

**GREATER VALPARAISO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS RESOLUTION SUPPORTING EXPEDITED EXTENSION
OF COMMUTER RAIL TO VALPARAISO**

Whereas, in 2005, the Indiana General Assembly, by two-to-one bipartisan majorities, created the Regional Development Authority ("RDA") with the support of the Northwest Indiana legislative delegation and Governor Daniels.

Whereas, in doing so, the State of Indiana has made commuter rail transportation and infrastructure growth among Northwest Indiana's highest priorities.

Whereas, among the RDA's values are its efforts to set high goals and a bold and intrepid vision in order to stimulate a significant economic rebirth in Northwest Indiana and to collaborate with state and federal agencies and individuals to help assure that development attends to the needs of our environment and social equity.

Whereas, consistent with those values, the RDA has identified the opportunity to leverage Northwest Indiana's existing asset of the South Shore and South Bend Railroad in order to expand commuter rail transportation to Porter County and southern Lake County through the West Lake line.

Whereas, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky has identified federal funds to cover one-half of the cost of extending commuter rail service to Munster, Lowell, Hobart, and Valparaiso.

Whereas, a state or local funding match of \$350 million must be identified to fully fund construction of a commuter rail extension and provide commuter rail service to those communities which, now, have no access to regional transit of any kind.

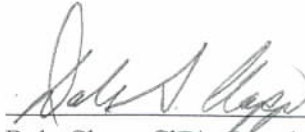
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce supports and encourages state and local government officials to identify and develop strategies and methods to ultimately extend commuter rail service to Valparaiso;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce supports legislation that cause to be extended passenger rail service by the Chicago, South Shore, and South Bend Railroad along routes to both Lowell, Indiana and Valparaiso, Indiana;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce urges the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District, the Regional Development Authority, and all stakeholders in the extension of commuter rail service to Valparaiso to include the former Pennsylvania Railroad corridor among the potential routes servicing Valparaiso and expedite the cost-benefit analysis of that corridor; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of the Greater Valparaiso Chamber of Commerce urges state and federal legislators to adopt and enact enabling legislation allowing for the financing and construction of a West Lake line extending to Valparaiso.

All of which action is taken on this 17th day of March, 2009.



Dale Clapp, Chan, Board of Directors



Rex Richards, President, Greater Valparaiso
Chamber of Commerce