED: August 9, 2022

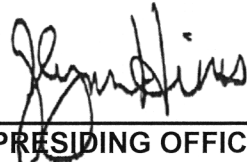
  
LANA R. KEESLING, CITY CLERK

Passed and adopted by the Common Council of the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, as

Resolution No. R-22-07-45 on the 9th day of August, 2022

ATTEST:

  
LANA R. KEESLING  
CITY CLERK

  
PRESIDING OFFICER